

VERNON LEADS DIVISION

Wensley sparks Lakers

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

Since he first donned a Vernon Lakers' jersey one month ago, it was evident that Bob Wensley's hard-working style of play was tailor-made for the local team.

Sunday night, Wensley showed the hometown fans what he's made of as the speedy forward scored three times and set up another to help Vernon Lakers to a 7-4 victory over visiting Kelowna Buckaroos.

The win gives Vernon a three-point cushion, in first place, in the closely disputed Interior Division of the BCJHL.

As is the case when Vernon and Kelowna meet, the victory was a costly one as far as manpower is concerned. Losing two more skaters to injury and two others in fights, Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence was infuriated with the lack of control expressed by the officials.

"He (referee) was calling things he never saw and then letting things go that happened right in front of him," said Lawrence, referring to a call of too many players that was made by the Kelowna bench during the third period.

INJURIES

"It was atrocious," he added, "every time he (Darren Zupp) refs a game we end up with injuries."

Lakers took a 3-1 first period lead and extended that margin to 7-1 with four unanswered goals in the second period.

Buckaroos opened the



KEVIN THORLAKSON

... quick goals

scoring in the first with a goal by Simon Wheeldon, his first of two for the night.

Dan Baker evened the score for Vernon just 25 seconds later when he banged in a centering pass from the slot area.

Wensley scored his first of the night at 11:55. Showing tenacious forechecking abilities, Wensley combined with Gord Simpson to make the play.

Just 28 seconds later, defenceman Gavin Shuya increased the lead to 3-1 when his shot from the top of the circle beat Buckaroos' netminder Randy Kirby on the stick side.

In the second period, Lakers covered the Bucks like a blanket, checking

them into the ice and producing four goals to wrap up the victory after just 40 minutes.

HAT TRICK

Wensley scored twice to complete his hat trick in the first half of the game. His second goal came when he scooped in a loose puck from the slot, over the sprawling Kirby while his second was a great individual effort.

Stealing a pass at centre, Wensley outskated two Kelowna defenders, went in alone and put a high, hard, wrist-shot over the shoulder of the Buckaroos' goaltender.

Another home-spun hockey player, Kevin Thorlakson, who like Wensley, showed great speed and checking capabilities throughout the contest, closed the period with a pair of nearly identical tallies.

His first was the result of Simpson's hard work. Speeding down the right wing, Simpson centered the puck on the short-side, Soviet-style, just before rounding the net. Thorlakson, waiting just in front, redirected the pass into the net in one motion.

Wensley, on Thorlakson's second tally, managed to centre the puck even though hopelessly tied up against the boards and Thorlakson, as with the first goal, put it in in one motion.

LOST PLAYERS

Lakers lost Shuya and Kelly Kozak to encounters of the personal kind, along with Simpson who broke his finger with a couple of devastating right crosses

in another infraction. Nick Kapicki suffered a minor leg injury and had to leave the game as well.

Suffering a lack of manpower, Lakers allowed the Bucks three unanswered third period tallies by Wheeldon, Jeff Armitage, and Don Barber.

Lakers outshot Kelowna 40-39, took eight of 18 minors and split four majors.

Elsewhere in the BCJHL Sunday night, Burnaby Blue Hawks got goals from

Pat Austin, Earl Graham, Bobby Ginetti, Pat Allardyce and Tim Comeau as they downed Nanaimo Clippers 5-2. In other action, Abbotsford downed Cowichan 9-3 and Merritt edged Shuswap 6-4.

Local fans will have an opportunity to catch some good sportsmanlike hockey action Tuesday night at the Civic Arena when Lakers meet Shuswap Totems in an exhibition game that will decide the winner of the "Carnival Cup."

Royals remain as bridesmaids

The story this season for Vernon Royals seems to be, "always a bridesmaid, never a bride." Last weekend the Royals finished with the consolation event at the Kamloops Girls' Basketball Tournament.

"We never seem to be able to win a tournament, just second or third place," said Royals' Coach Andy Gilbert.

The Vernon Senior Secondary School squad opened the tourney with a narrow 51-49 victory over Duchess Park Condorettes, of Prince George.

Lynn Zwarych was the top gun in that contest with 21 points while Wendy Vyvyan added 11.

Saturday, Royals drop-

ped a 51-33 decision to Salmon Arm Jewels and dropped to the consolation side of the tourney. Marisa Vardabasso had 12 points in that game.

In the consolation final, Royals downed Kamloops 43-39 with Sharon Weitzel netting 10 points to lead the way.

The win gave the Royals a third place finish among the eight teams entered.

Royals' next game will be Wednesday they and the Panthers travel back to Kamloops for regular season matchup.

Juveniles trounce