

PENTICTON 9, VERNON 2

Knights take 2-1 lead

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers went down to defeat 9-2 at the hands of Pentiction Knights, Thursday night, at the Civic Arena to fall behind two-games-to-one in their best-of-seven Interior division semi-final series.

Knights used a barrage of goals that started coming at the 12:05 mark of the first period, to crush the Lakers who played a more solid game, though inconsistent, than they had the previous night when they lost by an identical score.

"I was really happy with that win," said Pentiction Coach Rick Kozubuck following Thursday's victory. "I really didn't expect to win that easily. What really helped was that bad goal on Matt Sekela right at the start of the game."

The goal, coming just nine seconds into the opening period, was the result of a botched attempt at clearing the puck around the boards by Sekela. Just as the puck reached Sekela's stick, Knights' Derrick Ruppel sped in and banged at it, managing to put it in the net from a bad angle.

LATE GOAL

Sekela was victimized at 19:59 of the first period for Knights' third goal when Ruppel, again, was on hand to bang in the third rebound while standing unmolested in the crease area.

Lakers' Coach Murray Lawrence decided to go with Rex Grant, in goal, from the beginning of the second period.

Brett Hull, with his first of three goals for the night, also scored during the first period, with a rebound off Sekela while all alone in front of the Lakers' net.

Gavin Shuya's power-play tally, at 15:02 had tied the score at 1-1 before Hull's marker.

Shuya broke down the right wing, and blasted one off the post of the Pentiction net. However, a Knights' defenceman carried the puck into the net while attempting to clear it from in front of the crease area.

Lakers opened the scoring in the second frame with Stacey Wakabayashi taking a long lead pass from Rob Kossan, going in on a breakaway, and picking a top corner over Norm Foster's shoulder.

KILLED PENALTY

The breaking point came when Lakers failed to capitalize on a five-minute penalty to Knights during the second period.

After killing the penalty, Knights set about the task of filling the Lakers' net with a flood of goals.

Mark Verigin made the score 4-2 at 12:05 while Hull, with his second, closed the second period scoring at 18:22.

Using a lot of good bounces to their advantage, Pentiction added four unanswered goals to their total in the third period.

Hull opened the scoring with his third goal at 3:58. Dan Holden increased the lead to 7-2 at 5:27 and defenceman Scott Campbell closed out the scoring with a pair of goals coming at 12:56 and 15:31.

Despite the lopsided score, the game was closer than



VERNON LAKERS' forward Todd Ewen sweeps around a Pentiction defenceman for a backhand shot during Thursday's BCJHL playoff game, at the Civic Arena. After winning

the opening game of the series, Lakers have been trounced 9-2 in two consecutive outings.

(Daily News Photo)

it may have appeared. Lakers managed 43 shots on Foster but the Pentiction goaltender closed the door on all but two. Sekela and Grant combined to face 48 Pentiction drives.

Kozubuck isn't about to take the Lakers lightly, even though Knights have scored two impressive victories.

"They're a good club and they can rebound," said the Pentiction coach. "We can't afford to take them lightly ... we're just playing one game at a time."

"I think it (series) is far from over," Lawrence concurred with Kozubuck, saying, "We played a lot better than the score indicated ... they (Knights) sure knew they were in a game tonight."

GAME FOUR

Game four in the series takes place tonight, in Pentiction, where Lakers will try desperately to get back on track with another victory to regain the home-ice advantage for the remainder of the series.

Lawrence said, "You're never finished until you quit."

Added to the loss was the disturbing news that Lakers' captain Gord Simpson may be sidelined with a broken rib while defenceman Mike Enemark's separated shoulder continues to painfully nag him and he is a doubtful starter for tonight.

In other BCJHL playoff action, Abbotsford Flyers

dumped Burnaby Bluehawks 16-7 in the opening game of their series, while Kelowna Buckaroos blasted Shuswap Totems 13-1, to take a 3-0 lead in their playoff match.

In Abbotsford, Bill Shibicky scored three goals and added three assists to lead the Flyers.

Dave Moree, Colin Lundrigan, Sam Styles and Collin Meizner added two each for the winners.

Kevin Poirier, Richard Holfeld, Clay Nygard, Rob Longfellow and Dwight Mathiasen added singles for the winners.

Paul Bifano led Burnaby with three goals, while Bob Ginnetti, Don Freisen, Todd Semeniuk and Earl Graham had singles for the Blue Hawks.

Abbotsford netminder Scott Bradley made 26 saves, while Dale Stachoski and Ken Kinney combined for 47 saves in Burnaby goal.

In Kelowna, four players enjoyed two-goal evenings.

Shawn Swail, Scott Shoffstall, Shawn Harrison and Marcel Raby each scored twice for Kelowna while Todd Sanderson, Simon Wheeldon, Shawn Pettyjohn, Enzo Caccavo and Rob Dirk added singles.

Robbie Klenk scored the lone Shuswap goal.

Shuswap netminders Ray Silvey and Rob Fuller combined to make 32 saves while Randy Kirby turned aside 19 shots at the Kelowna net.

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Daily
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