



CLOSE CHECKING

Vernon Lakers' Nick Kopicki, number eight, rides the Cowichan Valley Capitals' Brad Van Doerr into the boards during a close-checking first period Saturday night at the Civic

Arena. The Lakers tied the Capitals 1-1 after the first period but fell asleep in the second, allowing the visiting team to score three unanswered goals en route to a 5-3 victory over the

local Lakers. The Caps are undefeated in their swing through the Okanagan, beating Penticton Friday, Vernon on Saturday, and Merritt on Sunday.

Capitals reap profits from Okanagan swing

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The Cowichan Valley Capitals tucked two points in their hip-pockets, packed their bags and left Vernon Saturday night without so much as a thank you to the Lakers for giving the Caps the two-point present via the short end of a 5-3 Capitals' victory.

Except for one or two brief, sporadic bursts of enthusiasm, the Lakers could just as easily have stayed home and mailed the Caps the two points. They showed up, however, only to go through the motions. Winning a hockey game was surely the furthest thing from the Lakers' minds.

"We were definitely flat tonight," said Vernon coach Murray Lawrence with a heavy sigh. "We didn't play our game at all," he added.

TIED

The Lakers stayed with the fast-skating Capitals for one period, playing to a 1-1 draw but lagged 4-1 after a tiresome second period in which the Lakers all but went to sleep.

Greg Kowal narrowed the gap just 19 seconds into the third frame but any attempt at a comeback was quickly pushed aside when Rene Command scored his second of the game to give the Caps their three-goal cushion once again.

Dean Heyes, of the Lakers, closed the scoring at 14:19 of the third after being set up on a nifty three-way passing combination from Jerry Kisor and Stacey Wakabayashi.

The Capitals opened the scoring in the first period on a goal by Ben Proskiw while Gavin Shuya converted a Nick Kopicki pass for the Lakers' tally.

The second period belonged solely to the Capitals as Rick Ellison, Ben Proskiw, with his second, and Command with his first, all tallied in a span of three minutes and 20 seconds.

SKATING GAME

Clearly, it was the Capitals aggressive skating game that made the difference during the second span of twenty minutes.

"If you try and skate with them, they'll kill you," said Lawrence. "We should have been playing just our regular game with lots of checking."

There were a few standouts in the Laker line-up, though nothing to get overly excited about. "Our rookie line, Kopicki, Kowal and Thorlackson played well," said Lawrence.

There were some outstanding players in Capitals uniforms though. Lawrence singled out the play of Randall, Proskiw and Doerr as examples of the kind of player that decimated the Lakers' chances of winning the contest.

LAKER LINES

The Lakers have yet another lengthy layoff coming up this week as they enjoy a seven day lull in hockey action. Their next game will be in Salmon Arm next Sunday night against the SHUSWAP TOTEMS who are the new kid on the block in the Interior Division but who don't stand for any bullying.

MURRAY LAWRENCE is still carrying three goaltenders at this point but will have to make a decision soon as to who is going to stick around and who is going to get their walking papers. He'll start REX GRANT in Salmon Arm.

CAPS KEEP ROLLING

Cowichan downs Merritt

Dean Heyes and Rick Ellison combined for five goals as Cowichan Capitals downed Merritt Centennials 7-3 Sunday in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.

Jeff Doerr and Andy Armbruster added singles for the Capitals, who trailed 2-1 after the first period, before jumping ahead 3-2 at the end of the second.

In other games, Shuswap edged Penticton 4-3 and Abbotsford dumped New Westminster 6-4.

On Saturday, Kelowna creamed Revelstoke 12-1 and Merritt shut out Penticton 4-0.

In Merritt on Sunday, Pat Ryan, Fritz Maier and Kevin Rabbitt replied for the Centennials.

In New Westminster, Kevin Poirier scored twice to lead Abbotsford over the Royals.

Tom Weiss, Dwight Mathiason,

Bill Shibicky and Paul Lelievre added singles for the Flyers, who lead the coast division.

In Salmon Arm, the Totems got goals from Kevin Taillefer, Rob Klenk, Brad Van Goor and Darrell Simpson. Steven Charbonneau scored twice for the Knights.

TWO-GOAL PERFORMANCES

On Saturday, Cowichan Valley got two-goal performances from Ben Proskiw and Rene Command to beat the hometown Vernon Lakers.

In Revelstoke, Simon Wheeldon, Don Barber and Mike McGarth led the relentless Buckaroos' attack against the Rockets with two goals each.

Shawn Wail, Jeff Armithage, Dale Reimer, Shawn Petty John, Misko Antisin and Rod Schluter added singles. Revelstoke's lone goal was scored by Rick Thompson.

In Penticton, the last-place Centennials got a 45-save shutout from Mark Taylor to upset the Knights, interior division leaders.

Jeff Reitsma scored twice for Merritt, who were ahead 2-0 after the first period and led 4-0 going into the third.

Merritt's first shot on the Penticton goal, by John Tent at 4:43 of the first period, stood up as the winner. By that point, Taylor had already stopped eleven shots by the Knights. Brent Demairis got the other goal for the Centennials, who were playing without coach Rod Rogers, who's serving a three-game suspension.

The next scheduled league action is Tuesday when Burnaby visits Richmond and Cowichan plays host to Esquimalt.