WITH REVELSTOKE Rockets' goaltender Randy Kirby out of position, Jeff Armitage of Vernon Lakers simply has to put a backhand into the open net. However, Rockets' defenceman Barry Lacasse got to the puck ahead of Armitage and cleared it out of harm's way. Rockets won the game 4-3 in front of about 250 fans at the Civic Arena, Sunday. (Daily News Photo)

Lakers' power play futile against Rockets

By GORD SMILEY
Daily News Sports

Next time Vernon Lakers have a power play opportunity, they might as well decline the penalty.

Lakers went through 15 minutes of a man advantage without scoring as they took a 4-3 loss to the Revelstoke Rockets in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Sunday at the Civic Arena.

During the second period Revelstoke killed a double minor to Barry Lacasse and in the third period they did the same to a five minute major to Darren Cota, for butt-ending.

To make matters even worse Lakers were awarded a penalty shot in the third period when a Revelstoke player gloved the puck in the crease. Gord Simpson took the shot for Lakers and missed. The score was tied 2-2 at that point.

TOOK LEAD

Lakers started the game in fine fashion, jumping out in to a 2-0 lead in the first period. But, Lakers anemic power play effort cost them the game they needed to win. The loss drops the Lakers 11 points back of third-place Rockets.

Lakers coach Gord MacBeth said it wasn't so much the power play that hurt his club, but the players on the power play.

"Everyone says it's our power play, but it's the guys who are executing the power play," said MacBeth. "We just don't have the same kind of talent the other clubs have."

MacBeth also questioned the desire of his team.

"They (Revelstoke) just wanted the game more than we did, our guys didn't want it that bad," he said. "I know our guys can do it, but they didn't have the desire. You can do a lot without talent, but you can't do a thing without desire."

During the four and five minute power plays, Lakers hardly managed a shot. The closest they came to scoring was when Darcy Lepine hit the post with a shot from the point during the five minute stretch. On the rebound, Lakers couldn't find the handle.

LACKS INTENSITY

"Even on the rebounds we couldn't score, our guys just didn't have the intensity," said MacBeth. "You watch Kelowna or Penticton on a rebound and they all want to score the goal."

Part of the reason for not picking up the loose rebounds was because no one took the initiative to stand in front of Rockets' net.

"We're the least penalized team in the league and that could be part of our problem, too many nice boys who don't want to mix it up," said MacBeth.

After Jeff Armitage and Richie Odiorne got the Lakers in front after the first period, Randy Horswill and Terrance Grams tied things up for Rockets. In the third, Brian Sweeney put Rockets ahead and Grams got his second of the night, at the 14:31 mark. With the score 4-2, Lakers made a last ditch attempt to tie the game and at 19:48, Dale Reimer narrowed the deficit to one goal, but with only 12 seconds left, Rockets were able to hang on.

Lakers goaltender Dale Woods played well in blocking 27 shots while Rancy Kirby kicked out 35 for Rockets.

Lakers seemed to be a different team in the second and third periods giving up loose pucks in their own end and passing straight to Revelstoke players.

"We've got veterans on our club who still don't know how to pass the puck," said MacBeth. "In the first period we played excellent, but we can't seem to sustain it for three periods."

HOST COLLEGE

Next game for Lakers is Friday when they host Cariboo College Chiefs, in an exhibition game.

In other BCJHL action Sunday, New Westminster Royals trounced the visiting Langley Eagles 12-4, Vancouver Blue Hawks downed Cowichan Valley 5-2 in Duncan, Kelowna Buckaroos thumped Merritt Centennials 7-1 in Kelowna.

On Saturday, Abbotsford defeated Richmond Sockeyes 12-3 in Abbotsford, Nanaimo Clippers beat Vancouver 6-3 and Kelowna downed the hometown Rockets 6-3, in Revelstoke.

Pat Barnes, Brian Ingram and Vaughn Karpan added two goals each for New Westminster on Sunday while singles came from Dave Phipps and Larry Cahan.

Greg Adams and Dan Nugent each had two goals for Kelowna in its win over Merritt, while Rod Schluter, Tom Martin and Rene Command added singles. Harvey Makortoff broke Marty Wakelyn's shutout bid for Merritt.

In Revelstoke, Tom Martin scored twice to pace the Buckaroos to their win in Revelstoke. Brooke Openvald, Greg Moberg, Rod Schluter and Nugent also scored for the Bucks

Vernon Daily News **sports**
Editor — DON KENDALL

Grywacheski scores winner

Coldstream Hotel Screaming Eagles, of Vernon, captured the annual Wentachee Men's Broomball Tournament over the weekend, in Wenatchee, Wash.

