

SIMPSON SCORES TWO

Lakers keep winning

Vernon Lakers have taken their second step towards winning four consecutive games this weekend.

Lakers handed Kelowna Buckaroos a 6-2 defeat Friday night in Kelowna and are now tied with Shuswap Totems for third place. However, Shuswap has two games in hand with a 6-6 record, while Vernon is 6-4.

Vernon defeated Revelstoke Rockers 5-3 Thursday, to start their four game weekend. Tonight, Lakers are in Salmon Arm to take on the Totems and are finally home, Sunday, when they take on Merritt Centennials.

In other BCJHL action, Friday, Penticton defeated Shuswap 8-7; New Westminster Royals edged Langley Eagles 8-7 in overtime; and Burnaby Bluehawks defeated Richmond Sockeyes 7-5. The victories allowed New Westminster and Burnaby to move into a first-place tie with Esquimalt Buccaneers in the tight Coastal Division.

Gordie Simpson led the Vernon attack with two goals while singles came from Glen Doucette, Brent Doucette, Mike Enemark

and Todd Ewen. Fred Bowers scored both goals for Kelowna. Lakers held period leads of 3-1 and 3-2, but with five minutes remaining in the game the floodgates opened.

Lakers scored three times in those five minutes to secure the win.

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence said Buckaroos were as tough as ever, but his club has just become better.

"I don't think they were any weaker from the last time we played them," said Lawrence. "We just keep going and going, we took the game right to them, that's the way we play, we always want to keep the pressure on anybody we play."

With the constant pressure applied by Lakers, Buckaroos finally let their guard down.

"It was a pretty close game up until we got our fourth goal," said Lawrence. "Right after that goal they just seemed to fold, they ran into a little trouble with penalties and we just sort of ran away with it."

Lawrence and company will now and try and avenge two early season losses to Shuswap.



GORD SIMPSON
... two goals

"We have something to settle on this one," said Lawrence. "We're a lot different hockey club than from those first two games and the boys are going to be out to convince everyone of that."

Should Lakers get by Totems, Vernon could almost write another win down when Merritt comes to town. Merritt is in last place in the Interior Division.

"Tonight is definitely a

critical game, we'd like to get by this one."

In the Penticton, Shuswap matchup, some extra practice paid off for Brett Hull as he scored the winning goal over Totems.

Hull, son of National Hockey League great Bobby Hull, scored his second goal of the game off a face-off at 16:02 of the final period as Penticton moved four points ahead of second-place Kelowna.

Hull, who set up the Knights' seventh goal, said his game winner was scored off a set play.

"Coach (Rick) Kozuback sent out me and Dean Paprotka. We had been practising all week on that play where he wins the draw and I take the quick shot."

"It just happened that we won it. I just drilled it as fast as I could and it happened to go in."

Steve Charbonneau also scored twice for the Knights, while Kelly Tara, Rick Boh, Paprotka and Mark Verigin added the others. Albert Anthony scored twice for the Totems, who were outshot 46-35.

ROYALS 8 EAGLES 7

Ronning is proving to be quite a thorn in Langley's

side. The only other meeting between the two clubs this season also went into overtime and Ronning scored the winner in that game.

Dave Phipps scored four goals for the winners, while Geoff Harrigan tallied twice.

Chris Obst scored twice for the Eagles, with Jay Campbell, Jim Dupuis, Rob Ware, Gary Lescisin and Paul Lelievre adding the others. Lescisin's goal with just two seconds remaining in the third period had sent the game into overtime.

B L U E H A W K S 7 SOCKEYES 5

Paul Bifano scored twice, including the winner with 55 seconds remaining, to give Burnaby the win. Mark Nonis, with two, Earl Graham, Darcy Phillips and Derik Sheers, into an empty net, completed the Bluehawks scoring.

Eric Catchpole scored three goals for Richmond, while Mike Moree and David Wensley added the others.

Tonight, Vernon is at Shuswap, Merritt visits Revelstoke, Cowichan plays host to Langley and Richmond is at Abbotsford.