

VERNON ELIMINATED

Knights trounce Lakers 7-2

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

All the chips were up for grabs, the seventh and deciding game in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division semi-final series.

One team came to play, the other team just showed up and went through the motions.

To the 2,500 fans who packed the Vernon Civic Arena, Thursday night, there was little doubt in their minds who had come to play.

Penticton Knights scored seven unanswered goals in the first two periods and cruised through the third period to earn an easy 7-2 victory over Vernon Lakers and win the series four-games-to-three.

The only bright spots in Lakers' game came in sporadic bursts during the third period with the local squad notching a pair of power-play tallies at 1:10 and 5:46.

It was purely a case of too little, too late for Lakers who, though suffering from a multitude of injuries to various players, still didn't display the hard checking, skating style that once vaulted them into the lead position in the series.

NEEDED GOALS

"I should've had three goals," said Vernon's Mike Enemark. "We needed a couple earlier in the game to make the difference but we just couldn't get the breaks."

Lakers were guilty of sloppy passing plays on numerous occasions during the first two periods with Knights ready and willing to pounce on the mistakes and turn them into goals.

Goaltender Rex Grant faced 39 Penticton shots but many were from point-blank range or came while the lanky goaltender was screened by bodies in the crease.

Brett Hull opened the scoring at 3:58 of the first period with his first of two for the evening. Hull stole the puck from Lakers' defenceman Rudy Poeschek when Poeschek lost the disc in his skates. Goin in alone, the hard-shooting Hull made no mistake as he waited for Grant to make the first move before lifting the puck over him.

Penticton Captain Derrick Ruppel scored at 4:45 to give Knights a 2-0 lead which they took to the dressing room. Ruppel moved into the slot, off the face-

off, and casually beat Grant with a shot along the ice.

OUT OF REACH

Knights used two power-play goals along with three others to put the game out of Lakers' reach in the second frame.

Rick Boh unleashed from the point on a man-advantage situation at 1:05 while Mark Verigin made the score 4-0 Knights when he took a long lead pass and scored on a breakaway.

Verigin scored his second goal of the game at the nine minute mark, another power-play tally.

Hull notched his second at 10:47 with a rifle-like blast along the ice from the top of the face-off circle.

Dan Gerarden rounded out the Penticton scoring at 12:50.

Gord Simpson broke Norm Foster's shutout bid at 1:10 of the third stanza. Taking a pass in the corner from Steecy Wakabayashi, Simpson used some fancy moves to get into the slot where he put a low back-hand past Foster.

CLOSED SCORING

Gavin Shuya closed the scoring with one of his pattered blasts from the top of the face-off circle at 5:46. The opportunity came when Nick Kapicki cleanly won the draw in Knights' end and Enemark fed Shuya the pass.

Knights took 13 of 25 minor penalties while each club was assessed a major call for a fracas that took place during the pre-game warm-up. Knights and Lakers both had one misconduct penalty.

Afterwards, there was a lot of emotion in Lakers' dressing room. Nobody hung their heads following a highly successful season. Lakers' coach Murray Lawrence summed up his feelings without bothering to deliberate on the night's loss.

PRAISES PLAYERS

"I think you guys did a hell of a job this season ... it's just too bad we couldn't have gone further."

"I still think we're the number one team in the BCJHL."

Lawrence mentioned in closing that he would like to have as many of the players back next year as possible.

With the exception of Enemark, all others are still eligible junior hockey age.

Meanwhile on the Coast, Dwight Mathiasen's four goals paced Abbotsford Flyers to a 10-5 victory over the visiting New Westminster Royals. The win gives Flyers a 1-0 lead in the Coast final series.



VERNON'S Mike Enemark swoops around Penticton Knights' net during BCJHL playoff action Thursday night, in

the Civic Arena. Enemark was thwarted by Penticton goalie Norm Foster and Knights went on to eliminate Lakers 7-2. Look-

ing for a pass on the other side of the net is Vernon forward Stacey Wakabayashi.

(Daily News Photo)