

Lakers close in on top spot

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
One of the largest crowds of the half-terminated season was on hand at the Civic Arena Tuesday night and they didn't leave disappointed as Vernon Lakers easily handled Shuswap Totems 6-1.

"Our guys really played a solid game all around," said a delighted coach Murray Lawrence. "It was perhaps the best game they've played this year

... from a coaches standpoint," he added.

That coach's standpoint meant progress in a positive direction. "We experimented with specialty lines," said Lawrence. "We may need extra depth in this area come playoffs if we have injuries."

EXPERIMENTS

Although Lawrence's experiments meant some brief moments of anticipation for the fans, the end result was just what he had hoped for.

"Another win in Revelstoke would be a real Christmas present for me," Lawrence said.

Lakers travel to Revelstoke, Thursday, for their final game of 1982. A victory against the Rockets would vault Vernon into a first place tie with Penticton Knights.

Lakers starting the evening by killing a double minor penalty, with Mike Enemark and Todd Ewen off for slashing and roughing, respectively.

Lakers took a 2-0 lead on goals by Gord Simpson and newcomer Dan Baker before the first period ended.

Simpson's goal was on Vernon's first power play opportunity. The Lakers' captain went around the net and shoved the puck under the pads of Totems' goalie Ray Silvey.

Baker scored an unassisted goal, showing finesse far beyond his early years as he waited for the Shuswap goaltender to

make his move before beating him with a low, hard drive.

Totems got on the board early in the second frame when Greg Cyr converted a goal-mouth pass from Rob Klenk and Dave Terhune at the 31-second mark.

Lakers roared back with a pair of goals to end the period with a 4-1 lead.

Stacey Wakabayashi, selected as first star of the game, scored his only goal of the night to go along with three assists, converting a pretty, three-way passing play into a goal at 3:32 of the period.

Rookie defenceman Rudy Poeshek took a centering pass from Wakabayashi to make it 4-1 at 17:08.

The Lakers added a pair of unanswered goals in the third stanza to round out the scoring.

BREAKAWAY GOAL

Nick Kapicki scored at 5:49 when Ken McKenzie stole the puck at centre and fed Wakabayashi, who sent Kapicki in alone on a breakaway.

Later, at 8:38, Ron (The Bear) berezowski closed the scoring when he cleaned up in front of the Totems' net.

The victory proved costly for Lakers. Enemark, who with Gavin Shuya forms perhaps the best defensive duo in the



STACEY WAKABAYASHI
... four points

league, will be lost to the team for four to six weeks with a torn knee cartilage.

"The guy hit me and it just gave out," the 20-year-old defenceman said. "When I hit the boards, it twisted the other way."

Enemark had collected 37 points in 26 games.

Lakers not only outshot the Totems by a wide margin, 37-16, but in the first and third periods, held the Totems to just two shots on net.

Totems received 12 of 22 minor penalties and also picked up a 10-minute misconduct penalty.

In other action Tuesday, Esquimalt Buccaneers

downed Cowichan Valley Capitals 6-4 in a clash of Vancouver Island clubs and Abbotsford Flyers crushed Richmond Sockeyes 9-3.

A brawl that led to the ejection of 10 players near the end of the second period disrupted play in Duncan, where Esquimalt held period leads of 2-0 and 5-2 on their way to victory.

PLAY SUSPENDED

Play was suspended after the fight, and the 20 seconds left in the second was tacked onto the third. A total of 226 minutes in penalties was assessed.

Al Johnston, Darrel Pederson, Len Evans, Rod Summers, Bill Hardy and Brian Silversen scored for the winners. Brent McMillan scored twice for the Capitals while singles came from Kevin Scobie and Brad Odegaard.

In Richmond, Bill Shibicky and Tom Weiss each scored twice as the division-leading Flyers never looked back from period leads of 4-2 and 5-3.

Ralph Vos, Dwight Mathiasen, Kevin Poirier, Kurt Roufosse, and Clay Nygard added singles for Abbotsford. Mike Moree scored twice in a losing cause while Brooke Odenvald rounded out the scoring.

League action resumes tonight when Cowichan plays host to Abbotsford.



SHUSWAP captain Joe Bilodeau drops his gloves and takes off after Vernon forward Ron Berezowski (11) during

Tuesday's BCJHL game at the Civic Arena. After a brief skirmish, both players were assessed minor penalties. Berezowski

returned to score a goal which helped Lakers dump Shuswap 6-1.

(Daily News Photo)

Padres pay millions for Garvey's services

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Steve Garvey, his 34th birthday brightened by a five-year contract worth a possible \$2 million a year, wants to repay San Diego Padres with a National League baseball pennant in 1983.

Moments after signing the guaranteed \$6.6-million contract Tuesday, the former Los Angeles Dodger first baseman predicted a NL West Division title for the Padres in the "very, very near future."

During the news conference, club president Ballard Smith said the Padres paid a heavy price for the eight-time all-star, but called it "a case of desperately wanting Steve to play for us."

Part of Garvey's lucrative package is reported to be underwritten by Ray Kroc, 80, the ailing owner and founder of McDonald's fast-food empire.

"We desperately wanted to provide a ballclub that Ray could be proud of," said Smith, Kroc's son-in-law.

