

## **PENTICTON HOLDS SLIM EDGE**

# **Knights and Lakers remain close**

Vernon Lakers bussed home from Revelstoke, Saturday, with two points and a share of first place in the BCJHL Interior Division.

Lakers grabbed a piece of first place when Shuswap Totems handed Penticton Knights their fifth loss of the season, while Lakers bombed Revelstoke Rangers 9-5.

However, Vernon's glory days lasted only 24 hours as the Knights regained their top position with a 13-3 decision over lowly Merritt Centennials, Sunday night.

Shuswap and Revelstoke remain in a tie for fourth spot as the Rangers downed Totems 6-5, Sunday. And, Summerland Buckaroos stayed two points ahead of the afore-mentioned pair with an easy 12-2 victory over hapless Merritt, Saturday night.

Lakers' victory was never in doubt as far as Coach Mike Enemark is concerned.

"We won all three periods," said

Enemark. "Our guys put out 110 per cent."

Lakers were reduced to just 15 skaters for Saturday's game as Dan Baker left for Prince Albert Raiders' affiliate in Fort McMurray and captain Bob Wensley remained on the disabled list with an injury to his hand.

Despite the victory, Enemark wasn't happy with the defensive effort of his charges.

"It was one of our weaker defensive games," he said. "It was out of reach for them after two periods though."

Lakers led 3-2 after 20 minutes, but stretched their lead to 6-3 after two periods before adding three unanswered insurance markers in the final frame.

The local club had gone 110 minutes on ice without giving up a goal before Rangers broke the spell at the half-way mark of the first period, Saturday. Lakers had played five consecutive periods of shut-out hockey against Summerland going into Saturday's game.

Rob Kossan turned in a three-goal performance and continues to provide constant scoring touch for Lakers. Meanwhile Ron Berezowski and Kevin Kolbalka scored once each and added three assists for four point outings.

Other goals came from Bruce Major, Scott Young, Nick Kapicki, and Ken MacKenzie.

Meanwhile, Lakers' leading scorer Dave Wensley didn't manage a goal but contributed three assists to the evening's tally.

In Enderby, Saturday night, Totems' goaltender Ralph Bechtold had an outstanding game in net as Shuswap defeated Penticton.

Albert Anthony, Rick Munro, Paul Tory, and Theo Van Gerwen each scored once for the winners while Murray Winnicki and Mike Barzal replied for Penticton who trailed 3-1 and 3-2 by periods.

Although Totems have posted three wins over Penticton this season, Lakers have no fear of being upended by the

Shuswap crew, according to Enemark.

"The big thing with Shuswap is that they don't intimidate us," said Enemark. "They're a big club and they use their size but they can't intimidate us the way they do against Penticton."

In other games Saturday night, Langley Eagles edged nanaimo Clippers 6-5 in overtime, and Richmond Sockeyes downed Abbotsford Flyers 8-3.

Sunday night, in Merritt, Brett Hull scored three times and Ian Kidd, Mike Barzal, Todd Breust and Jim Concau each scored twice. It was the first loss in front of hometown fans for Interim coach Neil Robinson, who is replacing Enio Sacilotto, who was fired as coach of Centennials, Thursday.

Lakers are idle until Friday when they have a return engagement with Revelstoke Rangers, at Civic Arena. Sunday night, Lakers will entertain Penticton in a battle for first place.

Knights will have their work cut out in the two week period prior to Christmas, with 10 games in 13 days.