

Lakers win one on Coast swing

Vernon Lakers found out they are either one goal better or one goal worse than three of the teams in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Coastal Division.

Lakers lost a 6-5 overtime decision to Esquimalt Buccaneers, Sunday, in Esquimalt to end Lakers three-game road trip with a 1-2 record.

On Saturday, Lakers defeated Cowichan Valley 4-3. The previous night, Lakers suffered a 6-5 loss to Langley Eagles.

In other games Sunday, Shuswap Totems upset Penticton Knights 7-6 and New Westminster clubbed Burnaby Blue Hawks 10-5.

On Saturday, Kelowna Buckaroos dumped Shuswap 6-2, the Knights nipped Revelstoke Rockets 6-5, and Abbotsford trounced New Westminster 9-3.

In Esquimalt, the Buccaneers held a 4-3 edge going into the third period after the first ended 2-2.

Al Johnson scored on a quick shot off a faceoff 14 seconds into sudden-death overtime to give Buccaneers the victory. In addition to Johnson's deciding goal, Buccaneers got singles from Gary Matson, Dale Briscoe, Carey Caroy, Rob Kivell and Randy Horswill.

Lakers forced overtime



RON BEREZOWSKI
... winning goal

with two goals in 41 seconds, just before the 15-minute mark of the final period.

Vernon's record now drops to 11-8, one point back of second place Buckaroos who are 11-11-1. Penticton continues to lead the league with a 13-5 mark.

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence said his troops were tired at the end of three games.

"It was really quite a grind, really tough," said

Lawrence. "You should try travelling on this bus all weekend."

Lawrence also said the three games were all quick, fast paced games, and Lakers were lacking something.

"I don't know what it is, against teams we should beat we seem to play a different game," he said. "We were prepared for the weekend, no doubt about that, I don't know if we really get up for weaker teams."

On Saturday, Ron Berezowski's goal with 2:18 left in the game proved to be the winner as Lakers got by Cowichan, 4-3.

"Cowichan has a really good team, very much similar to ours," said Lawrence. "They have some good skaters plus some good size."

Lakers got a two-goal performance from Stacey Wakabayashi against Cowichan. Vernon trailed 1-0 after the first period, but led 3-2 going into the third.

Lakers are expected to arrive back in Vernon this afternoon, but won't get much rest. They play host to Penticton, Tuesday at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena. The team then travels to Merritt to take on the Centennials, Thursday.