

Lakers stretch winning streak

Vernon Lakers have woven a streak of consistency into their play of late. Their most recent victory was a 6-4 win over the hometown Summerland Buckaroos, Saturday night.

With the win, Lakers' fourth in a row and their longest winning streak of the season, the local club took a lot of pressure off itself. Lakers now lead third-place Buckaroos by four points for second place but Buckaroos have two games in hand on the Vernon squad.

"If they want to tie us now they have to win their next two games," said Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark. "They have a home-and-home series with Penticton this weekend so it puts a lot of pressure on them."

CONSISTENCY

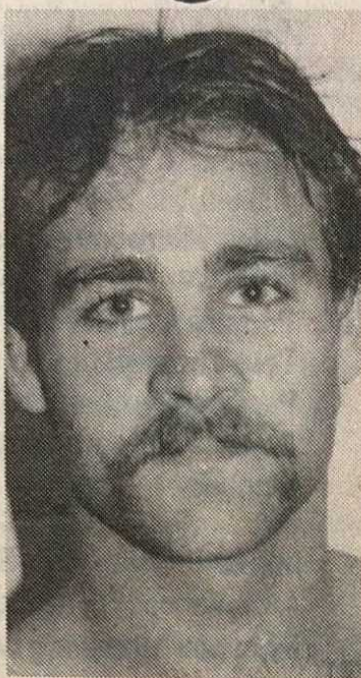
With their recent winning streak, Vernon now sports a record of 11 wins and five losses with three of their last four wins coming on the road ... another testament to Lakers' growing consistency.

"We played better over a whole 60 minutes," Enemark said of Saturday's game. "Everyone did their job very well."

Vernon got a two-goal performance from captain Bob Wensley while brother Dave Wensley contributed a goal and three assists and continues to lead the team in individual scoring.

Glen Kirk, Gavin Shuya and Ken MacKenzie also scored for the Lakers who broke open a 3-3 first period deadlock with three unanswered tallies in the second frame while holding the Bucks' offense to a single goal in the third.

"We outplayed them in the first two periods and had the advantage on the power-plays," Enemark said. "With that big ice surface we controlled the power-play well."



BOB WENSLEY
... two goals

Four of Lakers' goals came on man-advantage situations giving the local club the best record in the league in that department.

Kelly Evin scored twice to leads Bucks while Greg Cyr and Marcel Raby had singles.

The pair of weekend victories over Summerland

wasn't without its casualties.

Bob Wensley will likely sit out a game or two because of a jammed thumb he suffered, Saturday. The digit may possibly be fractured, but nothing definite is known at this point.

Goaltender Jim Young had to be replaced in the second period when he had his hand stepped on. Young is expected to be ready for Lakers' next game because the injury was not too serious.

A third player, Scott Young, injured his elbow Friday night at Civic Arena and didn't play in Saturday's encounter. However, the speedy winger will dress for Lakers' game against Penticton Knights, Tuesday.

Summerland buried Merritt Centennials 9-1 in Merritt Sunday.

On Saturday Shuswap beat Revelstoke 10-4 and Abbotsford dumped Cowichan 8-5.



GARY GILCHRIST
... scored four

Cougars rally for tie

Veteran winger Gary Gilchrist's fourth goal of the game, at 19:33 of the third period, lifted Vernon Cougars to an 8-8 draw with visiting Cariboo College, Sunday afternoon, at Civic Arena.

Saturday night, Cougars handed the speedy college team a 5-1 defeat on the strength of centre Terry Lowe's three goals and an outstanding goaltending performance by Charlie Briskham.

Cougars trailed the high-flying Cariboo College crew by an 8-4 margin with just five minutes remaining in the game, Sunday.

"A tie's as good as a win when you're down four goals that late in a game," said Cougars' Coach Gary Swanson.

Lowe also had a single in Sunday's game while the Oliver connection of Randy Conley, Brent Feist and Doug Bennest each contributed one goal each.

Oliver's Pat Murphy was in goal for Cougars, Sunday.

Saturday night, King Cam and Dave Schneider scored singles for Cougars who are undefeated in their last four outings.

Wildcats edge Okanagan Sun

EDMONTON (CP) — Edmonton Wildcats dipped into their seemingly bottomless bag of miracles to win the Western Canada junior football championship Sunday, beating Okanagan Sun 29-28 with a last-minute play coach Dalton Smarsh can't believe worked and Greg Kratzer can't remember.

A three-yard converted touchdown plunge by Allen Hayes with 16 seconds remaining was the margin of victory. It came after the Sun had gone ahead 28-22 with two minutes remaining on a 78-yard punt return by Brian Soucie.

The Okanagan cheering section among a crowd of 2,703 at Clarke Stadium broke into a spirited rendition of Sha-na-na Hey Hey Goodbye. But the Wildcats weren't ready to concede.

They took control on their own 20-yard line and worked the ball to midfield with 39 seconds left. Quarterback Mark Denesiuk then threw what appeared to be a harmless hitch pass to Kratzer, who stopped and fired the ball 50 yards downfield to an uncovered Myron Samycia on the Sun nine-yard line.

Three players later Hayes crashed into the Sun end zone.