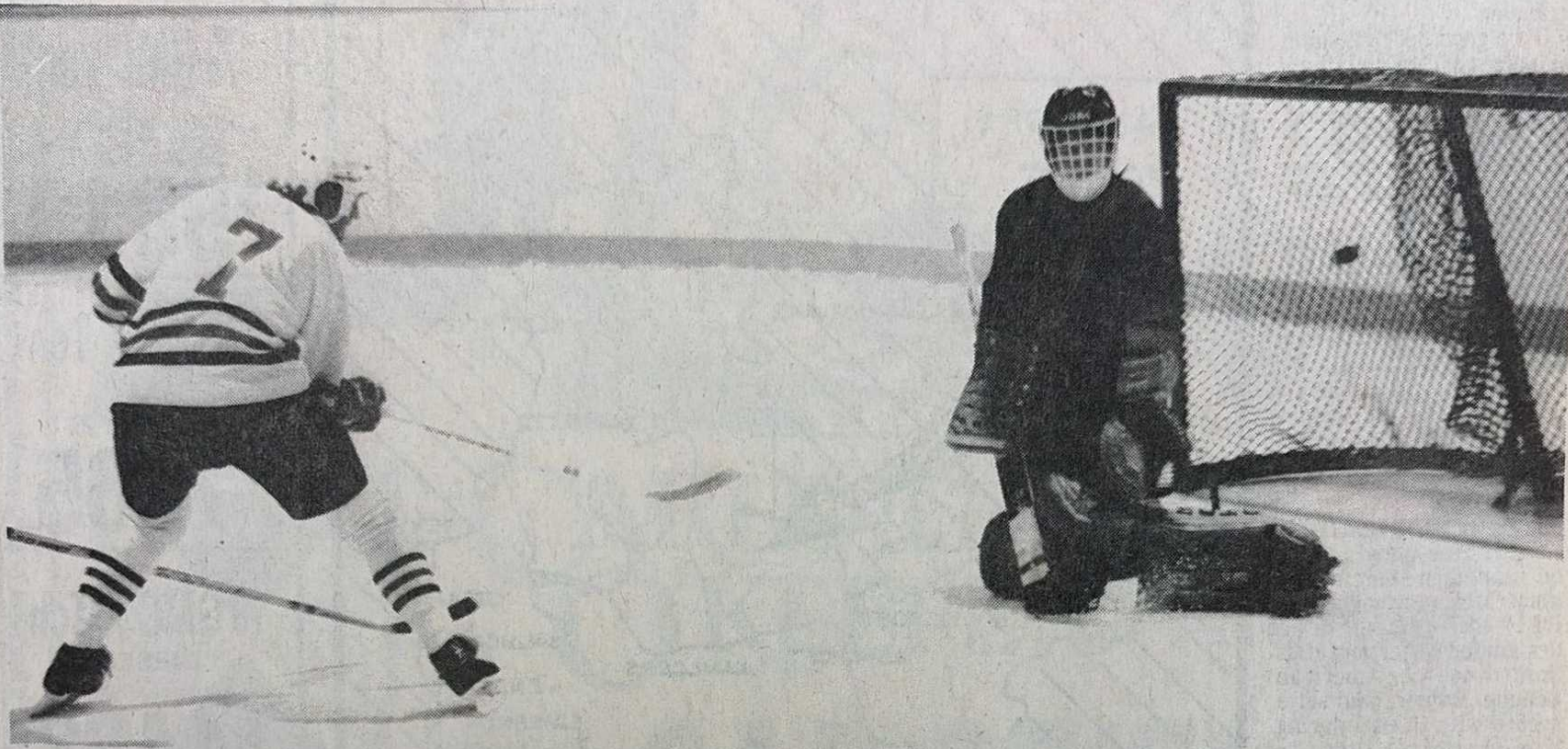




VERNON COUGARS' winger Murray Wilcox deked a defenceman and put this shot past Vernon Lakers' goalie Rex

Grant during Thursday's exhibition hockey game in the Civic Arena. Wilcox, who is temporarily working in Vernon,

scored twice to help Cougars defeat Lakers 7-5. He is scheduled to return to the Coast next week. (Don Weixl Photo)

BEST TEAM IN VERNON

Cougars defeat Lakers

Vernon Cougars made it clear, Thursday, that it is the best hockey team in town.

Cougars, of the North Okanagan Hockey League edged Vernon Lakers of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, 7-5, in an exhibition encounter at the Civic Arena.

Cougars' Coach Gary Swanson said the game was good for both teams as Lakers are preparing for a game with the Burnaby Bluehawks tonight and this weekend Cougars are on the road Saturday against Princeton and Sunday in Oliver.

"Now they can put us down as the best team in town," said Swanson. "Before the game some people were sort of leaning to the junior team."

Cougars were paced by the two goal performances of Terry Lowe and Murray Wilcox. Singles went to Dave Caldwell, Dave

Schneider and Gary Gilchrist.

Glen Doucette scored twice for Lakers while Kevin Thorlakson, Yves Pelletier and Andre Rissling chipped in with single goals.

Charlie Briskham played the whole game for Cougars blocking 35 shots while the trio of Bob Moll, Rob Imbeau and Rex Grant blocked 49 for Lakers.

In BCJHL action, Thursday, Brian Deleeuw scored 52 seconds into the overtime period to give Revelstoke Rockets a 6-5 victory over visiting Kelowna Buckaroos.

Deleeuw also scored the third-period goal that sent the teams into overtime.

In other league action, Burnaby Bluehawks trounced Langley Eagles 9-3.

In Revelstoke, Terry Heddle scored a pair for the Rockets, who trailed 0-1 after one period and 1-4 after two. Singles came from

Lee Humphreys and Brian Sweeney.

Goalscorers for Kelowna included Scott Shoffstall, with a pair, and Tom Benson, Shawn Swail and Rod Schluter.

Kelowna is in first place in the Interior division, while Revelstoke is in fifth.

In the Burnaby game, Earl Graham scored three goals for the winners with Brian Mueller added a pair. Single goals were scored by Paul Bifano, Pat Austin, Shaun Edwards and Derik Sheers, who also had three assists.

Rod Ware, Harvey Biluk and Mike Bulka were the Langley marksmen.

Burnaby outshot the Eagles 43-25. Ed Jones took the punishment in goal for Langley. Dale Stachoski was the Burnaby netminder.

Eagles Brian Amies and Harvey Biluk both received match penalties during the game.