

Lakers defeat Summerland

Third-year veteran Rob Kossan has been a very steady performer for Vernon Lakers this season providing the local club with some necessary scoring punch when they've most needed it.

Friday night, in Summerland, Kossan scored at 3:39 of sudden-death overtime to give Lakers a 4-3 victory over the hometown Buckaroos.

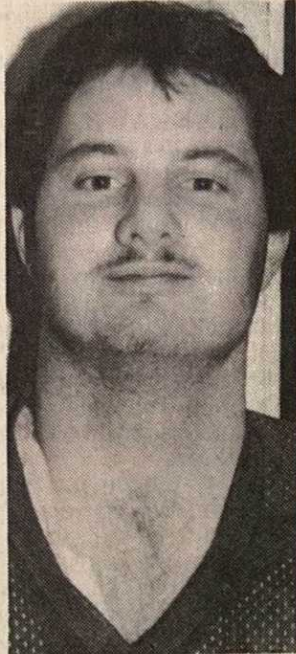
The win leaves Lakers two points behind Penticton Knights in the battle for supremacy in the BC-JHL Interior Division.

"Rob's been playing really well this season," said Lakers' coach Mike Enemark. "He's more aggressive and he's got more confidence... he's more consistent all around."

Kossan tipped in Gavin Shuya's shot from the



ROB KOSSAN
... overtime goal



JIM YOUNG
... top goaltending

point during a rare power-play situation in overtime. Enemark gambled on an illegal stick call against Summerland's Brent Harrison and the ploy paid off with Lakers' 17th victory of the season.

The overtime goal and the victory capped a late rally for the Lakers who trailed 3-2 in the third period after taking an early 2-0 lead in the first period.

"We let them back in the game in the second period with a couple of quick goals," said Enemark.

From the time Bucks got back into the game until the final whistle sounded to end regulation time, Lakers were chasing the high-flying Summerland crew.

"Our goaltending won it for us because we were

outplayed," offered Enemark.

Jim Young was outstanding in net for Lakers, making 44 saves while Summerland's Mark Taylor was called on to make just 29.

"Jimmy (Young) was the star of the game, no doubt about it," said Enemark. "Anytime you get outplayed and outshot like that it's your goaltender that makes the difference."

Buckaroos got goals from Jim Perrich, Greg Barber and Greg Cyr while Lakers had first period tallies from Nick Kapicki and Bruce Major.

Lakers' chief blueliner Shuya accounted for the tying goal late in the third period to send the game into extra time.

Dave Wensely, Scott Young and Kossan were forechecking hard in Bucks' zone and when they managed to dig up the puck and centre it, Shuya was waiting to bang it in.

Elsewhere in the BC-JHL Friday night, Penticton Knights scored five goals in the first period but barely hung on to defeat Merritt Centennials 7-5. On the coast, last-place Cowichan Valley Capitals upset first-place Langley Eagles 7-2.

It was Eagles third loss in 19 games this season.

In Penticton, Knights got goals from Aaron Scott, Ken McGillvray, Rod Poindexter, Ed Cristofoli, Rob Cederberg, Todd Brost and Murray Winnicki while Kevin Rabbitt, Brent Demerais, Randy Koyanagi, Rod Olver and Shane Carlson replied for Merritt.

Lakers are on the road again tonight, squaring off against Revelstoke Rangers.

A win by Lakers would give them a share of first place on a temporary basis.



BMX RACE PLANNED

Village Green Mall will be hosting a BMX race during the 24th annual Vernon Winter Carnival, Feb. 11. Getting in some

early practice in snow on Silver Star Mountain are from left: Cory Banks, Shane Sperling, Mar-nie Sperling, Craig

Sperling, and Joss Murray. The race will be sanctioned and racers from throughout the B.C.

Interior are expected to participate. Organizers hope to make the race an annual event.

BEST OF NINE

Sugar Ray Robinson won the world middleweight boxing championship five times and lost it four times.