

VERNON TIED FOR SECOND

Lakers dump Shuswap

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers returned from Salmon Arm, Sunday afternoon, with two points in their pocket following a 5-3 come-from-behind victory over Shuswap Totems.

Down 2-0 after five minutes of play, Lakers' goaltender Matt Sekela shut down the Totem offense for just under 50 minutes while the offense put five goals on the board.

"We had a rough first period and then the guys put it together in the second," said Lakers' coach Murray Lawrence. "Sekela played a whale of a hockey game."

EARLY LEAD

Totems scored twice in the opening five minutes with Cal Franson tallying at 1:21, and then defenceman Pat Manigold's power-play marker at 5:11. Mangold's hard slapshot from the blueline beat Sekela, screened by a horde of players in front of the goal crease.

Lakers got on the board at 9:52 with Dan Baker scoring on a Stacey Wakabayashi maneuver. Wakabayashi rushed the length of the ice, drew off the Totems' defence and then fed the streaking Laker winger directly in front of Troy Hankin in the Shuswap net.

The teams went to their dressing rooms with the

Totems sitting on a 2-1 lead.

The Lakers scored the only two goals of the second frame. Greg Kowal banged home a rebound from the slot at 14:07 to put the two teams on even terms.

Wakabayashi scored his first, of two for the afternoon, at the 19 minute mark. Wak's bullet-like wrist-shot from the face-off circle beat Hankin, high on the short-side.

Lakers struck first in the third period with a blooper from half ice the caught Hankin off-guard. The goal seemed to take the wind out of the Totem's sails from that point on.

LONG SHOT

Defenceman Ken McKenzie, dumped the puck into the Totem end with an innocent looking slapshot that hovered in the air like a frisbee before coming to rest behind the goaltender.

"He didn't even see it. When I shot I didn't see Hankin move and I knew right then that it would either miss the net or go in," said McKenzie.

The goal came at 4:24 of the third period.

Wakabayashi increased the Lakers' lead to 5-2 with a short-handed goal at 6:39.

The Lakers' forward stole the puck at centre ice,

steamed down the right wing and beat Hankin on the long-side with a low, hard slap shot.

The Totems got their final tally at 12:06 when Ken Prentice's shot from the face-off circle beat Sekela cleanly on the lower, stick-side.

Totems outshot Lakers 41-38 for the game. Shuswap took 11 of 18 minor penalties and two game misconducts while the Lakers were assessed one game misconduct.

SCORED THREE

Saturday night, league scoring leader Bill Shibicky scored three goals as the visiting Abbotsford Flyers downed

the Lakers 7-4.

In other BCJHL action Sunday, Flyers demolished Merritt Centennials 8-1 and Burnaby Blue Hawks downed Esquimalt Buccaneers 8-5.

On Saturday, Kelowna Buckaroos edged Merritt 6-5 in overtime, Penticton beat Revelstoke Rockets 10-7, and Burnaby trounced Cowichan Capitals 9-3.

Lakers' win on Sunday moves them into a two-way tie for second place with the Penticton Knights. Both clubs have 20 wins and 15 losses, for 40 points.

Kelowna leads with 44 points while the Totems remain in fourth place with 35 points.

PIN POINTS

DECEMBER 16

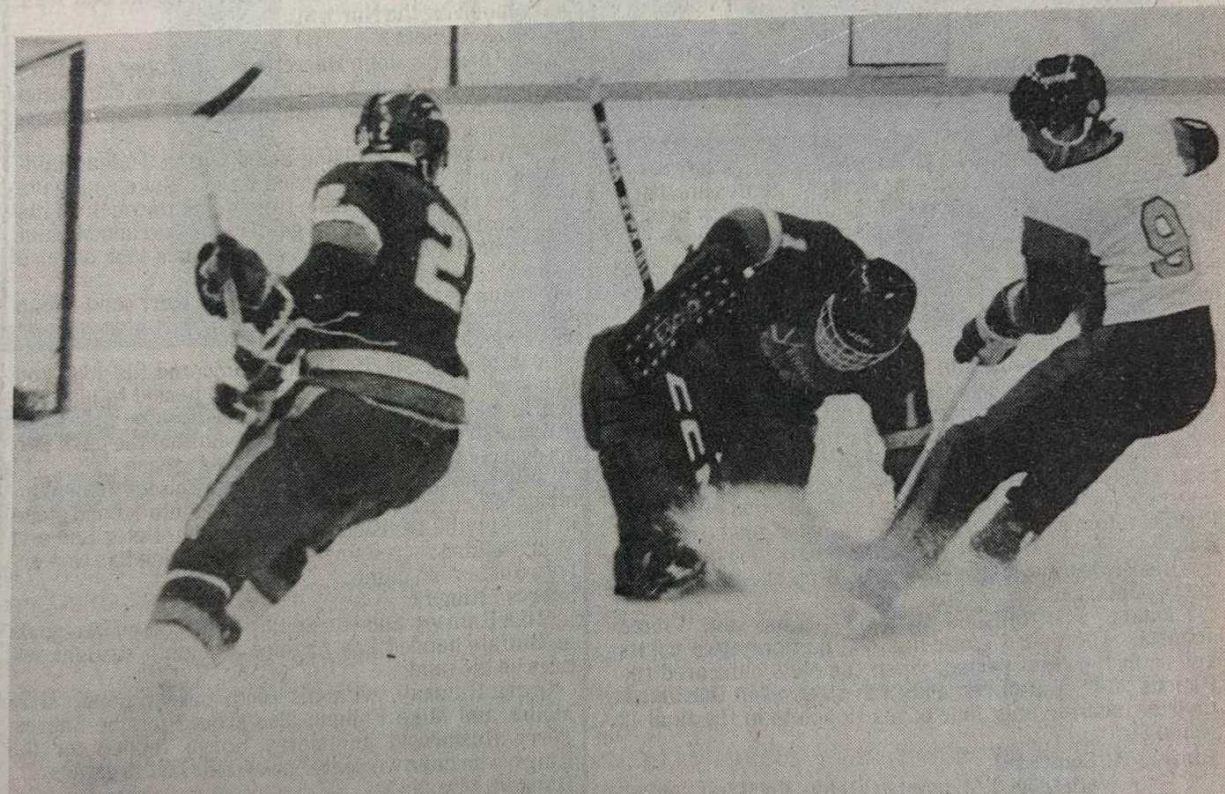
LEGION MIXED THURSDAY 9-11

Women's High Single: Elsie Wagner, 243; High Triple: Elsie Wagner, 665; High Average: Doreen McGillivray, 205.

Men's High Single: Jamie Jordon, 265; High Triple: Randall Krause, 640; High Average: Ron Krause, 229.

Team High Single: Pin Heads, +166; High Triple: Pin Heads, +216.

TEAM STANDINGS



SHUSWAP TOTEMS' Tim Coghlin (9), streaks in to catch a rebound but Vernon Lakers' goaltender Matt Sekela refused to give him one. Meanwhile,

Lakers' defenceman Rudy Poeschek moves in to cover his goaltender. Lakers came from behind to win 5-3 Sunday afternoon, in Salmon Arm, with

Sekela shutting down the Totems' scorers for just under 50 minutes between the early stages of the first period and late in the third stanza.

(Daily News Photo)