Mike Crywacheski scored a 3:29 of sudden-death overtime to give Eagles a 2-1 win over Kamloops Village Hotel in the championship game. Jim Wilson was Vernon's other scorer.

Prior to the final game, Eagles had won three of four outings. Vernon defeated Wenatchee Merchants 3-1 and Kamloops Pizza Hut 2-1, before dropping a 2-0 decision to Village Hotel.

However, Eagles bounced back to shutout Merchants 4-0 and earn another shot at Village Hotel.

"We should have gone through the tournament undefeated," said Eagles' spokesman Norm Amiel. "We outplayed Village Iotel, but their goalie was just fantastic."

In the opening victory over Merchants, Bob Mann scored twice while Grywacheski added a single. Mann and Grywacheski also handled the scoring against Pizza Hut.

In their second win over Wenatchee, Randy Rutten, Rick Rysz, Jim Sparrow, and Wilson were the marksmen.

Helmuth Mann was between the pipes, in all five games, for Eagles. He allowed five goals against for a 1.00 average.

Eagles are the defending Molson Men's Broomball League champions.

Vernon blasts Enderby

Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Reps split a pair of weekend Okanagan-Mainline League games.

After dropping a 3-0 decision to Penticton, Saturday, Vernon trounced Enderby 11-2, Sunday.

In Penticton, Mike Crippen scored twice to lead the host club while Kelly Jones added a single.

Penticton held period leads of 1-0 and 2-0.

Vernon Coach Roger Schwing told the Daily News his club didn't play well; but, "we had enough chances to win," he said. "We just couldn't put the puck in the net."

Penticton took 11 of 20 minor penalties, seven of 11 majors, and one of four misconducts.

On Sunday, Kevin Aeichele led the Vernon attack with three goals while Lamont Martel and Greg Kowal added two apiece. Singles went to Mel Reimer, Shane Koski, Norm Day, and Rick Harries.

Ron Sparks and Alan Zagar countered for Enderby.

Vernon led 5-0 at the end of the first period and 7-2 after 40 minutes.

Again, the teams spent an excessive amount of time in the sin bin. Vernon took 12 of 23 minor penalties, six of nine majors, one of two 10-minute misconducts, and one of four games misconducts.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Burton Oldies win tournament

Burton Oldies doubled Burton Barleys 10-5 in the final game at the third annual Lumby Snoptich Tournament, Sunday. Muntz Old Stylers, of Vernon, placed third in the tourney while Nakusp Mad Hatters captured fourth spot. Seven teams competed in the two-day event.

THREE GAMES

Three games are scheduled in Carling O'Keefe Men's Basketball League action tonight. At Priest Valley Gymnasium, National Hotel takes on Sun Valley Athletics, at 7:15 p.m., and Trophy Gallery battles Express Construction, at 8:30 p.m. At VSSS, Armstrong faces Wheelhouse Drywall, at 7:15 p.m.

RIMMER WINS

Bruce Rimmer, of Edmonton, skied to victory Sunday in the second Pacific Western Airline pro tour event of the season at Panorama Ski Resort, near Invermere. Rimmer raced past Allan Larsen, of Lake Tahoe, Nevada, in the final of the dual giant slalom race. Jim McKimm, of Nelson, was third followed by Calgary's Dave Schellenberg and Winfield's Rick Lewon. Rimmer placed second behind Banff's Greg Hann in the opening race, Jan. 10, at Silver Star.

HONEYMOONERS

In Sunday Honeymooners' Volleyball League action the scores were: Gordie's Mini Motors 3, No Names 0; Dirty Diesels 3, Valley Volleys 0; Old Stylers 2, Sunday Smashers 1; Counter Action 3, The Force 0; Animals 2, Heads Up 1; East Hillers 2, Pterodactyls 1.

OFFICIALS FIRM

DENVER (AP) — Despite growing concerns that Denver may lose its National Hockey League franchise, city officials remain firm in their opposition to renegotiating the Rockies' lease at McNichols Arena, a city spokesman said Saturday. He said the city's position had not changed in the wake of Rockies owner Peter Gilbert's interest in the feasibility of a move to the Ottawa suburb of Nepean.

BERBICK CLOSE TO DEAL

HALIFAX (CP) — Trevor Berbick, the Canadian and Commonwealth heavyweight boxing champion, said Saturday he is close to a deal to fight Mike Weaver in Zimbabwe in March. Berbick said he has been dealing with a promoter in Las Vegas to fight Weaver for the World Boxing Association championship. If the deal falls through, he said he will defend his Canadian title against Gord Racette of Vancouver.

GRETZKY AWAITS DEAL

TORONTO (CP) — Edmonton Oilers will hold a news conference prior to their game Wednesday against St. Louis Blues, and are expected to announce they have signed a deal with Wayne Gretzky, making him the highest-paid player in hockey history.

