

Lakers unbeaten in pre-season



MERRITT DEFENCEMAN Brian Litsin fends off a Vernon Lakers forward while goaltender Gerald Forbes reaches for the loose puck

during action Saturday night at Civic Arena. Lakers' easily handled Centennials 9-2, after running up a 9-0 lead, but need a goal with only seconds re-

maining to earn a 4-4 tie Sunday, in Merritt. Lakers open their regular season against Shuswap, Tuesday night.

(Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Glen Kirk's second goal, with 14 seconds remaining lifted a rookie-laden Vernon Lakers' squad to a 4-4 tie with Merritt Centennials, Sunday night, in B.C. Junior Hockey League exhibition action, in Merritt.

Saturday night, Lakers scored four unanswered goals in the first period and cruised to a 9-2 victory over Centennials during a game at Civic Arena.

The draw in Merritt leaves Lakers with an unbeaten exhibition season record of two wins and a tie.

The obvious difference in scores between the two Merritt games left no measure of uncertainty in Carl Enemark's mind.

YOUNGER PLAYERS

"We played a lot of our younger fellows and it was a whole different game," said Enemark, general manager of the Lakers. "They (Merritt) played their best team last night."

Besides Kirk's pair of tallies, rookie Kendrick Bailey and veteran Bob Wensley also tallied.

"Wensley played a strong game," said Enemark. "He gives us 100 per cent all the time."

Saturday, Lakers got a few surprises when 16-year old centre Bruce Major took to the ice like a seasoned veteran. Major opened the scoring when he took a perfect breaking pass from defenceman Regan Desroches and put the puck high

over the shoulder of Merritt netminder Geoff Wiltshire on a breakaway.

FOUR ASSISTS

Major assisted on four other tallies during the course of the game and established himself as a mean-fisted force before being ejected late in the third period after an altercation with Centennial's Rick Boyd.

"I thought Bruce (Major) played extremely well," said Lakers' coach Chuck Tapp following the game. "When a kid comes to play like that how can you let him go?"

Desroches also turned in a solid gold performance, scoring twice and adding two assists. Veteran forward Rob Kossan added a pair of goals as well while Bob Wensley and Ken MacKenzie also tallied. Rookies Kevin Thorsen and Tony Christy rounded out the Lakers' scoring while Brent Demarais notched a couple of power-play markers late in the game to put Centennials on the scoreboard.

SEASON OPENER

With exhibition play now behind them, Lakers' coach Tapp can concentrate all his energies on regular season which begins for Lakers Tuesday night, at Civic Arena, when they host Shuswap Totems.

That means Tapp will be forced to make some last minute cuts at Lakers' practice tonight.

"We'll be down to about 25 players," said Tapp. "That means I'll be cutting six or seven players."

Kelowna thumps Vernon

It was simply a case of the disappearing offence for Vernon Rugby Club which dropped a 19-3 decision to Kelowna Crows in Vernon, Sunday, during an Okanagan-Mainline Rugby Union contest.

"Actually it was quite a





B.C. AMATEUR Hockey Association recently hosted a referees school in Penticton.

Local participants included, from left: Lyle Balfour (instructor), Jim Healy, Tom

Kowal, Ken Fraser, Don Clark, and Tom Balfour (instructor).

Local referees pass tests

Four Vernon minor hockey referees recently passed their examinations after a week-long B.C. Amateur Hockey Association school, in Penticton.

Don Clark, referee-in-chief for Vernon Minor Hockey Association, Jim Healy, Tom Kowal, and Greg Fraser exceeded the 80 per cent mark required to pass the course.

Instructors included Tom and Lyle Balfour, of Vernon.

Minor hockey spokesman Ernie Kowal said the school did a great job preparing referees for the upcoming season.

"Stop watch drills on speed, balance, and accuracy at the blue line, as well as instruction on hand signals for infractions, were stressed during the on-ice sessions," Kowal said.