

Lakers blank Bucks

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

Goaltender Ron Boyd made an impressive home debut for Vernon Lakers, Tuesday night, at the Civic Arena.

Boyd, recently acquired from Richmond Sockeyes of the BCJHL Coastal Division, was brilliant in blocking 25 shots to give lakers their first shutout of the season and a 5-0 victory over Summerland Buckaroos.

The win, Vernon's first in their last three starts, leaves the local club just two points out of first place and a comfortable eight points ahead of third place Buckaroos.

In producing Lakers first shutout, Boyd also passed a personal milestone.

"It was a long time coming," said the silky-smooth netminder. "It's my first (shutout) in junior hockey... I had a lot of support."

Equally as excited was Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark. For the youthful mentor it was also his first shutout as a junior coach and he knew just where to shoulder the appreciation.

GREAT START

"He (Boyd) is off to a great start," offered Enemark. "He handled the puck well and controlled the game from his position... he didn't beat himself, they had to beat him."

However, Enemark's admiration didn't end with his goaltending. "That was our best game of the season," he said. "We played well and kept the pressure on for 60 minutes. Any mistakes we did make we covered up quickly and what we didn't Ron (Boyd) was there to stop."

Five different players shared in Lakers' scoring, providing a well-balanced attack to complement a flawless defensive game.

However, the offensive standouts were a pair of unsung sophomores, Nick Kapicki and Greg Kowal.

Kapicki scored once and set up two others and his performance only slightly overshadowed that of Kowal who notched the winning goal of the game just 55 seconds into the contest.

Kapicki fought hard to gain possession of the puck in Bucks' zone then centered to Kowal in the slot who swept it in with one motion.



VERNON LAKERS' Gord Simpson, above, is forced off the puck by Summerland's Greg Barber behind the

Buckaroos' net, at the Vernon Civic Arena, Tuesday night. Lakers received a flawless goaltending performance

from newcomer Ron Boyd as they blanked Bucks 5-0 to earn their first shutout of the season. (Daily News Photo)

Kowal also assisted on Kapicki's marker in the third period and spent the time in between patrolling his wing and dishing out bodychecks.

"Kapicki and Kowal moved the puck and passed with great speed and that's why they were getting in the open so much," said Enemark.

FIRST GOAL

Kowal's first period tally stood through the first 40 minutes of the game before Lakers' exploded with an offensive flurry in the final frame.

All-star defenceman Gavin Shuya put the second goal on the scoreboard at 1:26, of the third period. Kapicki's hard work gave him the puck in the Summerland zone and he set up Shuya in front of Bucks' netminder Mark Taylor.

Less than a minute later, league scoring leader Dave Wensley gave Lakers a 3-0 lead when he rifled in a wrist shot from the slot.

At 4:30, Kapicki notched

his goal when he streaked in to convert Kowal's centering pass.

Veteran Scott Young, wearing the captaincy in Bob Wensley's absence, finished off the evening's scoring with a display of what experience in junior hockey is all about.

Plucking a shoulder-high pass out of the air from winger Rob Kossan, Young knocked the puck to the ice and put it in the

top corner in one brief motion.

41 SHOTS

Lakers managed 41 shots against Taylor and took nine of just 16 minor penalties handed out in the cleanly-fought contest.

In other BCJHL action, a pair of Coastal Division games saw Nanaimo Clippers trounce Cowichan Capitals 9-3 in a brawl-marred contest while Richmond Sockeyes edged

visiting Langley Eagles 5-4, in overtime.

In league action tonight, Shuswap Totems travel to Revelstoke while Richmond is at Burnaby on the Coast.

Lakers' next action is in Summerland, Friday night, for a rematch with the Bucks. Their next home game is Saturday when Revelstoke Rockets make an appearance at Civic Arena.

Young Frazier meets a seasoned champion

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Eddie Futch, who worked in Joe Frazier's corner for most of his fights from 1966 through 1976, thinks the former heavyweight champion might be pushing his son too fast in matching him with Larry Holmes.

"If I had my way, I'd prefer to wait another year," Futch, who now

there's no way I can lose," said Frazier, who is a 4½-1 underdog for the fight.

The fight, set to start at 10 p.m. EST, was originally scheduled for a 15,200-seat outdoor arena, but was moved indoors Tuesday because of the forecasts of freezing temperatures and strong winds.

CHAMP'S ANGRY

words, though Holmes can lose the championship, Frazier cannot win it.

Holmes has said that if Frazier should beat him, he would consider him champion.

Holmes' fight against Marvis Frazier comes almost 10 years after Futch used Holmes as a sparring partner to prepare Joe Frazier for his second fight against