

Lakers dump Centennials 6-4

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
The Merritt Centennials did everything in their power, short of playing hockey, Saturday night, to try to beat the Vernon Lakers.

coach Murray Lawrence. "The same thing happens every time," he added, speaking of the penalty-filled affair.

The Lakers shook off the vicious attacks, however, stuck to their guns, and came out winners in a 6-4 contest at the Civic Arena.

John Tent opened the scoring at 1:05 of the first frame for the Centennials before Brent Doucette evened the game on a give-and-go play with Ken Fenton at 4:49 of the opening stanza.

The local team took the lead at 10:58 of the period

when Gavin Shuya's hard, rising shot from the slot found the Merritt net.

OFF POST
The Centennials got their Christmas present earlier than usual, tying the game at 13:07. Fritz Maier and Pat Ryan steamed into the Vernon zone after the

Lakers were caught up-ice, but Maier's shot along the ice met with that unmistakable sound of the goalpost. Referee Rod Armilage upheld the goal-judges' decision, though, and the two teams went to the dressing rooms tied at two goals apiece.

Lakers went ahead once more just 42 seconds into the second frame when Stacey Wakabayashi beat the Merritt goaltender Kory Brown, on the short side, with a hard wrist shot from a tough angle.

Tim O'Toole put the Centennials on even ground once again at 3:14 but Fenton put the Lakers ahead, to stay, at 5:22 with an outstanding individual effort.

Fenton took a pass from Larry Wiberg, went in alone, shook off two brutal checks by Merritt defenders, and deposited the disc into the net after neatly side-stepping Brown.

At 10:26, Mike Enemark scored what proved to be the game winner after being set up by the hard work of Nick Kapicki. Kapicki stole the puck at centre, fed Enemark, and the big defenceman undressed the Merritt goaltender on a breakaway.

Minutes later Kevin Thorlakson tested his might against the much larger Allan Wall, of the Centennials, but proved no match for the seasoned Merritt bully.

EXCHANGED GOALS

The two teams traded goals in a fight and penalty filled third period, that left both teams exhausted.

Greg Kowal notched an insurance marker for the Lakers at 6:36, taking a pass from Fenton and Enemark.

Centennials scored their last goal, and closed out

the game's scoring, at 7:55 when Maier, with his second of the night, beat Rex Grant from the slot area.

The Lakers outshot the Centennials 38-22.

Lawrence sighed a big sigh of relief after the game, and summed up his thoughts. "It'll be nice to meet Shuswap and get back to playing hockey again," he said.

Despite winning the game, an all-important one at this point for the Lakers, Lawrence was a little distressed.

"Myself, I think it was an expensive two points," said the Vernon coach. "That kind of game doesn't do us any good."

PLAYERS CUT

Lawrence's statement was fortified by the players who surrounded him, most with cuts on their faces where they met with Merritt sticks.

"I think the Christmas break will do us good," said Lawrence. "The guys will get to see their families and it should settle them down for the second half of the season."

Lakers are sitting in a good position following this last pair of home-ice victories. Coupled with Penitton's loss to Salmon Arm, Saturday night, a pair of victories in the next two games could vault Lakers into first place in the Interior Division of the BCJHL.

Those two games will see Shuswap Totems at the Civic Arena Tuesday night, and the Lakers in Revelstoke, Thursday.



VERNON LAKERS' forward Todd Ewen covers up in front of Merritt goalie Mark Taylor as he turns aside a shot from Ron Berezowski during Saturday's BCJHL game in the Civic Arena. Lakers defeated the last-place Centennials 6-4.

(Jeff Brandt Photo)

Silver Star given approval

Alpine ski facilities at Silver Star Provincial Recreation Area will be enhanced by a project to enable the construction of accommodation for skiers, bringing the resort in line with other major ski areas in the province, Pat Jordan, MLA for Okanagan North, and Lands Parks and Housing Minister Tony Brummet announced Saturday.

