

Lakers tied for second

By GORD SMILEY

Vernon Lakers moved into a second place tie with Kelowna Buckaroos in the Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League with a 4-1 victory over Revelstoke Rockets, Sunday, in the Civic Arena.

Buckaroos had gained sole possession of second spot when they played to a 5-5 overtime tie with Shuswap Totems in an afternoon contest, in Salmon Arm.

In other action Sunday, Richmond defeated Esquimalt 6-3 and New Westminster trounced Merritt 7-3. On Saturday, Richmond and Cowichan played to a 5-5 overtime tie, Abbotsford doubled Esquimalt 8-4, New Westminster got by Kelowna 5-2, and Penticton defeated Revelstoke 5-1.

Lakers improved their record to 13-9 while Kelowna sits with an 12-12-2 mark. Penticton continues to lead the standings with a 16-5 record, for 32 points.

HOT GOALIE

Lakers and Rockets played to a 1-1 tie after the first period and it looked as though Vernon had run into another hot goaltender in Jim Young. Young made save after save off Lakers' sniper, but could only keep the door shut so long.

In the second, Lakers got their second power play goal from Brent Doucette. Then with 41 seconds remaining in the period, defenceman Mike Enemark on one of his patented rushes found himself free from the blueline in where he casually deked Young into next year and made the score 3-1.

Enemark rounded out the scoring with 53 seconds remaining in the third period into an empty

Revelstoke net. Young had been pulled with 1:25 remaining for an extra attacker.

Greg Kowal got Vernon's first goal of the game while Louis Gagne was the lone Rockets' scorer.

Young blocked 49 shots for Rockets while Matt Sekela, who had a strong game for Lakers, stopped 36.

FIVE MISSING

Lakers were missing five regulars from the lineup: Peter Oliphant, broken hand; Glen Doucette, separated shoulder; Craig Iseke, back; Gavin Shuya, suspension and Stacey Wakabayashi, personal.

Lakers went with only 13

skaters, but still showed no effects of being tired, even though they just finished playing seven games in 10 days.

"I was a little concerned we might get tired especially with the injuries," said Head Coach Murray Lawrence. "But I always have confidence in my guys, they always come to play."

The injured list should actually be larger because centre Nick Kapicki is playing with a hairline fracture in his wrist and also took a wicked slapshot off his left ankle in the third period.

"He took quite a shot, but he'll be okay, Nick's a tough kid."

SHOT WIDE

Lakers didn't look especially sharp against Rockets shooting wide of the net all night and having trouble controlling the puck in the opposition's end.

"We make it too easy for the opposing team," said Lawrence. "We bunch up too much and very often we find ourselves in a straight line, we definitely need some work there."

Rockets were a changed team from the last time Revelstoke and Vernon met, a 5-3 win for Lakers.

"They (Revelstoke) stuck to hockey for a change, they looked different but the changes they've made haven't real-

ly helped the club," said Lawrence. "If we had had a full lineup, the score would have been a lot different."

LONG LAYOFF

Lakers now embark on a 12-day layoff, their second this season. The layoff will provide a welcome rest for the walking wounded, but Lawrence said he'd rather have a more consistent schedule.

Lakers practice daily this week and travel to Williams Lake for an exhibition game, Friday.

Next home game for lakers is Dec. 3 when Salmon Arm is in town. The following night Cowichan pays a visit to the Civic Arena.



VERNON LAKERS' Don Rintala takes a swipe at the bouncing puck, but came up with nothing except Jim Young's goal pad

during first period action between Lakers and Revelstoke Rockets. Lakers went on to defeat Rockets 4-1, in B.C.

Junior Hockey League action, Sunday, at the Civic Arena.

(Daily News Photo)