Garvey became a free agent at the end of the season after 12 years with the Dodgers.

If Garvey were to collect on all bonuses, the total value of the contract would mushroom to \$9.475 million.

His agent, Jerry Kapstein, would not comment on details, but a source close to the negotiations said Garvey would earn no less than \$1.5 million a year.

Garvey earned \$361,000 last year in the final season of six-year, \$1.97-million contract.

Smith said that with Garvey the club expects to draw two million fans in 1983. The club attendance record is 1.6 million, set in 1978 when the Padres went over the 500 mark for the only time in their history.

Garvey enters the 1983 season with 211 home runs and 992 runs batted in, six 200-hit seasons, seven 300 seasons and career highs of 33 home runs and 115 RBI, both in 1977.

Tim Flannery, Padres' reserve second baseman, gave up his uniform number so that Garvey can wear his familiar No. 6.

Chicago fans cheer for troubled rookie

By The Associated Press
Scorn is turning to cheers for Quintin Dailey, who has had his share of problems in his rookie National Basketball Association season.

Dailey, who missed six games after his guilty plea in the assault of a nursing student, returned to the Chicago lineup Tuesday night and scored 18 points as the Bulls beat Atlanta Hawks 124-116 in double overtime.

Dailey was under the care of a psychiatrist before his return.

Suns. Mike Mitchell paced the Spurs with 23.

SuperSonics 99 Blazers 94
David Thompson hit 14 of 20 shots from the field and finished with 31 points as Seattle handed Portland its first loss in seven games.

Knicks 101 Bucks 94
Paul Westphal hit nine of 13 shots for 19 points and had two baskets and two assists in overtime to lead New York over Milwaukee. Westphal had eight assists overall. Ben

Pistons 102 Nets 97

Rookie Cliff Levingston scored 24 points, Bill Laimbeer added 21 and both players had 13 rebounds for Detroit against New Jersey.

Bullets 77 Cavaliers 74
Greg Ballard scored 28 points and broke a 74-74 tie with a three-point play with 17 seconds remaining as Washington won its fourth straight. Cleveland dropped its seventh game in a row.

Mavericks 121 Clippers 118
Jay Vincent scored 11 of his 25 points in

JUDD'S JOURNAL

Cast-offs find a home



To some coaches in the BCJHL, it must seem like Murray Lawrence is in the process of gathering a team of misfit hockey players. After all, his latest acquisitions were Ken Fenton, a cast-off from the Shuswap Totems, and Dan Baker, recently cut from the Cowichan Valley Capitals.

Neither team holds a record that equals that of the Vernon Lakers.

Which will no doubt lead most coaches to wonder whether there truly is method in his madness, or if the opposite applies in this case.

Needless to say, with Lakers just one victory from securing a stranglehold on first place in the Interior Division, there are but a few who wouldn't gladly trade places with the Laker coach.

SECOND CHANCE

On the other side of the coin, there's the old adage, "one man's meat is another man's poison."

In this case, perhaps neither player performed up to his potential for their former coaches, but for Lawrence, the man who offered them the opportunity of a second chance, both have been turning in sterling performances lately.

Although just nicely into the building stages, Lakers under Lawrence, have already proven themselves to be the league's most-improved hockey club. Lawrence certainly didn't get himself into this position without intuition nor knowledge of what he is doing.

Fenton, at six feet and in the area of 175 pounds, plays right wing. According to Lawrence, he is a good skater, good checker and can score goals.

How does he know this? For one thing, Fenton scored 43 goals and added 43 assists last season while toiling with the Quesnel Millionaires, of the Peace-Cariboo Junior Hockey League.

Secondly, Fenton has proven his scoring ability while in a Lakers' uniform as anyone who attended the recent home games against Merritt and Esquimalt can testify.

"He's going to help us down the

stretch," said Lawrence of Fenton.

Anyone with two years of junior hockey experience and who is 19 years old would be considered gold to a junior coach but apparently Terry Shykora, coach of the Shuswap Totems, didn't agree.

DISAGREEMENT

"He didn't get along with the coach of the Totems," said Lawrence in defence of Fenton. "I had heard he'd been cut and when (Mike) Enemark told me about how he'd played with him I decided to give him a chance."

Baker, though just 17 years old and without the benefit of junior experience, stands six feet tall and weighs in at 180 pounds. These are the kind of credentials that usually give youngsters at least a start in the junior ranks. Baker is capable of playing either defence or on the forward line. Aside from these assets the young man from the Coast has a few other attributes.

"He's got excellent speed, and he handles the puck very well for someone his age," said Lawrence. "He's another guy that will be a big help to us this season."

PLAYED MIDGET

Baker played midget hockey in Cowichan Valley last season, therefore the logical step would be to junior hockey.

Not so, thought the coach of the Cowichan Valley Capitals who released the youngster, outright, about a month ago.

Both Baker and Fenton are currently playing a regular shift with the Lakers. Perhaps the best part of their acquisitions is that they came to the Lakers free of charge.

With Glen Doucette and Mike Enemark sidelined for extended periods of times with injuries, Fenton and Baker have become even more important for Lakers in the quest for first place.