

Lakers send Rockets into orbit

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

On the road back from Revelstoke Dec. 23, an imbibed Laker coach Murray Lawrence vowed his team revenge on the Rockets but they'd "do it on the scoreboard!"

Over 1,000 paying fans were on hand at the Civic Arena Friday night to witness Lawrence's prediction ring true on the scoreboard, as the Rockets went down 9-5 to the fast-skating Lakers.

The Lakers scored seven times in the second period,

including four, consecutive power-play tallies on the way to victory. The awesome power-play, striking four times in just under four and a half minutes was not the work of any special power-play lineup.

"They've got maybe two hockey players on that club... why should I have to change my lines to beat them," said Lawrence, referring to the fact that he just went with his regular lines during the power-play.

The Lakers got off to a slow start, dropping to a

2-0 deficit early in the first period.

"We were nice to them and gave them a few gift goals," said Lawrence.

Terry Hedde opened the scoring for the Rockets just 49 seconds into the game, getting an unassisted marker to give Revelstoke a 1-0 lead.

Brian Deleeuw increased the Revelstoke lead to 2-0 when he took a centering pass from Grams and rifled it by Laker goaltender Rex Grant.

Defenceman Mike Enemark put the Lakers

on the board at 8:39 of the opening period, blasting in a shot from the point after being set up by Rob Kossan and Stacey Wakabayashi.

The Lakers repaired to the dressing room trailing 2-1 after 20 minutes, despite outshooting the Rockets 14-7.

Taking advantage of Rocket penalties early in the second period, the Lakers got power-play goals from four players in a span of four minutes and 29 seconds.

Rob Kossan pulled the Lakers onto even ground at 7:26 with an unassisted

marker, picking up his own rebound in the slot and then putting a low, hard, wrist-shot past the Rocket goaltender.

Mike Enemark gave the Lakers the lead for the first time at the 10 minute mark with his second of the night, using a rising wrist shot from the blue line.

At 11:42, the Lakers struck again, this time defenceman Gavin Shuya getting the tally on a beautiful set-up from captain Gord Simpson. Shuya also used a wrist shot from outside the face-off circle.

A third Laker defenceman, Rudy Poescheck, stretched the lead to 5-2 just 13 seconds later with a carbon-copy of the previous two goals.

Harvey Bougerolle broke the pace of the Laker's roll, when he scored from the slot at 17:02 on a three-way passing play from Dejager and Doerr.

Ron Berezowski got the local squad back on track with a bit of hard work in the corner and a good second effort. The Bear took one shot, then circled the net, picked up his own rebound, and banged it in for a 7-3 lead.

Stacey Wakabayashi closed the scoring in the period at 19:22 taking a break-way pass from Simpson and deking the Revelstoke goaler.

Rockets drew first blood in the third frame at 11:02, when Vern Cota scored a short-handed effort.

Gavin Shuya scored his second of the game at 13:52 with another shot from the point, this time a bullet-like slap-shot.

Bruce Baker, of the Rockets, closed out the scoring at 16:22 with a power-play tally.

The Lakers outshot the Rockets by a healthy margin of 47-26. The Rockets picked up 61 penalty minutes based on 18 minors, two majors and one 10-minute misconduct. They also received a pair of game misconducts.

The Lakers took nine minors, had one major and one game misconduct.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Abbotsford Flyers took a 4-1 lead after one period and maintained their skating strength to beat Penticton Knights 9-4, Burnaby Bluehawks trounced Richmond Sockeyes 15-4, Langley Eagles downed Shuswap Totems 12-1, and Esquimalt Buccaneers defeated Cowichan Capitals 9-6.

In the Penticton contest, Bill Shibicky scored twice for the winners, who drew ahead 6-1 after 40 minutes.

Brett Hull led the Knights with a pair of goals.

Abbotsford netminders Ken Buker and Scott Bradley combined to make 29 saves while Norm Foster turned aside 25 shots on the Penticton net.

Meanwhile, eight third-period goals by the Blue Hawks helped them to their hometown victory.

Burnaby got a four-goal performance from Tim Comeau and three goals each from Pat Austin and Dave Nonis. Jim Hochstetter and Paul Bifano added two goals each.

