

Lakers cook with "Wak" as they double Totems

By JIM JUDD

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The Vernon Lakers were cooking with a "Wak" Friday night at the Civic Arena... a Wakabayashi, that is!

Stacey Wakabayashi, the feisty winger on the Laker's numero uno line, scored on a splendid individual effort, set up a second goal by linemate Rob

Kossan, and was selected as the games first star in the Lakers' 4-2 win over Salmon Arm-Shuswap Totems.

TIED FOR SECOND

The victory keeps the Lakers in a two-way split for second place in the BC-JHL's Interior Division, still tied with the Kelowna Buckeroos who downed Merritt 9-4. Both teams

gained two points on league-leading Penticton who dropped a 6-5 decision to the Cowichan Valley Capitals.

The scoring unfolded early in the opening period on a goal by Rob Kossan giving the Lakers a 1-0 lead. Wakabayashi did all the work on this splendid display, rushing the length of the ice, fending off one

check in the Totems' zone and purposely taking an even harder one to set up Kossan cruising into the slot area. Kossan made no mistake in picking a bottom corner with a hard wrist-shot.

SCORE TIED

The Totems got back on even ground before the period ended as they took advantage of a defensive lapse on the Lakers' behalf. Darryl Simpson picked up a loose puck in the Lakers' corner and had his choice of two Totem forwards to feed in front of the Laker net. He chose Brad Van Goor who merely tipped in the pass to tie the game 1-1.

In the second period, the Lakers got goals from Stacey Wakabayashi and Peter Oliphant to surge ahead 3-1 after two frames.

Gavin Shuya found Oliphant cruising in from the top of the face off circle and fed him a pass that Oliphant re-directed into the Totem net for a lead the Lakers' never relinquished.

BACKHAND SHOT

Later, Wakabayashi notched his marker and gave the Laker's some breathing space. Beating two Totem defenders to the puck in the offensive zone, Wakabayashi backhanded the disc into the corner of the Totem's net.

Panthers all score in easy tourney win

The VSSS Panthers got off on a winning note in their premiere performance of 1982-83 varsity basketball season with a 94-66 victory over George Pringle high school of Westbank in Kelowna.

The win came in just one of the games that have taken place in the six-team invitational tournament being held in Salmon Arm this weekend.

Originally, the Panthers were supposed to meet Prince George in the opening match of this exhibition tourney but a twist in the scheduling was responsible for this awkward mismatch.

ALL SCORED

Every Panther on the bench got in on the scoring during the melee, but Panther Lane Kanke led all with a 20 point individual performance. Don Balcombe added 15 points in the Panther's cause while Dean Sofiak contributed 11 points.

The Panthers were 6 for 10 from the free-throw line which, although is a respectable figure, is much less than coach Jack Yamaoka expects from his free-shot throwers. He'd like to see the percentage rise to 80 percent or better by the time the regular season opens in the new year.

BIG GUN

Despite the lopsided score, the Panthers couldn't successfully defend against Paul Taylor who was the big gun of the

Pringle offense with 30 points.

"We definately have to work on our inside," said Yamaoka. "Taylor was simply rolling to the inside, across the key, and they were feeding him the ball and he'd score every time. We have to work on our inside defence."

Because of the Panther's sloppy inside defending against Taylor, George Pringle had the opportunity to enjoy 26 free-throws due to personel fouls on the Panther defenders.

Luckily, the Pringle crew was only able to hit on 12 of 26 tries.

Nevertheless, Yamaoka wasn't impressed by his crew'd defensive actions.

LOT OF FOULS

"We had a lot of fouls inside because we couldn't defend properly against Taylor. Again, we need work on our inside defence."

"Everybody did played well and really hustled though," added Yamaoka.

There's also been some speculation, mostly on the media's behalf, that Dean Sofiak isn't producing up to his starry abilities. Yamaoka thinks his play is just fine, however.

"He's a real strength inside," said the Panther coach. "He rebounds well and sets up position well. I've been quite happy with his play."

New Westminster bounces Burnaby

Cliff Ronning scored two goals and added two assists as New Westminster Royals trounced Burnaby Bluehawks 8-2 Friday in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.

Joe Leschuk also scored twice for the Royals, who held comfortable period leads of 4-1 and 8-2. The Royals took advantage of their power-play opportunities, scoring six times with the man advantage. The Blue Hawks scored both their goals on the power play.

In other league action, Kelowna downed Merritt 9-4, Cowichan edged Penticton 6-5, and Abbotsford doubled Langley 6-3.

In New Westminster, Geoff Harrigan, Trevor Koenig, Dave Phipps and Mike Nottingham scored singles for the Royals. Brian Mueller and Tim Comeau scored the two power-play goals for the Bluehawks.

In Penticton, James McKee scored two goals including the winner in third period, to lead visiting Cowichan over the Knights.

Dean Heyes, Randy Wells, Andy Armbruster and Jeff Doerr added singles for Cowichan, who tied Penticton 2-2 after the first period and moved ahead 5-4 after the second frame.