

Lakers lose the battle for Interior supremacy

The battle for first place in the BCJHL Interior Division was a no-contest Tuesday night in Penticton as the hometown Knights easily skated by Vernon Lakers 8-4.

The win leaves Knights with a five game winning streak while Lakers drop to four and two and will be chasing Penticton for some time to come.

Although Lakers' defence was badly ailing going into the game, it was the club's offense, particularly the power-play which let it down.

Knights scored two short-handed goals during the second period to take a 6-3 lead after 40 minutes. Lakers managed to put just one power-play tally on the board despite an advantage in extra-man situations and the difference cost the local squad an important game.

"When we got the man advantage we couldn't do anything," said general manager Carl Enemark. "At one point we had a two-man advantage and never put anything by them."

"I don't want to take anything away from our boys but Penticton played a good game," said Enemark. "They are well-disciplined team, they skate hard and check well... definitely the best team we've played to date. We have our work cut out for us now."

Lakers' coach Mike Enemark expressed similar thoughts about the game's outcome.

"They deserved to win the game," said Enemark. Enemark was equally down on his team's penalty killing as well as the power-play. In just four man-advantage situations Knights scored three times.

However, Lakers have been plagued by early season injuries particularly to their defensive squad. With veteran Gavin Shuya out of the lineup recently, along with newcomer Tony Christie Lakers were already hurting going into Penticton.

Early in the game Clay Cotie re-injured his knee and

was sidelined leaving Lakers with just three regular defencemen.

Up front, Lakers got full service from just one line... Bob and Dave Wensley and winger Randy Padelec. Between the three they scored all Lakers' goals including a pair for Bob Wensley who leads the league in scoring.

According to Enemark, the team also got a solid performance from centre Gord Simpson.

"It came down to three forwards doing all the work... the two Wensleys and Simpson," said Enemark.

Knights got a well-balanced scoring attack with eight players sharing in the scoring.

Rob Cederberg, Cal Boyle, Ian Kidd, Rod Poindexter, Mike Barzal, Tony Savarin and Brent Hull and Murray Winicki with short-handed tallies.

The teams were tied 1-1 after one period but Penticton moved ahead 6-3 after 40 minutes.

Penticton netminder Ian Clark made 31 saves while Shawn Oswald stopped 36 shots on the Vernon goal.

In the only other BCJHL game Tuesday night, Richmond Sockeyes kept their hold on first place in the Coastal Division with a 5-2 win over Burnaby Blue Hawks.

Left winger Steve Tuttle scored twice to lead the Sockeyes with singles from Mike Moree, Mike Scardina, and Gary Bunz.

Rick Dietrich scored both goals for the Blue Hawks, who led 1-0 after the first period before falling behind 4-1 after 40 minutes.

Randy Beres made 23 saves for Richmond, while Terry Burton stopped 48 shots for Burnaby, including 23 in the third period.

BCJHL play resumes Thursday, when Revelstoke travels to Merritt in the Interior Division and Burnaby plays host to Richmond.



(Jeff Brandt Photo)

VOLLEYBALL

Les Stowe has one of his spikes blocked by a player on the opposing team during a season-opening game Tuesday night in Men's

Volleyball League at Seaton School. In the above photo, Mel's Sport Shop beat the Wasters in one of 14 games that took place.

JUDD'S JOURNAL

Enemark swimming with the big fish



There are, they tell me, two ways to learn how to swim.

The first method is the old tried and true sort where you start by getting your feet wet, then move on to floating, dog-paddling etc. and after a lengthy period of time spent in adjusting to the ordeal you finally know how to swim.

Then there's the sink-or-swim theory. Throw the man in water over his head and he either sinks or learns to swim.

For Mike Enemark, becoming a junior hockey coach has been the same as learning to swim through the sink-or-swim method.

So far the 21-year-old Enemark has not only learned to survive in the water but he's swimming with the big fish to boot.

Enemark's record so far is a not-so-ho-hum two for three which in anybody's books adds up to a .667 batting average. Maybe three games isn't much of an opportunity to assess a man's worth but if you take time to consider that one game was won at home and one game on the road it adds some extra depth to the feat.

There have been those who claim someone with as little coaching experience as Mike Enemark have no business doing what he is presently doing... namely, coaching Vernon Lakers.

On the other hand someone obviously thought Enemark couldn't play hockey either when he was cut from Penticton Knights last fall. Enemark promptly came to the Lakers where he



MIKE ENEMARK... sink or swim?

provided one half of the most well-rounded defensive duo in the entire league last season. Between himself and defensive partner Gavin Shuya, Lakers' power-play became one of the most potent in the BCJHL and certainly the best in the Interior Division.

Unfortunately, from a playing point of view, Enemark graduated from junior hockey ranks at the end of last season. Fortunately, the quiet young man decided he hadn't seen the last of the team at that point in time.

Following a deal early last summer, Lakers were sold to Enemark's father Carl along with partner Bud Russell and in the early hockey training season, the younger Enemark was appointed an assistant coach.

Since that time, though, Enemark has had to take over the reigns as head coach of the team. As is customary with the former all-star defenseman, he shrugged his shoulders and got at the business at hand.

When a coach is just a

half season past being a player it tends to create some waves, especially among junior hockey clubs where discipline is normally something that's talked about but seldom practiced.

However, since becoming head-honcho of the Lakers, the club has taken far fewer penalties than it had averaged in the three previous games with Chuck Tapp and they have made greater strides toward becoming the team they were at the close of last hockey season.

Although there are some areas of the team which have been strengthened since last season, there are others which are weaker than those of last year's team.

One of these particular areas is defence. Not that Lakers don't have the talent in this department, only that they haven't been able to put it to their good use as yet. In this respect, Enemark will soon be able to convince skeptics if he deserves the position he now occupies behind the bench.

If Enemark can tidy up his defensive forces into the tight unit that earned two shutouts in three games last season, and allowed just 13 goals against in eight games en route to taking over first place in February then he'd certainly earn his wings as a coach.

Then Lakers fans would know if Mike Enemark really deserves to be swimming in the same pond as other junior hockey coaches or if he's just a fish out of water.

Cougars make ready for weekend in Oliver

Vernon Cougars will have a chance to assess their worth this weekend as they travel to Oliver for a game with Powell River.

Despite losing a lot of regular players from his lineup, Cougars coach Gary Swanson has been able to fill a lot of empty spaces with available players from Oliver Bighorns who are no longer playing as a team.

Swanson will make good use of the Oliver line of Doug Beness, Randy Conolly and Brent Fiest and will also get additional mileage from Bighorn's goaltender Pat Murphy and defenceman Blair Chapman.

Locally, Cougars will rely heavily on veteran



TERRY LOWE... up front



DAVE SCHNEIDER... anchors defence

Terry Lowe to take up the slack left by the absence of Dave Caldwell. However, defensively, a few regulars are still in the lineup including Gary Chriss and Dave Schneider on Defence, along with Charlie Briskham in goal.

A welcome addition this season is the presence of blueliner Glen Fester who saw action with Binghamton Whalers of the AHL last season.

However, Swanson still isn't certain about the remainder of his lineup as few have made the commitment for the weekend as yet.

"We'll only be taking the heart of our club so we'll be short-handed,"