Tim Buchinski, Mike Moree, Mike Marcetta and Rod Wong tallied for the Sockeyes.

Goaltender Ken Kinney made 34 saves for Burnaby while shell-shocked Randy Beres stopped 32 of 47 shots on the Richmond goal.

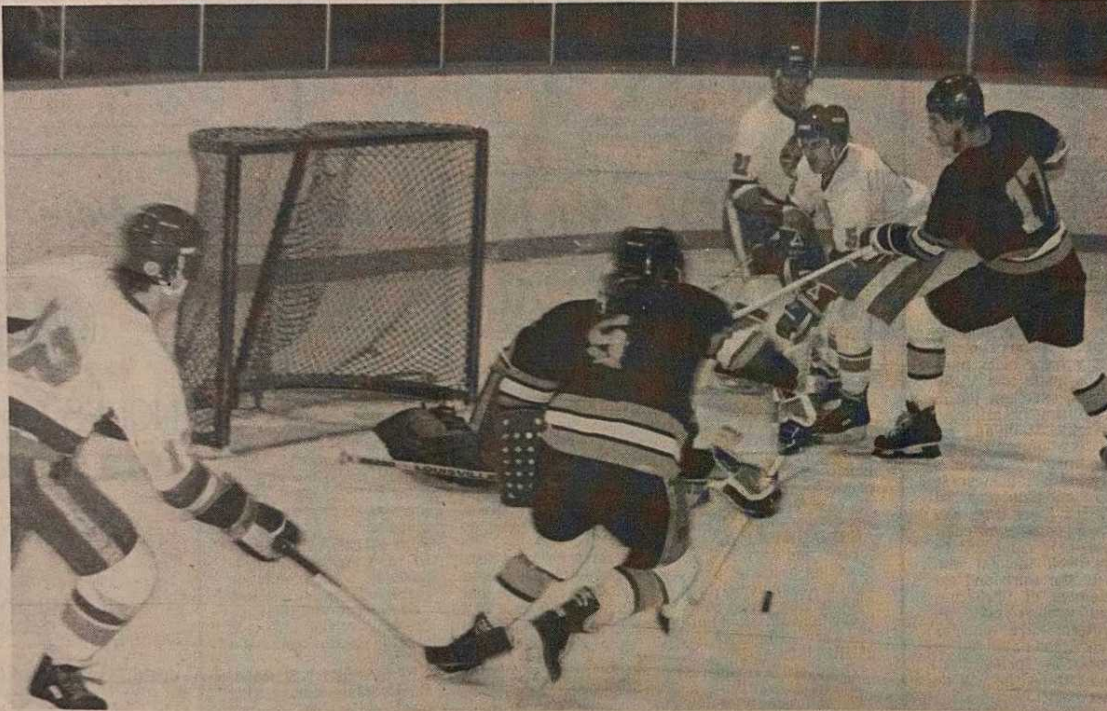
In Langley, the Eagles got two goals each from Jim Dupuis, Rod Ware and Darcy Allison en route to their win.

The only Shuswap marksman to beat Langley goalie Glen Stone was Allan Abercrombie. Stone was called on to make only 17 saves while Ray Silvey and Troy Hankin combined for 27 saves in the Totem's goal.

In Duncan, Randy Taylor and Len Evans each scored twice to pace the Buccaneers to their win.

Cowichan goal-getters were Brian Burley, James McKee, Bruce Watkins, Rene Command, Brent MacMillan and Vince Coopal.

League action resumes tonight when the League-leading Abbotsford Flyers are in town to take on the Lakers, Kelowna plays host to Merritt, Penticton visits Revelstoke, and Burnaby plays Cowichan Valley.



ACTION ... around the Revelstoke Rocket's net was hot for most of the night Friday as the visiting Rockets lost a grudge match to the Lakers 9-5. Over 1,000 paying fans turned out for the game and went

home convinced of their team's worth. In the above photo, Rocket defenceman Barry Lacasse tries to clear a rebound in front of a sprawling Rocket goaltender. Meanwhile, Wade Waters, number 17 for Revelstoke,

moves in to fend off Lakers' Rob Kossan number five, and Stacey Wakabayashi, number 21. The Lakers host Abbotsford tonight at the Civic Arena.

(Daily News Photo)