

KNIGHTS EDGE LAKERS

FINAL GAME IN VERNON

Penticton forces seventh game in series

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
Mark Verigin's goal, at 19:22 of the third period, lifted Penticton Knights to a 5-4 victory over visiting Vernon Lakers and the quarter-final series in three games apiece.

Lakers led Knights by the nose throughout the game allowing the South Okanagan crew goals at 19:34 and 19:16 of the first and second periods, respectively, to keep them in the contest. Showing

great confidence, Lakers got a pair of goals by Wakabayashi during the first period to take a 2-0 lead.

The first came at 4:01 of the opening stanza with the speedy winger in the slot to bang in a centering pass from defenceman-come-centre Mike Enemark. The second, at 14:09, was an almost identical replay, but with the centering pass coming from a sprawling Bob Wensley, braving a skate in the face to make the play.

Knights' Kelly Para banged in a loose puck on a goal-mouth scramble to keep Penticton one goal shy of the Vernon club after 20 minutes of play.

Enemark gave Vernon a two-goal lead again at 6:33 of the second period when he moved in to lift Wakabayashi's shoulder of Knights' Norm Foster.

Knights struck blood again at 19:16 of the second frame when Derrick Ruppel converted a pretty give-and-go play between himself and Steve Charboneau.

Knights evened the score after 17 minutes and five seconds of close-checking play in the third. The goal nullified a half dozen opportunities Vernon had to put the game out of reach.

"We didn't check well enough in the third period," said Lakers' coach Murray Lawrence. "We just didn't get that fourth goal soon enough."

Shrugging off the loss, grasped from the jaws of victory in the dying minutes, Lawrence praised the high-spirited last-ditch effort by the Knights. **PLAYED WELL**

"They (Penticton) played a good game. They didn't take too many penalties and it was nice to

see them play some hockey for a change.

"We'll just have to do it to them on Thursday."

Each team was assessed just seven minor penalties with the only exception to the cleanly-fought contest being a slug-fest between Lakers' defenceman Rudy Poeschek and Knights' Rob Cederberg during the second period. Poeschek, despite receiving a healthy shiner, stood his ground with the scrappy Knight and showed Penticton that Lakers weren't going to stand for any intimidation.

32 SHOTS
Grant kicked aside 32 shots while Foster was called on to make 27 saves.

The teams served seven minor penalties each while each had a major call and game misconduct penalty.

In other BCJHL playoff action Tuesday night, New Westminster Royals scored five times in overtime to defeat Nanaimo Islanders 10-5 and take their quarter-final series.

4-2 Royals will now meet Abbotsford Flyers in one semi-final.

The winner of the Knights-Lakers series, to be decided Thursday night at the Civic Arena, will take on Kelowna Buckaroos in the other semi-final series.

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JHL game in Penticton. Lakers got excellent goaltending and superb defensive play from their squad but couldn't hold off a late rally by Knights that

resulted in a 5-4 loss. The seventh, and deciding game, takes place Thursday at Civic Arena.

(Daily News Photo)

INTERIOR FINALS



Vernon will be represented by three teams in the B.C. Interior Five-pin Bowling Championships this weekend, in Kamloops. Members of the mixed squad are from left, back row: Bill Kniaz, Manager Len Chahley, Paul Wendel, and Gary Krause; front, Willie Wendel, Coach Donna Bowers, and Marie MacKenzie. The

men's team includes, rear: Ed Meyer, Ron Potts, Marcel Gallon, and Joe Goldenthal; front, Art Block, Coach Wendel, and Chahley. The women's unit is comprised of: rear, Eileen Pick, Shirley Glayholt, Donna Cochran, and May Turek; front, Delores Just, Chahley, and Wendel.

(Jeff Brandt Photos)

sports

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Editor—DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

Two games in Lumby

The White Valley Hockey League double-knockout playoffs resume tonight with two games in Lumby. At 7 p.m., Armstrong Sports Shop Lakes on Labatt's Sabres in a must-win game for both teams. At 9 p.m., in a battle of two unbeaten clubs, National Hotel Raiders clash with Club 2929.

Ladies golf

The ladies' section of the Vernon Golf and Country Club will hold its 1993 opening April 5. New members are welcome. Ladies' day will be every Tuesday. Special events planned include a Doe Casino Night, Breakfast Scramble, and

Plan shuffle

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Hartford Whalers, tied for the worst record in the National Hockey League, announced plans Tuesday to eliminate the director of hockey operations position, currently held by Larry Pleau, when the season ends, Howard Baldwin, managing general partner of the club, said the team will create a team president responsible for all hockey operations. Baldwin said the Whalers will seek someone outside the Hartford organization to fill the new post.

But therein should lie the limitations of home-ice advantage.

For the second time in one season, I've been mute witness to the fruitful efforts of hometown timekeepers jockeying the clock to keep their team in the game. In the case of Tuesday night's Lakers versus Knights game, it meant the difference between deciding the game in regulation time and going into overtime.

A VIOLATION

The observation wasn't just a folly of my own. Several dozen (possibly more) fans on both sides recognized the blatant errors being made in the timing of the game. At one point, a fist-fight nearly broke out between irate Lakers' fans and the Penticton timekeepers.

JUDD'S JOURNAL

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Home advantage?

One has to wonder to what lengths a team will go to win a game. Intimidation is one form of being a bad loser, but the above mentioned action is a flagrant violation of constitutional sporting rights.

Suspecting the above at first, I began to make close checks of the times periodically. At one point the play began, and following a whistle on a stoppage, the clock showed that not only had no time elapsed, but that the play had begun at 5:37 and had been halted at 5:38.

Much to their own dismay, Lakers' management had noted the error as well... further to my own observations and strengthening my suspicions.

At another point in the game, following a goal by Penticton, making the score 4-3, the clock jumped ahead by 10 seconds immediately following commencement of play.

A guy strives to be bias... but I wasn't born yesterday.

It leads one to wonder just how many shallow victories have been decided on Penticton's home-ice. Considering they've been reigning BCJHL champions for three con-

secutive years, it's almost shuddering to wonder who has suffered the same slings and arrows of defeat. Once before, during a game in Revelstoke, I encountered the same lack of discipline in hometown, timekeepers. At that time Lakers lost the game in the dying seconds as well.

TRUSTED POSITION

It's not so much the decision of the game that counts in my mind. It's the revolting thought that these people are trusted with an oath of dedication and fair play that rivals that of police, or even a doctor's hypocritical oath.

The only consolation to me is the fact that it's never going to happen in our own barn.

At times like these, it is hard to remain unbiased.

Then again, it only makes victory all the more sweeter. Totally off the subject yet in the same ball park, it sure was nice to see so many Vernon fans in Penticton last night.

See you Thursday!

