



Penticton Knights' defenceman Kirk Phare leans heavily into his cross-check to try and remove Vernon Lakers' forward Greg Kowal out from in front of Knights' goal during a Lakers

power-play situation Tuesday night at Civic Arena. Lakers led three times during the exciting contest but bowed 7-6 to Knights in the end. Lakers' tying goal with

90 seconds remaining was disallowed while Penticton won with a short-handed effort. The win stretches Knights' streak to 10 without a loss. (Daily News Photo)

JUDD'S JOURNAL

Give kids a chance to prove ability



The best commercial I've seen in a long time doesn't endorse the makers' product in my mind quite so much as it drives home a message I'd like to re-direct towards minor sports personnel and parents in this city and everywhere for that matter.

It's quite possible some folks haven't seen this particular one yet... maybe gone to the fridge for a cold one or something along that line but for those who have I'll refresh the sequence for you.

YOUNGSTER LEFT
A large group of kids are planning an outdoor shinny game or hockey game if you will. There's one youngster left over that neither team wants and in the end he's simply stuck on the side his brother is choosing.

The look on the youngsters face, while being enough to well up a sizable lump in anyone's throat, is one most of us have seen at one time or another. The poor kid is feeling neglected and hurt by the very group he wants only to enjoy playing with.

At this point the youngsters' older brother takes it upon himself to befriend his younger family member.

What the sponsor will have us believe, though, is that the right choice of equipment will make all the difference and, in the end of the commercial, our same youngster, years

down the road, is starring in the game.

If we disregard the company's obvious bid to make sure the kid has the right equipment before anything else you can see what I'm getting at: Giving a youngster the confidence he needs and simply allowing him to develop at his own pace would have made a far better message at the heart of this commercial. Nevertheless it does provide the basic message.

Let's apply the message to the real world.

We all know that kids enjoy participating in minor sports for a variety of reasons but the basic reason is that they enjoy it and want to have fun.

However, kids will soon part company with organized sports when the fun starts to decline. A few remain to become elite athletes chosen for their skills through a continual process of screening that begins at an earlier and earlier age as the years go by.

"ALL-STAR"
A system is formed by adults basically to serve their own need and promote consistent performance... which is fine. "All-star" teams link community image with team success though, and often divert large portions of the organizations' resources to serve a small number of the overall group.

Since funds are funneled into these small groups, ie. rep teams, and since they usually include spon-

sorships of some form, additional pressure is exerted to produce a winning rep team.

Kids are singled out at an early age because of their above average ability at the sport and usually progress from one rep team to another through the various age categories.

SCREENED OUT
Late maturing athletes however, are usually screened out before they have a chance to realize their own capabilities.

Often the remaining youngsters are simply shuffled into house leagues where they are afforded few of the opportunities of development that their slightly more "talented" friends have at their disposal.

Maybe some of the kids could end up like the youngster in the commercial and perhaps none of them ever will but there's no reason why the ending can't be every bit as happy as the commercial.

Sport organizations, such as minor sport, should realize they have to serve the kids who want to play for fun as much as they serve the elite athletes of the community.

APPRECIATE
We all appreciate the coaches and personnel who serve the rep team systems because they generally put in a great deal more time than the coach who serves the house leagues.

However, the realization that the above

average stars cannot be developed at the expense of the below average player is something we should all strive to achieve.

DISALLOWED GOAL

Knights extend win streak as Lakers suffer frustrations

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports
Penticton Knights skated off the ice at Civic Arena with their unbeaten streak stretched to 10 games thanks to a 7-6 victory over hometown Vernon Lakers Tuesday night.

Having the tying goal disallowed in the final 90 seconds was irritating enough but having the winner scored on a short-handed play was doubly frustrating for Lakers' coach Mike Enemark.

"It was a tough way to lose... on a short-handed goal," said Enemark. "It was a discretionary call and we got burned again," he added, in reference to the disallowed goal.

FRUSTRATING
"It's frustrating... I'm not taking anything away from Penticton, they played well. I just don't think they've got the team that we do," Enemark said.

Meanwhile, Knights' coach Rick Kozubuck, happy to have maintained his team's lofty position for a while longer, reflected on Enemark's frustration.

"Sure we're lucky to win," said Kozubuck. "But teams shouldn't come into your arena and win close games."

However, Kozubuck did praise the Lakers highly for their style of play and their potential.

"I'll bet they'll give us a lot of trouble... maybe it'll be us giving them the trouble," he said.

Lakers jumped to a 2-0 lead early in the first period when defenceman Tony Christie picked off a clearing pass and put a hard shot from the point

past Penticton goaltender Mike Jeffery.

Glen Kirk scored the second goal on a three-on-one situation led by Greg Kowal. Kowal led Kirk on his wing and the first-year winger easily found the corner of the net.

Three consecutive goals by Penticton gave them a 3-2 edge before the period ended.

The first came from journeyman Brett Hull at 16:37 with a booming shot along the ice while the second, just over a minute later, gave Aaron Scott his first of two for the night.

POWER-PLAY
Defenceman Mike DeAngelis scored on a power-play situation to close out the first period.

Shawn Oswald beat Lakers' defenceman Gavin Shuya who was sitting out an interference call.

Lakers opened the scoring in the second frame to pull on even terms once again. The local club outscored Knights 3-1 in that period to earn a 5-4 lead after 40 minutes.

Rookie defenceman Chris Saunders scored at 5:40 when his quick release from the point caught Jeffery off guard.

Ian Kidd put Knights ahead once again on another Penticton power-play when his shot from the slot left Oswald with no chance.

BACK-TO-BACK
Lakers' ace point-man Shuya put the club on even terms and gave them the lead on back-to-back man advantage situations to end the period.

