

Knights hammer Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
Penticton Knights blasted Vernon Lakers 9-2, Wednesday, in Penticton to even their B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division semi-final series at 1-1.

The only resemblance between the Lakers who battled their way to a 5-3 victory over Knights, Tuesday, and the team that travelled to Penticton, Wednesday, was a six-minute span in the first period. After the opening six minutes, Lakers' spirit retired to the team bus.

Knights got all the firepower they needed during a 90-second span, when they set a league record, while killing a penalty. Penticton scored the three fastest short-handed goals in BCJHL history, at 6:28, 7:21, and 7:57 of the first period.

All three, scored by Mark Verigin, Steve Charboneau, and Derrick Ruppel in that order, came from identical plays ... forecheck the Lakers'

defence, feed the puck to the clear man in the slot, and pick a corner.

The awesome scene impressed both coaches, though each had a profoundly different effect on that man.

"Those three goals really killed us," said Lakers' coach Murray Lawrence. "We were on the power-play but our forwards weren't coming back and the defence wasn't guarding the front of the net."

"Those three short-handed goals were a real boost of confidence for us and a real demoralizer for them," said Penticton Coach Rick Kozubuck. "It gave us that extra little bit of confidence to get last night's game (Tuesday) out of our minds."

However, Kozubuck wasn't about to admit his team beat the Lakers in just one and a half minutes.

MORE INTENSITY

"I think we played with more intensity tonight ... last night (Tuesday) some of the younger players

were shaky, but we regrouped and put out a more solid effort tonight," he said.

Lawrence wasn't going to ignore his team's total lack of desire either.

"They (Lakers) had no desire ... they left it on the ice last night ... I hope they get it back by tomorrow."

Rob Kossan's tally at 14:37 of the first period was one of the brief moments in which Lakers appeared ready to make a fight of it.

However, three more Knights' goals in the second frame, by Dan Gerarden (2:34), Derrick Ruppel (7:56) and Ruppel again (14:06), nullified any intentions of a Vernon comeback.

Ron Berezowski seized a golden opportunity at 8:53 of the second period to score the only other Vernon goal. Berezowski swooped in on a loose puck at the top of the face-off circle, took time to aim and blasted a hard slapshot past Norm Foster.

During the third period,



MURRAY LAWRENCE
... no desire

Lakers simply went through the motions. They exhibited all the characteristics of a team that was tired, both mentally and physically. Fatigue is certainly going to play a major role in this

semi-final series before it ends.

TOUGH SCHEDULE

"The tough schedule will certainly separate the men from the boys," said Kozubuck. "By Friday night's game, we'll know who can handle it and who can't."

Brett Hull notched a pair of tallies, at 2:24 and 5:30 of the third period, while Rob Cederberg closed the scoring at 12:58.

Lakers were outshot 44-26 and took seven of 16 minor penalties while each club was assessed one major and one misconduct penalty.

Lawrence pulled starting goaltender Rex Grant in favor of Matt Sekela, at 14:58 of the second frame, with Penticton ahead 6-2.

Game three of the best-of-seven series travels back to Vernon Civic Arena, tonight, where the two teams will square off at 8 p.m.

Lawrence has a few injuries in his lineup and will not be dressing centre Glen Doucette, who dressed but

saw no action Wednesday night. Lawrence will bring up Dave Munk, a midget forward, and a defenceman from the midget team, as well, for tonight's game.

In other games, Kelowna Buckaroos defeated Shuswap Totems 5-4 in double-overtime and New Westminster Royals nipped Nanaimo Clippers 5-4.

In New Westminster, the Royals had a 5-1 lead after the second period but had to stave off a third-period rally by Nanaimo which scored three unanswered goals in the final period.

The teams are now tied 1-1 in their quarter-final series.

Geoff Harrigan, Len Meyer, Mike Browne, Mike Nottingham and Stu Orpin scored for the Royals while Randy Taylor, with a pair, Al Johnson and Dale Brisco replied for the Clippers.

New Westminster netminder Rob Beckner made 37 saves while Al Loring turned aside 26 shots at the Nanaimo net.



