

Vernon Daily News

MINUTE AND A HALF SERVICE TO THE OKANAGAN VALLEY

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9



VERNON LAKERS' captain Gord Simpson makes an attempt to get the puck away from Shuswap Totems' defenceman Mike Corbett, during Totems' 3-2 overtime victory over Lakers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Sunday, at the Civic Arena.

(Daily News Photo)

Shuswap spoils Vernon's debut

By GORD SMILEY
Daily News Sports

Shuswap Totems improved their record to 3-0 when Allan Abercrombie scored at 1:54 of the first overtime period to give Totems a 3-2 win over Vernon Lakers. In B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Sunday, at the Civic Arena.

The win was Totems' second in as many nights. On Saturday, Shuswap handed Lakers a 6-2 defeat, in Salmon Arm.

In other BCJHL action Sunday, Burnaby Blue Hawks defeated Esquimalt Buckaneers 9-8, in the second overtime period; and New Westminster Royals edged Richmond Sockeyes, 4-3. On Saturday, Cowichan Valley Capitals defeated Burnaby 6-3; New Westminster downed Abbotsford Flyers 6-4; and Kelowna Buckaroos dumped Merritt Centennials 15-3.

TOOK LEAD

Totems got second period goals from Tom Godard and Dave Terhune to give them a 2-0 lead heading into the third period.

Lakers finally got on the scoresheet when Rob Kossan, newly acquired from Kamloops Oilers of the Western Hockey League, scored on a power-play at the 7:29 mark. Then midway through the period, Joe Bilodeau and Ken Prentice were sent off for minor infractions making Totems two men short. With 26 seconds remaining in the

penalties, Gavin Shuya got a hold of the loose puck and put it behind Totems' goaltender Troy Hankin to make the score 2-2.

Hankin made 50 saves on the night, 24 of those in the third period. Lakers' netminder Bob Moll kicked out 27 shots.

Lakers had plenty of chances to win the game, given another power-play opportunity with 57 seconds remaining in the contest. Then with only seconds gone in the overtime frame, Kossan and Glen Doucette came close to winning it, but Hankin was equal to the task.

COACH FUMING

Despite remaining undefeated, Totem's Coach Terry Skykora was fuming after the game.

"That game should never have been that close," said Skykora. "Two minor penalties in a row was crazy, considering he (referee) never called anything all night."

Sykora also said his team has a lot of improving to do, despite the fact Totems just took two points in the opposition's arena.

"We're still making a lot of mistakes, a lot of giveaways that we have to clean up," said Skykora. "But we've got a lot of young kids who I'm going to stick with. I can't expect too much from only a couple of weeks into the season."

At the other end of the rink, Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence is beginning to get worried.

"I'm always worried when my

team loses its first two games of the year," said Lawrence. "But we really should have won this one. I thought we really outplayed them."

TWO EJECTED

Lakers were smarting from the second period ejections of team captain Gord Simpson and defenceman Rudy Poeschek.

"That did hurt us a bit, we sure could have used both of them in the final period," said Lawrence.

The loss proved one thing to Lawrence and company, his team isn't without heart.

"That's one thing about these guys, they never stop trying," said Lawrence.

Lawrence now has to incorporate that trying into winning.

"We have to tighten our game up a bit," he said. "We've got to get back to fundamentals; backchecking and forechecking and more accuracy with our shooting."

ON SATURDAY

In Saturday's contest, Totems led 3-0 after the first period and 4-2 at the end of the second. Scoring for Shuswap were Terhune, with three, while Ron Olsen, Ken Prentice and Darrell Simpson had singles. Kossan and Nick Kapicki replied for Vernon.

Next game for Lakers is Friday, when they are at home to Revelstoke Rockets for an 8 p.m. start. On Saturday, the team makes a return visit to Revelstoke, then they're back home Sunday, to take on the Kelowna Buckaroos, at 7 p.m.

Local ruggers