

COY CUP SEMI-FINAL

Cougars take Royals to lead series



COUGARS' captain Dave Caldwell (6) tries to jam the puck past Chilliwack Royals' goaltender Joe Radyk during a

defensive second period that saw Cougars score the only goal. Caldwell scored three times

to lead Cougars to a 5-3 victory and a 1-0 lead in their best-of-three Coy Cup semi-final series.

Vernon Cougars took a giant step toward the Coy Cup final as they defeated visiting Chilliwack Royals 5-3 Friday night to take a 1-0 lead in their best-of-three semi-final series with the Royals.

Cougars overcame a 2-1 deficit in the first period to lead 3-2 after the opening 20 minutes and never relinquished their lead en route to the victory.

The key to Cougars' success lay in the steady, and at times brilliant, goaltending efforts of Ed Forslund, who was called upon to make 30 saves in Cougars' nets.

"Eddie (Forslund) played really well tonight, he held us in there... especially when he stopped that breakaway with the score 4-3... that was the turning point in a close game," said Cougars' captain Dave Caldwell, speaking on behalf of the team.

Another key to Cougars' success was the hard-hitting of every Cougars' team member. Cougars' finished their checks all night and used this style to good advantage in both the offensive and defensive zones.

Caldow, himself, was a standout for the local club scoring three times and assisting on the opening goal of the game by Cougars' Gary Gilchrist.

Gilchrist scored that opening marker just 54 seconds into the first period assisted by Caldwell and Stein.

Royals, a fast-skating club, scored twice in succession following Gilchrist's goal, to take a 2-1 lead.

Brian Olson got the first Chilliwack goal, on a power-play opportunity, at 3:34 of the first period.

Greg Robinson gave Royals their lead at 5:16.

Cougars' Caldwell scored twice before

the period ended to give the Vernon senior squad back their lead.

His first tally, during a man-advantage situation, was set up by Steen and Murray Batty at 8:46 while his second effort, at 15:13, was one-man effort.

Going in all alone on the wing, Caldwell faked to his back-hand, forcing Joe Radyk to make his first move before slipping the puck under the Chilliwack goaltender's pad.

Royals outshot Cougars 16-15 in the opening frame.

Cougars scored the only goal of the second period, that being a short-handed effort at 7:01, by Marty Stein.

Stein intercepted a pass just inside the blueline of Royals' defensive zone and using a Chilliwack defenceman for a screen, blasted a high slap-shot over the shoulder of Radyk to give Cougars a 4-2 lead after 40 minutes.

Cougars outshot Royals by a narrow margin of 8-6 during this close-checking period.

Royals got back into the game with the first marker of the third period. That goal came from James Cowden who picked up a rebound when Cougars' defence failed to clear the front of the net.

Action moved from one end of the arena to the other during the remainder of the game with Forslund stopping a Royal's breakaway just prior to a turn-around sending Caldwell in all alone at the other end of the rink. Caldwell's third goal of the evening came during a power-play and once again the speedy Cougars' captain used his shifty moves to force the Chilliwack goaltender into the first move before sliding the puck under his pads.

Royals hope for 5th place

Vernon Royals defeated New Westminster Hyacks 45-39 Friday to advance to a position where they could take fifth spot, over-all, at the B.C. girls' high school basketball championship at Simon Fraser University.

Royals trailed 12-4 at one point in the game but settled down to take command of the game and earn their third victory.

"We got a late start... as usual, but once we got going we were fine," said Andy Gilbert, coach of the Royals.

"It was a real defensive battle... it was a case of go down and protect your own basket... make them work for every point," he added.

Royals got a 13-point performance from Sharon Weitzel, who also led the local hoop-squad in the defensive department.

"Sharon played really well on defense... she covered their inside scorer very well and frustrated her to no end," said Gilbert.

Royals are in action again today as they face Centennial Centaurs... ranked 10th, overall, coming into the championship, but who will improve their status regardless of the outcome against Royals.

"We'll have to figure out some kind of special defence to counteract them," said Gilbert of the Centaurs. "They've got two guards who are probably the best I've seen... they can fast-break and shoot from the outside as well."

Other action at the girls' basketball championship Friday saw Cowichan upset Pentiction Lakettes 59-45, Victoria downed Richmond 53-43, Mount Elizabeth, of Kitimat, downed J. L. Crowe, of Trail, 66-42, Centennial, of Coquitlam, beat Burnaby Central 68-56, Dutchess Park of Prince George edged Port Moody 59-55, and Salmon Arm overpowered Mount Douglas, of Victoria, 58-32.

Cowichan meets Abbotsford in the championship final tonight while the best the Okanagan teams can hope for is a third, fourth and fifth place from Pentiction, Salmon Arm, and Vernon, respectively, if they all win today.



BRENT REE
... fastest racer

Local skier wins

Brent Ree, of Vernon, showed last Saturday at Big White, near Kelowna, why he is considered one of the top young ski racers in the Okanagan.

Ree, 11, sped down a challenging giant slalom course in times of 58.53 and 59.58 seconds, for a combined clocking of 1:58.51.

He finished well ahead of second-place Todd Sloan, of Kelowna, who was timed

SERIES TIED 2-2

Lakers rally from deficit to defeat Pentiction 7-6

Both Lakers' coach Murray Lawrence and Pentiction Knights' coach Rick Kozubuck spoke words that rang true following Thursday night's game at Civic arena in which Knights' trounced the hometown Lakers 9-2 for the second consecutive night.

Lawrence said most profoundly, that a team "never fails until they quit" while Kozubuck, out of sheer respect for the Vernon squad, said the Lakers were a "good club and could rebound from the losses."

Friday night, Greg Kowal's goal at 5:11 of the third period lifted Vernon Lakers to a 7-6 come-from-behind victory over the hometown Knights and gave the local squad a 2-2 series tie with Pentiction in their best-of-seven Interior division semi-final.

"It was a great feeling, a big lift to know we were finally ahead," said Kowal

of his winning goal.

The tally came when Dan Baker brought the puck over the Pentiction blueline, dropped a pass to Kowal and took out a defenceman, enabling Kowal to take an open shot from the top of the face-off circle. The speedy forward found his mark with a wrist-shot that surprised Knights' Norm Foster.

"I don't really think he expected me to shoot from that far out," added Kowal.

Lakers trailed 4-3 after the first period but came back to tie the score 6-6 at the end of two periods.

"You could see them (Pentiction) sweat after we scored that tying goal at the end of the second period," said Lawrence. "I think last night's game means we've definitely turned things around in our favor and gotten back on the right track."

Pentiction coach Rick Kozubuck was equally im-



GREG KOWAL
... winning goal

pressed with Lakers' fortitude. "They gave us a good effort... when you're down 4-1 in someone

else's rink and you win then you really deserve it."

Lakers trailed 4-1 early in the first period but rallied with a pair of goals before the frame ended. Lakers also trailed 5-3 and 6-4 before tying the game in the second.

Other Lakers' scorers were Brent Doucette, Nick Kapicki, Bob Wensley, Stacey Wakabayashi, Gavin Shuya and Todd Ewen.

Lawrence was particularly impressed with the hard-working efforts of Brent Doucette and Todd Ewen. Ewen, 16, playing like a seasoned veteran, scored once and added two assists while Doucette had one and one.

In other BCJHL playoff action Friday night, Geoff Harrigan scored two goals to pace New Westminster Royals to a 6-4 win over Nanaimo Clippers and a 2-1 lead in the semi-final Coastal division series.