

Lakers trim Bucs 9-5

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

It's a style of hockey that sticks out like platform shoes. The Esquimalt Buccaneers tried to force their intimidation style tactics in the hopes of winning a hockey game but all it got them, in the end, was the short end of a 9-5 score Friday night at the Civic Arena.

In a way, the Bucs' coach, Wayne Bianchin can't be faulted for his style of coaching. After all, it's the way he learned to play the game under Pat Ginnell and the Flin Flon Bombers back in the fledgling, rip and tear, days of the Western Hockey League, then the WCJHL.

The Buccaneers did muster a second period rally that pulled them onto even ground after dropping to a 4-1 deficit earlier. The Bucs fired three goals, one of them slightly more than questionable, in a span of 1 minute and 19 seconds during that rally.

The rapid-fire goals haunted Laker coach Murray Lawrence, who'd been witness to similar incidents in the early part of the season.

"Early in the season we were having trouble in the second period all the time but I thought we got over that," said the Laker coach. "We had a good talk between the second and third period, and that seemed to settle them down."

In the third period, led by a three point performance by 16-year old Ron Berezowski, the Lakers stung the Bucs for three unanswered goals that salted the game away.

Berezowski closed out the scoring in the second period with the winning

goal, an unassisted effort at 16:34 of that frame.

The young winger also scored his second, an insurance marker, to close out the game's scoring, while assisting on a pair of others that period as well. The effort earned him the game's second star status.

Gord Simpson, Rob Kossan and Nick Kapicki, who spent an uncharacteristic amount of time in the penalty box, scored in the first period after the Bucs' Dale Briscoe scored his first of two to open the scoring.

Stacey Wakabayashi scored early in the second period to extend the Lakers' lead to 4-1 and it appeared, for all intents and purposes, like the game was already over at that point.

Without warning, Esquimalt suddenly swung into overdrive and tied the game on rapid-fire goals by Briscoe, with his second, Alton Davis, and Rick Hunt.

Laker defenceman Gavin Shuya, third star of the game, gave the Vernon squad back their lead at 12:36 of the second when his shot from the point was deflected into the Esquimalt net by a Buc defender.

The Buccaneers pulled back onto even ground for the last time at 15:55 of the second on a goal by Chris Crossman, before Berezowski's marker put the Lakers on top for good.

Tod Ewen gave the Lakers' their first insurance marker at 4:11 of the final frame with a blistering drive from the top of the circle while on the full fly.

Mike Enemark increased the Laker lead to three goals with his screened shot from the point while



RON BEREZOWSKI
... scores winner

Berezowski's second came on a power-play opportunity at 15:45 to put the icing on the cake.

Murray Lawrence was evidently happy with his team's over-all performance.

"If we play three periods like we did in the first and third tonight, nobody will be able to touch us," he chided on an optimistic note.

The Lakers outshot Esquimalt 46-25 with Rex Grant between the Vernon pipes and Karl Landry and Al Lanna combining for Esquimalt. The Bucs took 14 of 26 minors, doubled the Lakers 2-1 in majors and had two game misconducts.

LAKER LINES

Juvenile rookie SHANE KOSKI proved, perhaps without a doubt, to MURRAY LAWRENCE that he

should have a permanent spot on the Laker roster. Koski not only looked like he belonged in the game, but the 18-year old also won a split decision in the third period against the Bucs' overage RANDY TAYLOR, formerly with the Winnipeg Warriors of the WHL.

Said Lawrence, "I think he can play in this league, he's got a real good attitude!" ... and a pretty good right cross too!

The Lakers will be looking for two in a row at home when they face the lowly Merritt Centennials tonight at the Civic Arena. The Lakers bombed the Cents 8-1 last round but dropped their season opener at home 4-2 to the inconsistent Merritt team. The Cents also dumped Penticton Knights 4-0 last time the two teams met.

Cowboys must get by Phillips and Saints

Head coach Bum Phillips of New Orleans Saints knows what it takes and that worries Dallas Cowboys.

The Cowboys are one of five National Football League teams that could clinch playoff berths today. The others are New York Jets, Los Angeles Raiders, Washington Redskins and Cincinnati Bengals.

"Bum has proven he knows how to beat the Cowboys," said Dallas wide receiver Drew Pearson, thinking of a game in 1979 Houston Oilers beat the Cowboys 30-24. Phillips was Houston coach at that time.

"He ruined our Thanksgiving in 1979. We don't want that to happen again."

The Cowboys, who meet the Saints on Sunday, are tied with the Redskins with 5-1 records in the National Football Conference. Eight teams from the

NFC and American Football Conference will make the playoffs.

If the Cowboys win Sunday, they will go to the playoffs for the eighth straight season. The Redskins are aiming at their first playoff berth since 1976 when they play host Sunday to New York Giants.

The Jets and Raiders also put 5-1 records on the line today. The Jets travel to Miami and the Raiders play host to Los Angeles Rams.

The Bengals, also 5-1, play the Chargers in San Diego on Monday night.

Ken Stabler is expected to start at quarterback for New Orleans despite bruised ribs.

Despite their 3-3 record, the Giants promise to give Washington trouble. New York has won three in a row.