

Lakers back on ice after Christmas break

A three-week break ends for Vernon Lakers, Saturday night, when they host Shuswap Totems in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at the Civic Arena.

Lakers have not played since an exhibition jaunt to the Cariboo, Dec. 14 and 15.

Vernon practiced Thursday night and Head Coach Don Moores feels the long layoff helped his club. "We played a lot of hockey in November and early-December," he said. "We had a good break and now our guys are ready to play again."

Lakers had hoped to have centre Dallas Drake, who has been playing

junior B in Rossland, at Thursday's workout. However, due to commitments with the Rossland club, he will not report for a tryout until next Wednesday.

The only new player at the practice was goaltender Scooter Henson, from New England. Henson had been playing college hockey in San Diego and was referred to Lakers by Vernon minor hockey graduate Kevin Poirier, who is playing hockey in California.

"We'll have a good look at Henson in the next few practices," Moores said. "In fact, we hope to have several more players in for tryouts in the next couple weeks."

Western Hockey League teams just reduce their rosters by Jan. 10 and Lakers hope to lure some WHL cuts to Vernon.

"We've contacted several WHL teams and told them we are looking for help in a few areas," Moores said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to pick up someone who will help us."

In the lone BCJHL game played Thursday, Penticton Knights scored three shorthanded goals in the third period en route to a 7-3 win over Sidney Capitals.

Penticton was ahead 3-2 after the first period. Sidney tied it 3-3 in the middle frame.