FALKLAND WOMEN'S BONSPIEL

Cindy McAfee's rink won the 'A' event in the recent Falkland Women's Bonspiel. Twenty teams competed in the four-day event. Team members are, above: McAfee and Wendy VanHoof, of Vernon; Barb McLeod, of Westwold; and Heather Taylor, of Falkland. 'B' event winner was the

Pat Huhn foursome, below. Curling with Huhn foursome were Birdie Flodstrom, Lorraine Seymour, and Verle Moore. Irene Johnson's rink, bottom, captured the 'C' event. Throwing rocks for Johnson were Karen Carson, Jackie Lavery, and Joan Lachelt.



Royals split first two games

BURNABY (Special) — Vernon Royals trounced Richmond 63-43 today at the B.C. Senior Girls' 'AA' Basketball Championships, at Simon Fraser University.

The victory evens Vernon's won-lost record to 1-1. On Wednesday, Royals dropped a 55-37 decision to Duchess Park, of Prince George.

TRAILED EARLY

Vernon got off to a slow start against Richmond. The Coast club took an 8-0 lead and held a 30-28 edge at half-time. However, Royals outscored Richmond 20-3 in the third-quarter.

Vernon Coach Andy Gilbert said his club started to play well in the second-half of today's game. "We had our worst game of the season against Duchess Park," Gilbert said. "It looks like we've finally turned things around."

Lynn Zwarych led the Vernon attack with 21 points while Sally McCulla added 10.

Gilbert said, "I think we can play better. Our defence is still a little suspect."

NEXT GAME

Royals' next game is Friday, at 11:45 a.m., against either Spectrum, of Victoria, or New Westminster.

After its opening round loss, Vernon's best possible placing is now fifth, out of 16 teams.

The Okanagan's other entries, Salmon Arm Jewels and Penticton Lakettes, recorded easy wins, Wednesday.

Penticton, ranked number one in B.C., blasted Spectrum 83-33, and Salmon Arm, ranked number two, hammered Mount Elizabeth, of Kitimat, 74-55.

Cougars host playoff series

Vernon Cougars host Chilliwack in the Coy Cup (intermediate) semi-finals this weekend.

The best-of-three series gets under way Friday, at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena. Second game will be played Saturday, with the third game Sunday, if necessary.

WON THREE

Cougars have experienced little difficulty with Chilliwack during the past two seasons. In Coy Cup playdowns last year, Vernon blasted the Fraser Valley team 7-2 and 7-3. Last December, Cougars outshot Chilliwack 50-29 and recorded a 5-2 win, at a tournament in Oliver.

Despite their domination of Chilliwack, Vernon Coach Gary Swanson said his club won't be taking the series lightly.

"They've got some good hockey players and I'm sure they'd love to get revenge," Swanson said.

KEY PLAYER

One of the key performers for Chilliwack is centre Gary Huth, who starred with Vernon, in the B.C. Junior Hockey League, for two seasons.

Swanson said, "For us to be successful, we have to play aggressively. We have to hit ... for 60 minutes."



TERRY LOWE
... broken wrist

Vernon will be without centre Terry Lowe for the entire series. Lowe suffered a broken wrist in the final game of the North Okanagan Hockey League championship series, with Oliver Bighorns, last week. Ernie Gare will also miss Friday's game due to work commitments, but he is expected back Saturday.

JUGGLES LINES

Swanson said, "With Lowe and Gare missing, we're going to have to

do some juggling. I'm hoping Wayne (Dye) can get time off work ... he would be an asset."

Dye has seen only limited duty this season due to work and injuries. If he can play Friday, he'll replace Lowe on a line with NOHL scoring champion Dave Caldwell and Gary Gilchrist.

Gare's spot, with Randy Merritt and Murray Wilcox, will be filled by speedy Marty Stein.

IN GOAL

Ed Forslund will be between the pipes for Vernon in the opening game with Charlie Briskham expected to play goal Saturday.

"Goaltending is one thing that doesn't concern me," Swanson said. "As far as I'm concerned, we've got the best one-two goaltending combination in the province. One of them might go into a bit of a slump, like Charlie did against Oliver, but we can always call on the other one."

Winner of this series will host the Northern B.C. champion, expected to be Quesnel Kangaroos, in the Coy Cup finals, March 25-27.