



KELOWNA BUCKAROOS' captain Rod Schluter got a rude greeting from Vernon Lakers

goaltender Bob Moll when Schluter passed through Moll's crease. Moll blocked 23 shots

Sunday, but it wasn't enough as Buckaroos defeated Lakers 4-3, in the Civic Arena. (Daily News Photo)

JUNIOR HOCKEY ROUND-UP

Bucks edge Lakers

By GORD SMILEY
Daily News Sports

Scott Shoffstall's goal at the 7:18 mark of the third period spoiled Vernon Lakers chances of winning three consecutive games as Kelowna Buckaroos squeezed past lakers 4-3, Sunday, in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at the Civic Arena.

Lakers had won their previous two encounters, a 6-5 overtime win over Revelstoke Rockets, Saturday in Revelstoke, and a 6-3 win over the Rockets, Friday in Vernon.

In other games, Sunday, Shuswap Totems beat Penticton Knights 3-2, Esquimalt Buccaneers downed Merritt Centennials 8-2 and New Westminster Royals defeated Burnaby Bluehawks 7-4.

On Saturday, Cowichan Capitals downed Merritt 4-1, Kelowna took a 5-2 decision over Penticton and Abbotsford Flyers trounced Langley Eagles 15-3.

TOOK LEAD

Vernon jumped into an early 1-0 lead when Mike Enemark scored his first of two goals slipping the

puck past Kelowna goaltender Mike Taylor who blocked 34 shots.

Teams went to the dressing room with lakers hanging onto the 1-0 lead, but the second period spelled doom for the hometown team.

Buckaroos scored three times in the second period to grab 3-1 lead. However, only 55 seconds into the final frame, Ian Walters scooped the puck past Taylor to narrow the gap to one. Then less than four minutes later, Enemark blasted one from the point to tie it up 3-3.

Other Kelowna goal scorers were Don Barker, with two, and Simon Wheeldon, with a single.

After his team blew a two-goal lead, Buckaroos' Coach Wayne Naka said he was "definitely worried."

"I just want to take these two points and get the hell out of here," said Naka. "I wasn't happy with the way we played at all, in fact I thought the game was kind of sluggish on both parts."

WON TWO

Buckaroos also emerged from weekend play winning two of three and Naka said he'll take it.

"Like they say, two out of three ain't bad, and I'm sure Vernon's saying the same thing," said Naka.

Lakers' manpower was cut short considerably with three game ejections: Ron Berezowski in the first period, Todd Ewen in the second and Rob Kossan in the third, all for fighting. Ewen and Kossan hurt the club the most since they make up two-thirds of one of the best lines in the BCJHL. Also, centre Glen Doucette sat out the entire second period after taking a slash across the arm.

Vernon came close to tying the game in the final minutes. Nick Kapicki and Kevin Thorlakson were continually buzzing around Buckaroos net, but to no avail. Then with 1:10 remaining Lawrence pulled goaltender Bob Moll, who stopped 23 shots on the night, for the extra attacker, but again with no results.

COSTLY BREAKDOWN

"I still think we deserved to win, no two ways about it," said Lawrence. "We knew what we had to do to win, but that breakdown in the second period really cost us."

Naka said compared to previous years, this year's version of the Lakers is vastly improved.

"If they keep playing the way they are, they're going to win a lot of games."

However, Naka hopes Lakers don't win as many games as Buckaroos, and is quietly optimistic his team can win the BCJHL title.

"I'm confident we have the horses that can do it," said Naka. "I still have three regulars from last year who haven't played yet, but you have to wait for about a month to see where you are, it's still too early."

On Saturday, Larry Wiberg got the winner in overtime for Lakers while other Vernon marksmen were Kapicki, Ewen, Gavin Shuya, Glen Doucette and Kevin Weremy. Scoring for Revelstoke were Jeff Doerr, Vernon Worme, Brian Deleeuw and Terry Heddie.

Next game for Lakers is Friday night when they make the trip to Penticton to take on the Knights. Then on Sunday, the team is at home to take on the Buckaroos, with a 7 p.m. start.