First stage in the project is the provision of 120 hectares (296 acres) of land to provide for the alpine skiing base area, they said. The land will be taken from the recreation area to enable property to be acquired by private interests for the construction of accommodation for skiers under the terms of the B.C. Ski Area Development Policy.

Jordan stated firmly that the primary purpose of Silver Star Park, to enhance the recreational needs of the local citizens, has been borne in mind since the beginning and during all subsequent planning stages.

dations and much of the ultimate work of the Silver Star Advisory Committee were achieved under the chairmanship of Bill Shields.

Jordan said the announcement is one more step under the guidance of that committee in achieving the broadest possible multi-land use in keeping with responsible conservation policies.

Both the minister and Jordan agreed that Silver Star continues to be unique in its harmonious mix of volunteer organization, organized recreational groups, private enterprise, and the provincial government.

"This balance will ensure that existing recreational interests will continue to have a rightful place in Silver Star and that the mountain itself will remain one of the most friendly and attractive ski and winter recreational areas in the Okanagan Valley," Jordan said.



PAT JORDAN
... committee

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER, 1977
Vernon Watkin Motor pee wee reps captured the recent Penitton tournament. The local club got two goals from Billy Baron and singles from David Munk and Richard Krejlar to beat Kelowna 4-1 in the tourney final.

BCJHL ROUND-UP

Totems a surprise

Shuswap Totems are surprising more than a few doubters in their first year in the BCJHL.

Sunday, the Totems doubled the Esquimalt Buccaneers 8-4. Saturday night, the Shuswap crew upset Penitton Knights 9-5.

In other games Sunday, New Westminster Royals got superb goaltending from Rob Beckner as they downed the Langley Eagles 5-4. The Burnaby Bluehawks beat Merritt Centennials 9-5 in the only other game Sunday.

On Saturday night, Abbotsford Flyers downed the Langley eagles 7-4, burnaby trounced Revelstoke 10-3, Kelowna blew out Esquimalt 12-2, and Vernon dumped Merritt 6-4.

Albert Anthony scored five goals to lead the Totems to their 9-5 upset over Penitton in Salmon Arm.

Tim Coughlin, Greg Cyr, Rob Klenk, and Ken Pren-

tiss added singles for the Totems.

In Kelowna, Don Barber and Enzo Caccavo each scored three times to pace the Buckaroos over Esquimalt.

Rod Schluter scored twice, while Tony Savarin, Shawn Pettyjohn, Brent Harrison and Misko Antsin added single for the Bucks.

On Sunday, Tony Carter's goal midway through the final period proved to be the winner if the Royals win over the visiting Eagles.

Geoff Harrigan scored twice for New Westminster, while Cliff Ronning scored one goal and added four assists and Mike Nottingham and Mike Brown added singles.

Brian McPhate and Jim Deplus scored twice for the Eagles.

In Merritt, Pat Austin scored twice to lead Burnaby over the hometown Centennials.

Earl Graham, Bobby Ginnetti, Tim Comeau, Paul Bifino, Jim Hockstetter, Todd Semenik and Shaun Edwards also scored for the Bluehawks.

Eagles and Cobras win overtime games

Roger Leroux scored early in overtime to give Coldstream Hotel Screaming Eagles a 3-2 win over Hawks in Molson Men's Broomball League action, Sunday night, at the Priest Valley Arena.

Gord Howard and Rick Rysz gave Coldstream Hotel a 2-0 lead at half-time. However, in the second half, Bob Goertzen and Ronald Nuyens tied the game for Hawks.

In another game, Kelly Schley took a

pass from Terry Balfour, at 3:20 of overtime, to give Royal Knight Cobras a 1-0 win over Toros bulls.

Cobras' goalie Stu Marshall recorded his sixth shutout, in nine outings. Eagles lead the loop with 18 points, three more than Cobras. Toros have 10 points followed by Village Green North Stars with seven, and Hawks with two.

League play resumes Jan. 2 when Toros takes on North Stars and Cobras clash with Hawks.