Downhill race at Silver Star

The second annual Labatt's Over-the-Hill Downhill Race will be held Feb. 13 and 14 at Silver Star Ski Area, in conjunction with the 22nd annual Vernon Winter Carnival.

The event is the first of its kind in Canada. Teams are comprised of four adult skiers (19 and over), including one female and one master (35 and over).

PRACTICE RUNS

Practice runs are scheduled Feb. 13, with racing the following day. The course goes from the top of Silver Star's Far Out Run to the bottom of the Yellow Chair, a vertical drop of about 480 metres.

Silver Star spokesman Mike Duggan said he expects the race to be better than last year when it was named Winter Carnival's top sporting event.

50 TEAMS

"We had 40 teams last year and we're expecting at least 50 this time," Duggan said. "We've had enquiries from as far away as Calgary and Vancouver."

Aggregate awards have been added for teams with combined ages more than 150, 175, and 200 years.

Entry fee is $30 per team, which includes admission to the awards dinner, in the Village Green Inn, and a momento.

Meanwhile, the Star received five centimetres of new snow overnight to bring the area's base up to more than 180 centimetres.

VERNON'S Howard Cunning rounds a turn during the motorcycle ice races at Swan Lake, Sunday. Cunning finished first in the Expert 125 and Senior 250 classes and finished second in the Senior 500 class. After first races of the seven race circuit Cunning is leading in points and will take his lead to Kelowna next week for the fourth leg of the series.

Local ice racer wins two events

Vernon's Howard Cunning won two of three classes at the motorcycle ice races, on Swan Lake, Sunday.

Cunning won the Senior 250, Expert 125 and finished second in the Senior 500. Cunning is leading the seven-race circuit after three events.

Cunning said he was pleased with his performance Sunday, but doesn't think he moved too much ahead in the points standings.

"The standings should remain exactly the same because the guy who was behind me also had a good day," said Cunning. "As long as I maintain my standing, I'll be happy."

TOP CONDITION

Even with snowy conditions, Cunning said the track remained in top condition.

"The weather cooperated. There was light snow, but the track was fast," said Cunning. "Visibility was a slight problem, but the plow took care of most of the snow."

In the Senior 500, he had a lead after five laps, but the long day caused fatigue to set in.

"The Senior 500 was the final event of the day and after 100 racing laps, I was getting pretty tired," said Cunning. "I could hardly move my hands after the race."

In the Senior 250, Cunning also ran into some problem, but managed to pull ahead near the end of the race.

"I started at the back of the pack, but after about five laps I pulled ahead and got a healthy lead."

Cunning said his Yamahas ran perfectly throughout the day and won't need too much preparation for this weekend's race in Kelowna. After the Kelowna race the circuit comes back to Swan Lake for the fifth leg of the series.

Following is the top three finishers in each of the 10 race categories.

THE RESULTS

Expert 500: first, Tony Allen, Kamloops; second Mark Holt, Vernon, third, Dave Clem, Kamloops.

Senior 500: first, George Kezmiuk, Kamloops; second, Howard Cunning, Vernon; third, Ross Davies, Kamloops.

Junior 500: first, Carson Mann, Kamloops; second, Tom Shumka, Kamloops; third, Mike Atkins, Vernon.

Expert 250: first, Tony Allen, Kamloops; second, Doug Goertn, Kelowna; third, Bob Thompson, Kamloops.

Senior 250: first, Howard Cunning, Vernon; second, Ross Davies, Kamloops; third, Wes McMillan, Kamloops.

Junior 250: first, Dave Paynter, Kelowna; second, Wayne Madill, Williams Lake; third, Lloyd Currie, Westbank.

Expert 125: first, Howard Cunning, Vernon; second, Dave Wolfe, Cache Creek; third, Darren Kashluba, Kamloops.

Powder Puff: first, Monique LeBlanc, Kamloops; second, Carmen Rempel, Kamloops; third, Pam Tuyttnes, Kamloops.

200 cc: first, Rod Heater, Kelowna; second, Chris Jackson, Kamloops; third, Vic Harrison, Kelowna.

School boy: first, Pierre Xenos, Kamloops; second, Chuck Ouington, Kamloops; third, David Payne, Kamloops.

THIRD STRAIGHT

Cougars clinch title

Vernon Cougars clinched first-place in North Okanagan Hockey League with an 11-2 victory over Salmon Arm Aces in Salmon Arm, Sunday.

In their final league home game Saturday, Cougars won a 5-4 decision over the visiting Oliver Bighorns.

Cougars got off to a fast start against Oliver jumping out into a 3-0 lead after the first period. However, Oliver finally got its act together in the next two periods to make a game of it.

