

Knights continue domination

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
Vernon Lakers' hopes for first place in the BC-JHL Interior Division fizzled Friday night along with their opportunity to beat Penticton Knights for the first time this season. Knights scored four power-play goals in the second period en route to an easy 7-3 victory over Lakers.

The win solidified Penticton's hold on first place giving them a four-point margin over second place Vernon with two games in hand on the local squad. In four meetings this season Penticton has dominated the Vernon team, winning all four matches. It's a dismal record that doesn't sit too well with Vernon coach Mike Enemark.

"It was very discouraging," said Enemark. "We just have to go back to the drawing board and learn how to play our basic game all over." Knights had some help from the officials in posting their win over Vernon. During the second period alone, Penticton enjoyed 14 minutes of hockey with a man advantage including nine consecutive minutes at the end of the period when Lakers' Alan Young was

goated into dropping his gloves while Penticton's Tony Savarin covered up instead. "It's kind of hard to beat a team like that when you're short-handed all the time," Enemark said. "Sure, he (referee) evened it up at the end but the game was long over by then." However, Enemark didn't shoulder all his

blame on one-sided officiating. "You have to be able to rise above that (refereeing) and we didn't," Enemark added. "I thought we were trying to be too fancy... when we got our chances we were trying to make it look too good." One exception to Enemark's observation was captain Bob Wensley who scored twice for Lakers. Rob Kossan notched the third Vernon Marker.

Knights took a 2-0 first period lead on a pair of controversial goals. The first, at 4:46, was doubly so. Knights' Rod Poindexter broke into the clear but Lakers' defenceman Dan Baker caught him and brought him down before he had a chance to shoot. Both skaters slid into Vernon goaltender Jim Young and the goal-judge insisted the puck crossed the crease though it was no where in the vicinity after the play was sorted out.

Knights' second tally came at 17:58. Again the Penticton goal-judge insisted the puck crossed the line after Young had put his glove over it. Though Young covered up there was no referee's whistle until the light came on to indicate a goal.

Lakers protested both goals to no avail. Knights increased their lead to 3-0 with a power-play tally which opened the second period at the 22 second mark. Brett Hull rifled in a centring pass from the slot.

Wensley scored his first of the night at 5:46 to pull Vernon within two goals. Wensley's shot was a lightening-like wrist-shot from the slot, set up by Dave Wensley and Gavin Shuya.

Knights countered with three straight power-play goals to put the game away. Ian Kidd, Mark Verigin and Mike Barzal scored in order to give Penticton a 6-1 lead.

Wensley closed out the period's scoring with his second, a deflection off Shuya's shot from the top of the circle.

Hull notched his second of the game at 8:40 of the third period to put the icing on the cake while Lakers' Kossan closed the scoring with his goal during a man-advantage situation at 14:01.

Despite another night of frustration Enemark doesn't want to give up hope of beating Penticton.

"It's a long season," he said. "We still play these guys eight more times and we'll win our share. Once it starts to come it'll come... just like Summerland."

Lakers are in action again Sunday night when they travel to Revelstoke to take on Murray Lawrence and his Rangers.



Lakers' Bruce major, right, exchanges a few words with Penticton's Rod Poindexter (16) as a linesman tries to step

between the two during action in Penticton Friday night. Knights posted their fourth consecutive win over Vernon

on the strength of a 7-3 victory over the local crew.

(Daily News Photo)

ON TO PROVINCIALS

Okanagan Valley title goes to Panthers again

Vernon Panthers successfully defended their Okanagan Valley boys high school volleyball title Friday night as they swept first place at the Valley championship at VSS gym.

It's the second consecutive year Panthers have been the Okanagan Valley champions. The Vernon high school squad will head a three-team contingent from the Valley into the

petition that will be present at the provincial playoff round.

"We're going to go hard at it between now and the provincial meet to try and improve some more," said Murdoch.

Under Murdoch's watchful eye, Panthers accelerated their defensive game to match their already prolific offensive powers. The results were obvious Friday night

Kaufman and Chris Bennett were as strong as ever."

Another outstanding individual on the Panthers' roster was 6'6" high school sophomore Brian Kruger who showed great promise by coming through big in his substitution role and assisted with blocking in the crucial part of Panthers' final game with Lakers.