

VERNON LEADS DIVISION

Lakers beat stubborn Cents



MERRITT Centennials' goaltender Mark Taylor covers a loose puck in his crease while Lakers' forwards Rob Kossan (5) and Stacey Wakabayashi

(21) look for a rebound. Centennials' defencemen Jeff Reitsma and Brent Demerais aid Taylor in covering up.

Lakers beat the stubborn Merritt team 7-4, Friday night, at the Civic Arena.

(Jeff Brandt Photo)

DAILY NEWS
REBOARD

Kamloops	13	9	3	1	19
Kelowna	13	8	4	1	17
Vernon	15	7	7	1	15
Penticton	15	7	7	1	15
Winfield	13	2	9	2	6
Salmon Arm	15	1	10	4	6

TOP SCORERS	G	A	Pts
Player, team			
Major, Vernon	21	21	42
Novak, Kamloops	17	24	41
Deanagelis, Kamloops	18	22	40
Delcourt, Kelowna	19	20	39
Finley, Vernon	15	16	31
Gilchrist, Vernon	12	19	31
Kabeika, Revelstoke	19	30	
Danailanko, Vernon	11	17	28

Carling O'Keefe Major Men's Basketball League						
Team	GP	W	L	For	Agd	Pts
Sunvalley Sports	11	11	0	950	765	22
Armstrong	11	6	5	863	805	12
Nor Kor Contractors	11	4	7	789	861	8
Labatt's Kokanee	11	2	9	770	902	4

TOP SCORERS		
Players, Team	GP	Total Avg.
Olsen, Labatt's	10	236 24
Pitcher, Nor-Kor	11	221 20

Canadiens settle for 8-8 deadlock

Montreal Canadiens Oldtimers and Vernon Cougars battled to an 8-8 deadlock in exhibition hockey Friday, before 1,000 fans, in Revelstoke.

The same two teams clash tonight, at 8 p.m., in the Vernon Civic Arena.

Cougars' Coach Gary Swanson said, "It was quite a game. . . I know the fans in Revelstoke loved it. The play went end-to-end, for 60 minutes."

Brian Ogilvie, who toiled in the NHL with St. Louis Blues, tied the game for Canadiens with just five seconds remaining in the third period.

Phil Goyette led the Montreal attack with three goals.

Gary Gilchrist was the offensive star for Cougars with four goals.

"They've got an exciting hockey team," Swanson said. "The fans in Vernon are in for a real treat tonight."

Henri Richard is not expected to play tonight. Richard is suffering from a leg injury which has limited him to coaching duties in Montreal's recent games.

However, Henri's older brother, Maurice, will be on the ice as referee. Red Storey will assist Richard with the officiating duties.

Advance tickets for tonight's game are on sale at Sun Valley Sports. Some tickets will be available at the door.

Green leads the pack in Crosby tournament

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Two points is two points, no matter how you look at it and no matter how you got it.

With apologies to their fans for their disjointed effort, Vernon Lakers will stuff the two points in their hip pocket and try to forget the 7-4 victory over Merritt Centennials, Friday night at the Civic arena.

The win keeps first place Vernon one point ahead of Penticton Knights while the local club remains three points ahead of third-place Kelowna Buckaroos.

"We were damn lucky to win that one," said coach Murray Lawrence, shaking his head in disgust. "Did we ever play a sloppy game. . . it was terrible."

On the other hand, the outcome could be taken in the light that assistant coach Bill Johnson shed on the situation.

"It's a good thing we had it (bad game) tonight instead of tomorrow night."

What Johnson was referring to was the home-and-home series Lakers will open tonight, in Kelowna, against the Buckaroos. Vernon hosts Kelowna, Sunday night.

Although the Lakers led throughout the contest, it was all they could do to stay on top of the hard-working and stubborn Centennials, who, though no playing sterling hockey, have been a much-improved club since Pat Rabbitt took over the coaching reins.

"You can't be dissatisfied with a game like that," said the youthful Merritt coach, barely out of junior hockey himself. "The score was 7-4 but really it was closer than that. We were down and we never quit and with a club that has our record, that's a good sign."

OPENED SCORING

Lakers opened the scoring in the first period on a goal by Rob Kossan, his first of two for the night. Crossing the blue line, Kossan dumped an innocent-looking bloop in the direction of the Merritt net, hoping to follow it in and possibly get a rebound. However, Centennials' netminder Kory Brown lost sight of the puck and it went in off his stick.

The period ended with Lakers in front 1-0.

Nick Kapicki increased the Laker lead to 2-0 at 5:45 of the second period when he banged in a loose puck while standing all alone on the open side of Brown's net.

Merritt got on the scoreboard with a power-play effort at 9:15 of the second frame. Lakers were sitting out a double minor at the time.

Stacey Wakabayashi increased the lead to 3-1 at 12:13 with the first of three Vernon power-play goals. Wak's bullet-like drive from the point beat Brown on the glove-side.

SLOPPY PASSING

Merritt got back into the game with Kevin Rabbitt's unassisted marker at 12:49. The goal was the result of sloppy passing on behalf of the Lakers that had Rabbitt intercepting a pass in the slot area of the Lakers' goal.

The two teams traded goals before the second period ended with the Lakers scoring on a power-play at 15:13 and Merritt's third goal coming at 16:57.

Lakers' defenceman Ken McKenzie duplicated Wakabayashi's goal from the blueline while Doug Marling, with his first of two goals, replied for the Centennials.

Lakers led by a narrow 4-3 margin after two periods. Gavin Shuya opened the third period scoring at 4:32 with a long shot from well outside the blueline that beat Brown, once again, on the glove side.

Marling kept Centennials in the game with his second tally at 6:19.

SECOND GOAL

Kossan, with his second of the night, gave the Lakers their two goal cushion once again at 11:30. Wakabayashi, attempting to bang in the puck in the crease-area, finally fed a pass to Kossan on the second rebound. Kossan, having the whole open net to shoot at, made no mistake in putting the puck in a top corner.

Bob Wensley closed the scoring at 19:03 with a goal coming as a result of a strong individual effort. Fighting to maintain his balance after blocking a Merritt pass, Wensley casually moved up the slot, unhindered and picked a corner.

Lakers picked up six of 11 minor penalties handed out and had a 10 minute misconduct penalty.

Lakers outshot Merritt 44-27.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Rick Boh scored just 10 seconds into overtime to lift Penticton to 1-6-5 victory over Kelowna. Richmond Sockeyes easily handled Burnaby Bluehaws 14-6 and New Westminster Royals spoiled Nanaimo's return to the League, handing the Clippers a 10-2 defeat.