

Vernon
Daily
News

sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

PLAYERS SCUFFLE WITH FANS

Knights edge Lakers 7-6

SMILEY ON SPORTS

Good Knight
Penticton!

By GORD SMILEY Daily News Sports

So that's the Penticton Knights. Knights are quite a show, complete with stick swinging, spearing and cross-checking. Knights did all of this in an attempt to intimidate Vernon Lakers in Tuesday's B.C. Junior Hockey League game at the Civic Arena.

As anyone can tell by the score, 7-6 for Penticton, Lakers weren't overly intimidated. So, when Penticton couldn't take its frustration out on the Lakers, the only alternative was to go into the stands.

Lakers' supporters are also to blame, since the melee in the stands was instigated by an unidentified object thrown at Knights bench. Knights' players responded by swinging their sticks at fans behind their bench and also throwing a few punches.

This is the third time Lakers' supporters have hurled an object on to the ice. The first was a dead rat, the second an empty whisky bottle and this time even though the object hasn't been identified, Knights' Coach Rick Kozuback said he thinks it was a freshly skinned animal's head.

"It hit one of our guys in the face and cut him, we had to take him to the hospital to get stitches," said Kozuback.

Kozuback said he couldn't blame any of his players for taking action against the fans.

"I was standing next to the guy it hit, if it would have hit me, I would have been the first into the stands," he said. "The kids are here to play and we were having a hard enough time on the ice, never mind the stands."

POINTLESS

Once the stick swinging broke loose, Kozuback said it was pointless to try and restrain his players.

"I did grab a couple of my players and some of our older players held some guys back," said Kozuback. "This isn't the first time something like this has happened in Vernon."

Among the spectators at the game was Shuswap Totems' General Manager Gord McIntosh.

McIntosh said he was disgusted by what happened and narrows the problem down to two areas.

"You have to have control over your players and there has to be security in the arena," said McIntosh. "Vernon is one of the only arenas where there isn't security."

The security problem can be easily remedied, but controlling players is a different story. Kozuback has assembled a physical team, apparently set on playing intimidating hockey.

"They had 220 guys in training camp and they come up with a team like this," said McIntosh. "With the team they put together I'd be embarrassed."

Penticton is defending B.C. champion, something McIntosh said has made them turn to intimidation.

"They can't be slipping, they know they're not as good as they used to be and they turned to goon tactics."

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence said it was one of those tactics which got defencemen Gavin Shuya thrown out of the game. Shuya had already been in a couple of shoving matches, but nothing serious.

In the second period, Rob Cederberg of Penticton grabbed Shuya from the blind side, Shuya responded, but couldn't handle the flurry of blows from Cederberg. Both Cederberg and Shuya were thrown out of the game. Shuya with a possible broken nose and a match penalty because of something he said to the referee.

Now prior to the game, Kozuback said he thought Shuya is probably the best defenceman in the B.C.J.H.L. It makes sense, sacrifice a nothing forward for Lakers' top defenceman.

KEY APES

"They've done it to us," said McIntosh. "They get one of their key apes to come along and take one of your best players out. At first our guys were just covering up, but now our players are sick of it and they're fighting back."

After the Vernon incident, McIntosh said now he knows it's just not something about his Totems.

"I thought it could have been an isolated incident," said McIntosh. "But they've (Penticton) done it to us, to Vernon, plus Revelstoke and Kelowna have had trouble."

Coupled with their games against Penticton, plus another against Merritt Centennials, which involved Centennials' uncommon use of the stick, McIntosh said Totems' attendance has dropped.

"Before this happened we were getting 800 to 900 fans a game," he said. "Now we haven't had a crowd over 500. I don't know whether it's the economy, but I know some fans who told me they won't come back."

Penticton is certainly the main character in this saga of violence. Hopefully league officials will also become involved and put a stop to this before it gets out of hand.

By GORD SMILEY

Daily News Sports

An object thrown from the stands into the visiting Penticton Knights' bench area prompted one player to exchange punches with a fan during a B.C. Junior Hockey League game at the Civic Arena, Tuesday, at the Civic Arena between Knights and Vernon Lakers.

The incident began when Rudy Poeschek and Dave Fabbro, of Knights, decided to punch it out during the second period of the game, which Penticton won 7-6.

The unidentified object was first hurled on the ice during the fight. A Knights' player threw it back into the crowd, at which point it was thrown at the Penticton bench, hitting a player.

Penticton players, some nearly in the stands, began swinging their sticks at Lakers' supporters behind the Knights' bench.

COOLING OFF

When order was restored, the two teams were ordered to their dressing rooms for a two-minute cooling off period.

With 5:05 remaining in the period.

For his efforts, Poeschek received a game misconduct and two minor penalties. Fabbro received a match, a game, plus three minor penalties, including one for threatening referee Darren Zupp.

The game was penalty-filled from the opening with Penticton taking 21 minors, two five minute majors, three game misconducts and a match.

Lakers, on the other hand, took 14 minor penalties, two five-minute majors, three game misconducts and one match penalty.

In other games, Langley Eagles edged Cowichan Valley 7-6 while Richmond nipped Abbotsford 3-2.

SCORED FOUR

The penalties overshadowed the four-goal performance of Dean Paprotka, who had scored Knights' first three goals.

