

Merritt closing in on slumping Lakers

The slumping Vernon Lakers better start looking over their shoulders.

Merritt Warriors moved closer to the third place Lakers with a 7-1 win over Abbotsford Flyers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Thursday night, at Merritt.

The victory gives Warriors 44 points, nine less than Vernon as the teams jockey for playoff positions in the Interior Division. Merritt has eight games remaining, one more than Lakers, who have lost their last four

outings. The teams face each other one more time, Feb. 27. at Merritt.

Former Vernon player Troy Mick scored twice for Warriors, who led 2-0 and 4-0 by periods. Single goals went to Brad Smiley, Keith Chase, Shane Simmons, Allan Wall, and Kevin Cheveldave.

The Flyer goal came on a breakaway by Trevor Tigar with one second remaining in the third period.

Lakers are idle until Saturday night when they visit Summerland

Buckaroos. On Sunday, Vernon visits Shuswap Totems.

In another game Thursday, Nanaimo Clippers and Sidney Capitals battled to a 5-5 overtime tie.

In Sidney, Bruce Courtnall scored his second goal of the game at 13:34 of the third period to lift the Capitals to the tie.

Rob Coultish also scored a pair for Sidney, and Rob Montgomery got one.

Nanaimo, which was outshot 46-36, edged ahead 5-4 in the second period after the first had ended at 3-3. The Clipper goals were by Laurence Amy, Mike Knapton, Corky Parkes, Jamie Cayford and Brian DeLeeuw.

Clipper goalie Drew Smith made six saves in the scoreless sudden-death overtime period, while Sidney's Dean Cook stopped seven — including two on clear breakaways.

In games tonight, Abbotsford is at Penticton, Richmond is at Langley and Summerland is at Kelowna.

Owls and Panthers battle for top spot

First place is on the line tonight when Kelowna Owls host Vernon Panthers in Okanagan-Mainline Senior Boys' AA Basketball League action.

out to try to win our two games against Kelowna, but if we don't, it doesn't really hurt us."