

Lakers avenge loss to Merritt

Vernon Lakers have taken over sole possession of third place in the Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League after defeating Merritt Centennials, 6-5, in Merritt.

Lakers record sits a 8-5 while Shuswap Totems out of Salmon Arm are in fourth spot with a 7-7 mark. Totems will be in town tonight for an 8 p.m. start to try and regain a hold of third.

The win by Lakers avenged a 4-2 loss the team suffered Sunday at home to Merritt.

Lakers have won their last five of six games, however, Head Coach Murray Lawrence said his club didn't have a particularly good game against Merritt.

"I don't think the guys prepare for Merritt as they do with other clubs," said Lawrence. Centennials are in last place in the Interior with only two wins.

The teams were tied 2-2 at the end of the first period but Vernon led 5-3 at the end of the second.

In the only other game in the BCJHL, Langley Eagles stopped Burnaby Bluehawks, 4-1.

In Merritt, Ron Berezowski scored the game winner at 15:40 of the third period.

Pat Antongionanni brought Merritt to within one at 16:11 but Vernon



RON BEREZOWSKI
... scores winner

goalie Rex Grant who made 39 saves in the game held the fort.

Mike Enemark, Rob Kossan, Ken MacKenzie, Gord Simpson and Nick Kapicki had the other Vernon goals. Pat Ryan led Merritt with two goals while Kevin Rabbitt and Doug Marling added singles.

Mark Taylor made 35 saves for Merritt.

Despite Merritt having only two wins, Lawrence said Centennials are a much better team than their record shows.



REX GRANT
... 39 saves

"They've made a few changes, they've picked up a few kids from the junior B league on the Coast and have made a few cuts," said Lawrence. "They're not too bad a hockey team, they'll do okay."

The game also marked the first appearance of the year for Greg Kowal. Kowal had been sitting out a suspension imposed by the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association.

Kowal was placed on a line with centre Kapicki and right winger Kevin Thorlakson, all three pro-

ducts of Vernon minor hockey.

"I'd have to say that was our best line of the night," said Lawrence. "Kowal did really well, he's really going to help our club."

The line of Brent and Glen Doucette along with Simpson was broken up early in the contest when Glen was ejected from the game for fighting. This forced Lawrence to use different combinations, trying to replace the high scoring Doucette.

"That hurt us a fair amount, as you know we rely on Glen for a lot of our offence," said Lawrence.

In Burnaby, Langley led 2-1 at the end of the first period and 3-1 at the end of the second.

Jim Dupuis scored two goals for the winners, while Richard Sloan and Chris Obst added singles. Alain Wozney scored for Burnaby.

Dale Stachoski blocked 33 shots in the Burnaby net, while Glen Stone stopped 29 for Langley.

Lakers are now getting ready for Salmon Arm, tonight.

"They're (Totems) always tough, we'll really have to be on our game," said Lawrence.

All students of Kalamalka Junior Secondary and Kidston Elementary School will be admitted free to Friday's game against Totems.