Cougars' Coach Gary Swanson said he was pleased with the way his team started off against Bighorns, but was a little disappointed with them in the final two periods.

TOUGH GAME

"The game was tough in that Oliver came to play hockey and we didn't," he said. "Our guys seemed to quit after the first period and Oliver took advantage of it."

Terry Lowe, Wayne Dye and John Box started Cougars off in the first period, but in the second Bighorns managed to tie the game. Brent Feist, Doug Lawton and Gord McKay scored for Oliver in the second.

With their commanding three-goal lead disappeared, Cougars were playing with their backs against the wall and Bighorns were carrying most of the play.

However, when Marty Stein put Cougars ahead 4-3 at the 11:39 mark of the second Cougars seemed to set back on the right track.

In the third, Bighorns proved they weren't down yet as Lawton got his second of the game to make it 4-4. Then at the 16:50 mark, Lowe scored his second and what proved to be the winner.

Charlie Briskham stopped 35 shots for Cougars while Dennis Ewanchuck blocked 37 for Oliver. Vernon took eight minor penalties while Bighorns took 12 minutes in penalties.

SCORED FIVE

Against Salmon Arm, Cougars had a much easier time of it with Lowe scoring five times. Dave Caldow, George Fargher, Wilf Liefke, Stein, Rob Kashuba and Bernie Reed all added singles.

Swanson said the game against Salmon Arm was nothing like the outing against Oliver, but said Bighorns could have got the same treatment as Salmon Arm.

"We could have beaten Oliver just as badly if we would have played like we did against Salmon Arm," he said.

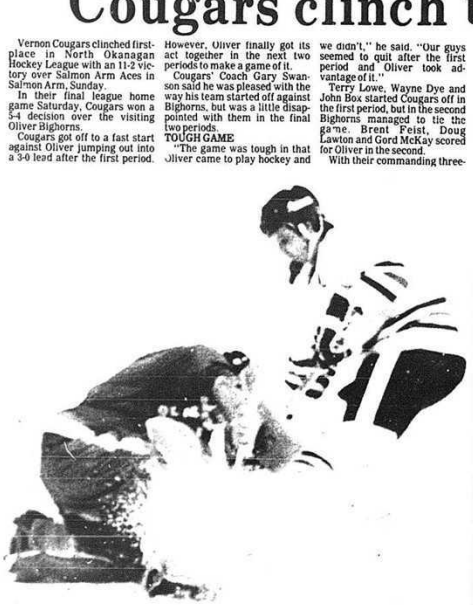
Swanson said he was pleased about Cougars clinching their third straight regular season title, but wasn't happy with the teams play against Bighorns.

HOSTS TABER

"I'm always pleased when we beat a tough team, but we didn't play that well," he said. "But we're going to start playing well this weekend, (referring to two exhibition games with the Taber Shipwheel Buccaneers of the Alberta Hockey League).

Swanson said he doesn't know too much about Buccaneers other than, "they say they're good."

Cougars have two games left in their regular schedule, both on the road, with one in Oliver and the other at Rutland.



VERNON COUGARS' captain Gary Gilchrist looks for a loose puck from Oliver Bighorns' goalie Dennis Ewanchuk during NOHL action Saturday, at the Civic Arena. Gilchrist didn't get the puck, but Cougars edged Bighorns 5-4. Coupled with an 11-2 victory in Salmon Arm, Sunday, Vernon clinched its third straight regular season title. (Daily News Photo)

Teams battle to draw

Lotus Gardens and Labatt's Sabres battled to a 4-4 tie in White Valley Hockey League action Saturday, at the Lumby Arena.

Lotus leads the loop with 27 points, eight more than second-place Mountain Meadow Mustangs. Sabres and National Hotel Raiders are now tied for third spot with 12 points.

Darcy Anderson, Gary Field, Jeff Vest, and Scott McKinley scored for Lotus.

Terry Schaeffer handled most of the offence for Sabres with three goals while Wayne Brown added a single. Rick Howkins collected three assists.

Sabres took the lead four times, however, the clubs were deadlocked 2-2 at the end of the first period and 4-4 after 40 minutes.

Lotus took nine of 15 minor penalties.

League play resumes Wednesday, in Lumby, with a doubleheader. At 7 p.m., Sabres meet Mustangs and at 9 p.m., Lotus takes on Raiders.

LOTS OF SNOW

For the first time in several years, North Okanagan snowmobilers don't have to worry about a lack of snow. Enjoying the view from the top of Silver Star Mountain are from left: Sherry Smith, Jamie Hassell, Bill Shields, and Roy Shields. Silver Star Ski Area is reporting a base of more than 180 centimetres.