

Lakers take over number one spot

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Bob Wensley's goal at 10:07 of the third period was all the scoring the Vernon Lakers needed to beat Richmond Sockeyes Friday night at the Civic arena.

The Laker's eventual 3-0 victory, coupled with Penticton Knight's 6-3 win over Kelowna Buckaroos, vaulted the Lakers into first place in the BCJHL Interior Division for the first time this season.

Through the first two periods of play, Richmond's all-star goaltender Randy Beres was virtually unbeatable. The Lakers poured 39 shots on the Sockeye goaler in the first 40 minutes alone, adding half a dozen more in the third before Wensley's tally finally beat the outstanding goaltender.

"Beres has been like that," said Wensley of his former teammate and good friend. "He's held them in more games..." he added, shaking his head in disbelief.

Meanwhile, Laker goaltender Matt Sekala, equally brilliant at times facing 26 Sockeye drives, recorded his first shutout of his junior career.

"I think it was the team more than anything," said the young goalkeeper of his performance. "They took up the centre and broke up their plays before they could get started," he added.

Laker coach Murray Lawrence was beside himself with pleasure at the performance of his team, noting that it was flawless throughout the contest.

"We just kept going at them," said the smiling Laker coach. "If you keep the pressure up its gotta pay off," he said.

Besides his individual praise for the likes of Wensley and others who gave 200 per cent of themselves, Lawrence was totally satisfied with the over-all team performance.

"This team is really starting to come together," he said. "The young guys are steady, the vets are playing their best and there's lots of communication between the team."

Wensley's goal broke the ice and the scoreless taboo that seemed to haunt the Lakers until that point.

Stacey Wakabayashi pumped in an insurance marker, his 23rd of the season and the prettiest of the Laker's three goals for the night.

After taking a pass at his own blue-line, Wakabayashi led the rush up the ice, and easily beat a lone Sockeye defender in a one-on-one situation. He had just enough time to regain his composure before flipping the puck over the sprawling Beres who dove far out of his net to try and intercept the loose puck.

That goal came at 14:51.

Laker defenceman Mike Enemark's power-play marker at 18:19, put the icing on the cake for the local club.

Showing incredible control, the Laker power-play threw the puck around the Sockeye zone with great authority. Finally, Rob Kossan found Enemark in position on the open side of Beres' net and fed him a perfect pass. Enemark had



BOB WENSLEY
... winning goal

an easy time depositing the disc into the net with a quick flip shot.

In all, the Lakers outshot the Sockeyes 61-26 while taking eight of just 15 minor penalties in the game.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Penticton doubled Kelowna 6-3, New Westminster Royals edged Langley Eagles 5-4 in a penalty-filled affair, and Abbotsford Flyers stopped Burnaby Blue Hawks 10-3.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ice racing on Swan Lake

The B.C. Interior Motorcycle Ice Racing Series concludes Sunday, on Swan Lake. About 60 motorcycles are expected to compete in the event. Practice runs are scheduled at 10 a.m., with racing at 11 a.m. Spectators are welcome.

Pool closed

Vernon Recreation Complex Swimming Pool will be closed Jan. 29 and 30 due to a Vernon Kokanees Swim Club Meet.

Safety course

Vernon Snowmobile Association is sponsoring a safety course, Feb. 9 and 10, at Inland Sports, 2209-48th Ave. Sessions will start both days at 7 p.m. All snowmobilers are urged to participate. For further information phone 549-2040.

Ski marathon

Sixth annual Cariboo Cross-country Ski Marathon, scheduled Feb. 5, will go ahead as scheduled. Marathon Chairman Bill Wilson said the route is skiable and requires a few more centimetres of snow, coupled with freezing temperatures, to create perfect conditions. More than 1,500 skiers, including about 25 from the North Okanagan, are expected to compete. The event is held in the 100 Mile House area.

Sail races set

KINGSTON, Ont. (CP) — The world windsurfing championships will be held here this summer following the Canadian Olympic Regatta Kingston competi-

In Penticton, Dan Gerarden led the Knights with a three-goal performance while Kelowna got two from Fred Bower. Both the Knights and the Buckaroos trail Vernon by one point.

In Langley, the Royals racked up 177 minutes in penalties to 133 for the Eagles. New Westminster lost 11 players to game misconducts while 10 Eagles were thrown out.

Langley led 2-1 at the end of the first period but New Westminster held a 4-2 edge by the end of the second.

Len Meyer, who got three goals in the game, scored the winner on a shorthanded play at 17:45 of the second.

Cliff Ronning, second in the league's scoring race, added New Westminster's other two goals.

Rod Ware scored three goals for Langley.

In Burnaby, the Flyers, who outshot the Blue Hawks 39-35, led 2-0 at the end of the first period and 6-2 at the end of the second.

Tom Weiss led the attack with three goals while Robert Longfellow and Pete McCormack had two goals each.

The Lakers will continue the Interior battle today when they travel to Kelowna for a game tonight. Sunday, the Lakers will host Penticton Knights at 7 p.m.

signed pitcher Jim Gott, infielders Rance Mulliniks and Tim Thompson, and catcher Jay Schroeder. Terms were not announced. Gott, 23, was 5-10 with a 4.43 earned-run average in 30 games with the Blue Jays in his rookie season last year. Mulliniks, 27, hit .244 with for home runs and 35 runs batted in while playing 132 games. Thompson 22, hit .282 for Knoxville of the Southern League, while Schroeder, 21, spent last year with Kinston of the Carolina League where he hit .218.

Out of action

BOSTON (AP) — Boston defenceman Randy Hillier is expected to miss at least two games with a hip pointer suffered in a first-period collision during the Bruins' 4-0 victory Thursday night over Buffalo Sabres, the NHL team announced Friday. Gord Kluzak, the first pick in the NHL draft last year, will take the injured player's place in the regular lineup, Boston coach Gerry Cheevers said.

Make debut

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Dan Marino of Pittsburgh and UCLA's Tom Ramsey, the most valuable offensive player in the Rose Bowl, make their professional debuts today in the 34th Senior Bowl all-star college football game. The game is far from a sellout in the 41,000-seat Ladd Memorial Stadium, probably because of the NFL strike that has forced playoff action on a date that normally is the off