

Rockets dash Laker hopes



CUTTING HARD ... Revelstoke Rocket defenceman Cal Ecklund poke-checks Laker Ron Berezowski as Revelstoke's Rob

Crawford looks on. At this point in the game the Lakers still had things going in their favor but a third period brawl helped to

swing the game in the Rocket's favor.

by JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
The Vernon Lakers limped home, carrying their wounded Thursday night, having their hopes for first place in the Interior Division smashed in a 4-3 loss to the Revelstoke Rockets.

Capitalizing on Rocket minor penalties, the Lakers had the game in hand but saw it go out the window when the Revelstoke club resorted to goon-style tactics.

"That's the worst animal act I've ever seen," said a furious Laker coach Murray Lawrence. He was particularly upset with an incident in which Rocket's Mike Bafaro sneaked up behind the much-smaller Greg Kowal.

Kowal required emergency dental surgery following the game.

The game itself began quietly enough with the Lakers out-skating out-checking and out-scoring the Rockets through the first period to take a 1-0 lead after twenty minutes of play. That goal came when Todd Ewen rifled in a centering pass, from Stacey Wakabayashi.

Wakabayashi went on to score twice more himself before the game ended.

In the second period, the Rockets surprised the Lakers with a pair of goals at 4:59 and 9:43 by Bruce Baker and Richard Matthews, respectively.

But the Lakers capitalized on a power-play when Stacey Wakabayashi got his first, banging in a rebound by Rob Kossan from the point.

The period ended 2-2 with the Rockets holding the edge in shots 22-20 after forty minutes of play.

Nearly all semblance of

a hockey game disappeared in the third frame, however, when the Rockets, apparently frustrated by bad penalties, began dropping their gloves. There were numerous single incidents, a brawl finally broke out at the 15:41 mark.

The brawl involved five Lakers and eight Rockets, much to the disgust of Lawrence, who held his players back. At one point, Laker goalie Rex Grant was involved in a fight with three Rocket players.

"I'll tell you, the next time something like that happens I won't hold my guys back," fumed the Laker coach.

When order had momentarily been restored, Lawrence was anything but happy with referee Eric Osmonds' decision that just five Rockets be ejected from the game along with his five players.

"That's some rule, only being able to kick out five players when the fight was eight on five," said Lawrence.

"I've got three defencemen for the next game," added Lawrence. League rules state that a match penalty awarded to a player in the last 10 minutes of play also carries with it a game suspension.

Before the brawl erupted, a series of incidents took place.

In one incident an arena security officer threw a trash-can full of rubbish onto the ice surface in protest of what he apparently thought was an unfair call against the Rockets.

Following the brawls, the spectators gathered behind the Laker bench and pelted the young men with soft drinks, coffee,

and various missiles that included combs, bottles. RCMP had to be called to break up the melee.

Following the final whistle, the Rockets pounced on several Lakers.

Rex Grant, already exhausted by sixty minutes of goaltending, as well as a skirmish with three Rockets earlier had to fend for himself once again. This time it was the Rocket's spare goaltender who had not played in the game.

It was during this incident with Kowal watching from the sidelines, that Bafaro made his lunge from behind. The melee spilled off the ice and into the dressing rooms where some Rocket fans were waiting. Again the RCMP had to intervene.

Today, Murray Lawrence is busying himself documenting the various incidents in a letter of protest directed at the league commissioner.

PIN POINTS

DECEMBER 11
YBC JUNIORS

Women's High Single: Lorrie McPhee, 210; High Triple: Lorrie McPhee, 573; High Average: Charmaine Vincent, 176.

Men's High Single: Darrel Whinnan, 266; High Triple: Lorrie McPhee, 573; High Average: Charmaine Vincent, 176.

Men's High Single: Darrel Whinnan, 266; High Triple: Jason Shortt, 659; High Average: Mike Sorba, 201.

Team High Single: Moonshiners, +147; High Triple: MASH, +277. 100 pins over average: Kent Yakimovitch, Ave. 137, bowled 259 single, 122 p.o.a.

BOWLER OF THE WEEK
Girl: Connie Palm, ave. 97, triple 394, 103 p.o.a.

Boy: Kent Yakimovitch, ave. 137, triple 551, 140 p.o.a.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Toros down Cougars 4-3

In Pleasant Valley Hockey League action Thursday night, the Toros edged the Cougars 4-3. Alan Schwing scored a pair of goals for the winners with singles coming from

refused the left-hander's demand for a \$600,000 deal. In 60 appearances with the Expos in 1982, Fryman posted a 9-4 won-lost record with a 3.75 earned-run average and 12 saves.

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Editor—DON KENDALL

Downhill race well attended