

VERNON HURT BY PENALTIES

Centennials edge Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers came up on the short end of the stick in their first game on the road this season, losing a 4-3 decision to Merritt Centennials, Saturday night.

Weak positional play and an unorganized power-play led to the defeat as the local squad missed on all six of their man-advantage situations but gave up three goals to Centennials' power-play.

Lakers were without the services of defenceman Gavin Shuya, who is sidelined with a broken finger he sustained in Lakers' 6-4 victory over Revelstoke, Friday night.

Along with Shuya, defenceman Regan Desroches was also unable to make the trip as a pulled groin muscle kept him out of the lineup. Centres Nick Kapicki and Gord Simpson, currently sitting out three-game suspensions for spearing infractions, were also absent.

Despite the lack of veteran players the loss didn't sit well with coach Chuck Tapp.

"We played terrible," said Tapp. "We can't sin games with just 20 minutes of playing."

However, in the end, Tapp felt the odds might have been with Merritt on this occasion.

"We had some key individuals missing from our power-play and it really hurt," said Tapp. "They out-hustled us to the puck but it was our third game in three nights and we were tired and hurting."

Lakers suffered most in the second period when they lost the services of defenceman Tony Christie who caught a shot from the point full in the face and had to leave the game. Already suffering from a lack of blueliners, the situation was compounded when veteran defender Ken MacKenzie was handed a misconduct penalty.

"MacKenzie had some dumb, useless penalties," said Tapp. "It wasn't very smart for a veteran."

Tapp put the finger on the performance of other individuals as well, sighting less than adequate play by Dave Wensley and goaltender Kelly Muir when they were needed most.

"Kelly was letting up too many rebounds," he said. "I was disappointed in Dave Wensley... he wasn't putting out enough."

Centennials drew first blood in a penalty-filled first period scoring twice on man-advantage situations to take a 2-0 lead into the dressing room. Goals came from Randy Koyanagi and Mark Bogoslawski.

Merritt struck again early in the second when Pat Antongiovanni gave the home team a 3-0 lead at 2:18.

Lakers got on the board at 5:19 with a combination play by the Wensley brothers. David dug the puck out of the corner and centered to Bob Wensley who redirected it into the net.

Merritt regained their three-goal lead with their third power-play goal, this one by John Tent but defenceman Rob Hockey narrowed the gap to 4-2 at 18:45 when he swept a loose puck under the Merritt goaltender's pads.

Rookie Bruce Major tallied the only marker of the third stanza at 11:54... not a pretty goal but a bit of persistence in front of the net paid dividends for the local youngster when he capitalized on a rebound.

Merritt held a slight edge in the shooting department outgunning Lakers 55-53.

In other BCJHL action Saturday night, Revelstoke Rangers edged Shuswap 10-9, Penticton downed Summerland 6-5, Richmond doubled Nanaimo 6-3 on the Island while Langley defeated defending league champion Abbotsford 9-6.

Sunday night, Burnaby Blue Hawks defeated Abbotsford Flyers 5-2.

Lakers are idle until Friday night when they host Merritt in a rematch at Civic Arena. The rest period will allow injured players to get back into the lineup but Kapicki and Simpson will remain sidelined with their suspensions until Sunday's game, in Salmon Arm, against Shuswap.



VERNON LAKERS' defenceman Rob Hocken moves a Merritt forward out from in front of goaltender Shawn Oswald during a Centennials' power-

play situation Saturday night, in Merritt. Lakers' suffered from a loss of players due to injuries and dropped a 4-3 decision to Centennials. Lakers will have a

chance to recover this week as their next game is not until Friday night.

(Daily News Photo)

B.C. 31, EDMONTON 30

Lions capture thriller

By the Canadian Press
B.C. Lions apparently have kicked the habit of becoming late-season pushovers.

The Lions' habitual second-half nosedive appeared imminent after mid-season defeats to Ottawa Rough Riders and Toronto Argonauts, but they've struck back with consecutive victories over Montreal Concordes and Edmonton Eskimos — a 31-30 triumph Sunday — to spark Grey Cup optimism in Vancouver, the site of the Canadian Football League's championship game this year.

The win improved the Lions' win-loss record to 8-3 and kept them atop Western Division stan-



DAVE CUTLER

... costly miss

Lumsden ran for Edmonton touchdowns.

The Eskimos had a 444-327 advantage in net of-

The Rough Riders' other touchdowns came on a Watts pass to Mariet Ford and a 25-yard run by Skip Walker, who gained 106 yards on 16 carries. Gerry Organ kicked two field goals.

The Tiger-Cats, who led 22-10 at halftime, scored their points in the second quarter. Brock ran one in from one yard and passed to Ron Johnson for another, and defensive back Gerald Bess scored on a 32-yard interception return.

Ottawa had a 465-278 advantage in net offence, with Watts good on 20 of 37 pass attempts.

Brock, who completed 19 of 45 after only four days of workouts with the

"We were beaten soundly by a team that was better than us," said head coach Bob O'Billovich of the Argos, who remain first in the East at 8-3.

"We won a game we weren't supposed to win," said Calgary coach Jack Gotta. "Our guys were really ready to win."

"Our coaches prepared the guys well and they responded and put the hits on."

Roughriders 19 Bombers 50

Running back Willard Reeves scored two touchdowns while rushing for 162 yards on 24 carries to help Clements to a successful debut in front of 26,132 fans in Winnipeg.

"In the first half, I felt a little unsure of myself," said Clements, who replaced starter Nickie Hall in the second quarter and was 13-for-21.

"In the second half, I calmed down a bit. My experience took over and I felt comfortable."

Sean Kehoe and Dan Huclack also ran for touchdowns, while Clements tossed a pass to Joe Poplawski for another. Trevor Kennerd kicked five field goals.

Saskatchewan quarterback John Hufnagel threw two touchdown passes to Ron Robinson and backup Homer Jordan hit Chris DeFrance with another.