The teams played to a 1-1 tie at the end of the first and were again tied, 4-4 at the end of the second.

In the third, Paprotka and Ally Cook connected to give Knights a 6-4 lead.

Rob Kossan then connected twice, once on the power play to tie the game at 6-6.

Other Lakers' goal scorers were Nick Kapicki, Stacey Wakabayashi, Mike Enemark and Don Rintala.

Penticton's other marksman was Kelly Para.

It was Rick Boh's goal from a scramble in front of the net at 11:16 of the third period that gave Penticton its win.

With Lakers' goaltender Matt Sekela pulled in favor of an extra attacker, Vernon called for a measure-

ment of Greg Barber's stock. The stock proved to be illegal because of too much curve and Knights were assessed a minor penalty. This came at with 16 seconds left in the game, but Penticton was able to hang on for the win.

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence said he and Assistant Coach Chuck Tapp noticed the stick with more than two minutes remaining, but weren't able to bring it to the referee's attention until 16 seconds left.

In their previous two en-

counters, Lakers had defeated Knights by 6-3 scores both times. Prior to the game, Knights' Coach Rick Kozuback said he wanted his team to play more aggressive in hopes of recording a win.

However, Lawrence said the much larger Knights did nothing to deter his troops.

"I was expecting them (Knights) to play like that but I hope they keep it up," said Lawrence. "Everytime we play them we'll have the man advantage."

Lakers' defenceman Gavin Shuya received a possible broken nose in a fight with Rob Cederberg. However, the broken nose shouldn't keep Shuya out of the lineup, but the match penalty he received will, for three games.

"I definitely think that was planned (to take Shuya out of the game)," said Lawrence. "They were also running at our goalkeeper all night."

INTIMIDATION

Tapp said it was Penticton's game plan to intimidate the Lakers.

"They were out for bear, no doubt about that," said Tapp.

Tapp also said he was concerned his troops could have been tired for the game, just coming off a three-game Coastal road trip.

"The boys had put a lot of miles on the bus and that takes a lot out of a person," said Tapp.

Lakers record now drops to 11-9 while Penticton has a firm grip of first place with a 14-5 mark.

Vernon tries to get back on the winning track when it travels to Merritt, Thursday, to take on the Centennials. The Friday exhibition game originally scheduled with Kamloops Oilers, of the Western Hockey League, has been cancelled. Instead Cariboo College will be in town.

Next regular season home game for Lakers is Sunday, when Revelstoke Rockets are in town for a 7 p.m. start.



PENTICTON KNIGHTS' captain Dean Paprotka, left, gets his first of four goals as he shovels the puck

past Vernon Lakers' goaltender Matt Sekela during first period action. Knights went on to defeat

Lakers 7-6, in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at the Civic Arena, Tuesday.

(Daily News Photo)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ball league
holds meeting

Molson Men's Slowpitch League will hold its annual general meeting Thursday, at 7 p.m., in the offices of Thorne Riddell (Credit Union Building). Topics on the agenda include election of officers and admission of new teams. All clubs must have two representatives on hand.

Pool closed

Vernon indoor pool will be closed for public swimming Saturday and Sunday, from 12 noon to 4 p.m., to accommodate a Vernon Kokanee's Swim Club meet.

Men's volleyball

In Men's Volleyball League play Tuesday, the scores were: National Hotel 2, Golden Crown

A spokesman for the Kim family said Drs. Tae Hwan Yum and Chang Bin Lee, two of four acupuncturists brought in from Los Angeles, gave the brain-dead fighter a 10-minute treatment Tuesday night by inserting needles into his hands and legs.

New kickoff time

TORONTO (CP)—The kickoff time Sunday for the



CHRIS NELSON
... positive reaction

Hall
to expand
next year

A maximum of five athletes, sportsmen, or

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Blues are underdogs
at B.C. championships

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

Westside Whundies, of Kamloops, and Vernon Blues are representing the Okanagan at the B.C. High School Soccer Championships, which get under way Thursday, in Burnaby.

The sixteen participating teams are divided into four sections for round-robin play. Top club from each group advances to the championship round.

Keith Brookes, who coaches the Blues with Marty Stein, said his team is probably the toughest section.

"Because we finished second in the valley playoffs, we've got a tough draw,"

winger Randy Ahl is expected to play after missing one game with water on the knee.

GOOD TEAM

"Even without Kittel and Baby, I think we're taking a good team to the Coast," Brookes said. "This is probably the most balanced side we've ever had."

Blues have qualified for the provincial championships in seven of the past 10 years. However, they have never placed in the top four.

Darren O'Connor and Winston Paine are expected to start at the wing-half positions, in place of Kittel and Baby. The centrefield will be filled by West German exchange student



FASTER PACE

Brookes said for his squad to do well, it will have to adapt to a faster pace and poor field conditions.

"The pace will be much quicker than we're used to," he said. "We'll have to move the ball immediately, under pressure."

As usual at the Coast, muddy field conditions are expected. "I understand it has been raining there for the past few days so we'll have to play in the mud," he said. "Lower Mainland teams are used to it, but it will be a new experience for us."

Snow has limited Vernon's training schedule this week to running and