



VERNON LAKERS' Andre Rissling tried to get his stick on the puck for a deflection in front of Merritt Centennials'

goaltender Kory Brown, but was tripped up by Centennials' defenceman Vince Ceudal. Centennials eventually won the

contest 4-2, Sunday night, at the Civic Arena.

(Daily News Photo)

VERNON TIED FOR THIRD

Cents stop Lakers

Vernon Lakers outplayed, outskated, outshot and outhit the visiting Merritt Centennials, but didn't outscore them.

Centennials handed Lakers a 4-2 loss, Sunday night at the Civic Arena in front of 350 fans, in B.C. Junior Hockey League play.

The loss ruined Lakers' weekend after the club defeated Revelstoke 7-5, Thursday; Kelowna 6-2, Friday, and Shuswap Totems 7-5, Saturday. All the games were played on the road.

In other BCJHL action, Sunday, Esquimalt Buccaneers defeated Langley Eagles 11-6, Shuswap downed Revelstoke 6-1, and New Westminster beat Richmond 9-4.

On Saturday, Cowichan Capitals defeated Langley 8-5, Abbotsford trounced Richmond 12-5, and Revelstoke got by Merritt 6-2.

Lakers' season record now stands at 7-5, tied for third with Shuswap.

BROWN HOT

If not for the play of Centennials' goaltender Kory Brown, the score could have got out of hand in favor of Lakers, but Brown seemed to be everywhere and anywhere. Brown made 35 saves on the night, about half of those key stops. At the other end, Lakers' Bob Moll faced 18

shots, but many from point-blank range.

Centennials' final goal came with 12 seconds remaining in the game when Jeff Reitsma scored in an empty net after Moll had been pulled in favor of an extra attacker at the 18:51 mark.

Other than the final goal, all the scoring was done in the first period.

Kevin Marling scored twice for Merritt while Tod English had the other. Vernon's goals came from Kevin Thorlakson and defenceman Gavin Shuya.

BOUNCING PUCK

For their fourth game in as many nights, Lakers didn't seem leg weary, but just couldn't follow the bounding puck.

"It was just one of those things," said Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence. "The boys have had a pretty tough week and we came out a little flat, that's all it amounted to."

Despite their last place standing in the Interior Division, Centennials didn't look like a club on the verge of only its second win.

"They (Centennials) played really well, they all played one heckuva game," said Lawrence. "You have to give them credit, they came in

here and took the game right to us."

Also when a team has 22 shots on goal and four of them go in, it's a tough loss to take.

"When you outshoot a team 37-22, that sort of speaks for itself," said Lawrence. "But they took advantage of the chances they got."

UNEXPECTED LOSS

Prior to Thursday, Lawrence said he wouldn't mind coming away from the weekend with three wins, but said he didn't expect the one loss to come from Merritt.

"Actually I wanted to come away with four wins, but we didn't particularly have a good game."

On Saturday, Lakers held period leads of 4-2 and 5-4 with Gord Simpson leading the way for Lakers with two goals. Other Lakers' markers came from Rob Kossan, Mike Enemark, Brent Doucette, Glen Doucette and Brad Andersen.

Robbie Klent had three for Shuswap while singles came from Irwin Walters and Allan Abercrombie.

BUSY WEEKEND

Lakers embark on another four-game weekend beginning Thursday when the team pays a return visit to Merritt. On Friday, Shuswap is in town for an 8 p.m. start.