At 13:46 Shuya's

patented drive from the top of the circle tied the game while another of his bullet-like drives found it's mark even after Jeffery had gotten a piece of it.

Lakers stretched their lead to 6-4 early in the third when the Penticton goaltender accidentally kicked the puck into his own net after making the initial save off Kirk's shot. Kirk was awarded the goal.

WENT TO WORK
From that point, Penticton went right to work. Kidd notched his second of the game at 1:25 with a vicious slapshot from the point, then Ken McGilvray tied the game once again at 7:49.

Scott put the visitors ahead for good at 16:10 when he undressed a Lakers' defender and drove a blistering shot along the ice into the long side of Oswald's net.

Lakers had numerous occasions to salt the game away throughout the contest but missed at least four open net situations.

"It was a tough one to lose," Enemark said. "There's no way we should have lost it."

Lakers have fallen dangerously close to the 500 mark with their recent loss, having won just two games in their last five starts. However, the local club is still maintaining second spot with a record of seven wins and five losses.

In other BCJHL action Tuesday night, Abbotsford Flyers beat visiting Nanaimo Clippers 7-5 and Langley Eagles outscored Richmond Sockeyes 6-4.

In Abbotsford, Mike Bulka and Doug McFaul each scored twice to pace the Flyers.

Singles for the winners came from Mike Shannon, Ken Prentice and Tony Carter.

Ken Priestly scored twice for the Clippers, while singles went to Nick Foglietta, Al Johnston and

Brian Deleew. In Richmond, Neil Reimer scored two goals to lead Langley, while Pat Barnes, Darrell Baskerville, Oscar Pozzola and Don Cumisky added single for the winners.

Richmond got three goals from Bill Adams and a single from Brooke Odenvald.

Vernon
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sports

Editor - DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

Club 29/29 doubles Lakers

Vernon Club 29/29 doubled Lakers 6-3 Tuesday night in Winfield Men's Commercial Hockey League action. George Faragher, Jed Sparrow, Wayne Bodnaruk, Gary Oberle, Kevin Balfour and Willie Madnaruk scored singles for the winners while Bill Abougoush, Mike O'Neil, and Jamie Jones replied for Lakers who trailed 2-1 and 6-1 by period scores.

PVHL action

Kinsmen Canadians came from behind a 4-2 deficit to beat Vernon Lodge Mounties 5-4 Tuesday night in Pleasant Valley Hockey League action at Civic arena. Keith Gales led Canadian's attack with a pair of goals while Terry Balfour, Dennis Beaton, and Steve Ferris had singles for the winners. Irv Miller, Paul Watters, Ken Weiberg and Gord Gavin replied for Mounties.

Riggins out

WASHINGTON (AP) - Washington Redskins announced Tuesday that running back John Riggins is in traction in hospital suffering from a nerve injury to the lower back.

Panthers' opportunity dashed as Penticton defence comes good

Vernon Panthers boy's volleyball squad had a golden opportunity to secure a hold on first place in their North Okanagan high school division Tuesday night at VSS gymnasium.

What they didn't count on was an incredibly tough defensive game from Penticton Lakers that enabled the visitors to come from behind in two games and sweep the match 16-14, 15-8 from Panthers.

"That's the best Penticton has played," said Panthers' coach Dennis Murdoch. "Their defence was picking up everything."

LONG SERVES
However, even Lakers excellent defence couldn't mask some offensive problems Panthers were experiencing... particularly with their serving.

"Long servicing is something you don't expect to do in your own court," said Murdoch. "It indicates to me that we haven't spent enough practice time lately on our serving."

Panthers redeemed themselves in their second outing of the evening, routing Rutland Voodoos 15-3, 15-4.

OTHER ACTION
In other high school volleyball action

at the Panther-Pit Tuesday night, Penticton defeated both North Kamloops and Salmon Arm by the same 16-14, 15-8 scores they defeated Panthers by.

A fourth match, Lakers blow away Salmon Arm 15-4, 15-3.

Meanwhile, Salmon Arm also defeated Rutland by scores of 12-15, 15-1, 15-13 while NorKam downed Rutland 15-7, 15-3, and defeated the same Voodoos 11-15, 15-4, 15-5.

Lakers take over sole possession of first place with a record of nine and one while Panthers remain in second with a five and two tally. Salmon Arm and NorKam are tied for third spot with three and five and three and two records, respectively.

FAULTS
Rutland Voodoos are in dead last with no wins in 10 matches.

Murdoch had already assessed his team's basic faults by the time Panthers' match with Penticton had ended.

"Essentially we're an offensive team and we were thinking too much offense and not enough defence in a tough situation," said Murdoch. "Part of that comes from a need to play more

competitive teams such as Penticton. Of course, more practice helps too."

"I'm certainly not disappointed with our play or any one of the players," added Murdoch. "That was good calibre ball out there."

GRADUATION
Panthers didn't lose too many of their star players to graduation last spring with about one exception. Larry Olson played a fairly vital role in the middle blocking position and has been a tough man to replace this season.

"Our middle blocking position has been a difficult spot to fill," Murdoch said. "I'm working with three rookies at present."

"Overall, though Murdoch doesn't feel his team is that much different from any other he's coached."

"I wouldn't say we're hurting," he said. "We've lost Olson as far as our power is concerned but we have a more even spread of power now."

WAYS TO GO
The loss to Penticton, however, indicates just how far Panthers have to go this season if they hope to make it to the provincial round.

"We've got our work cut out for us," said Murdoch. "We'll have to pour on the coal just to get out of the Valley. It'll probably be decided between Penticton and ourselves."