

Hectic weekend for Vernon club

Vernon Lakers embark on the homestretch of the B.C. Junior Hockey League season this weekend.

Lakers play three games within 48 hours, starting tonight in Merritt when they face the Warriors. Vernon hosts Penticton Knights, Friday night, and then entertains Richmond Sockeyes, Saturday. Lakers conclude the 1985-86 campaign with 11 games in the next 22 days.

The games mean little in league standings to Lakers, who have a firm grip on third place in the Interior Division. However, Vernon President Carl Enemark said it is important for his club to win at least two games this weekend.

"We've got to start getting ready for the playoffs," Enemark said. "I'm confident our boys are ready to play ... and we're going to have a good weekend."

Penticton leads the division with 72 points, eight more than Kelowna

Packers. Vernon has 53 points while Merritt occupies the fourth, and final, playoff spot with 40 points. Richmond is the walkaway leader in the Coast Division.

Enemark said, "We've looked very sharp in practice during the past week. It looks like we're going to peak at the right time."

With the departure of forward Troy Backogorge this week, Lakers would like to pick up another player before rosters are frozen next Monday. However, Enemark admits he doesn't have any prospects waiting in the wings.

"We've got two player cards left and a few more days to look around," Enemark said. "We aren't in a panic ... we're happy with the players we have."

Backogorge returned home to Summerland last weekend after telling team officials he couldn't receive proper schooling in Vernon.