

PENTICTON 4, VERNON 3

Lakers' comeback falls short



By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers fell short of an heroic third period comeback Tuesday night as they came up on the short end of a 4-3 score in Pentiction.

The loss, Lakers' first in 10 games, leaves them just two points ahead of Knights in the seesaw battle for first place in the BCJHL Interior Division. However, Pentiction has three games in hand on the local junior hockey squad.

Feeling the effects of playing five games in six nights, Lakers fell to a 4-0 deficit and didn't on the scoreboard until 9:21 of the third stanza when defenceman Gavin Shuya's shot from the point got by Pentiction's Mike Jeffrey during a powerplay opportunity.

Despite the frustration of not winning a game on Knights' home ice yet this season, Lakers' coach Mike Enemark isn't worried about two points.

LONG SEASON

"It's a long season yet and they (Knights) might have won the battle but the war's not over yet," said Enemark.

Knights actually weren't prepared for a sudden burst of energy released Vernon so late in the game and it was only some outstanding goaltending on Jeffrey's behalf that preserved the victory for the hometown squad.

Following Shuya's marker, Nick Kapicki drew the local club to within two goals when he scored a minute and a half later.

Kapicki picked up a breaking pass from Ken MacKenzie and put a hard shot along the ice between the pads of the Pentiction goaltender.

Glen Kirk made it a one-goal game at the 14:52 mark when he scooped in a loose puck from the side of the Pentiction net where he found himself all alone.

Despite a concentrated and prolonged attack, Lakers couldn't manage the tying goal.

Frustration played a major part of the game for both clubs. Seven Lakers and six Knights took an early shower due to a series of altercations.

HULL SCORES

League scoring leader Brett Hull notched his 44th and 45th goals of the season at Vernon's expense, the first on a powerplay at 10:43 of the opening frame while the second came at 15:29 of the second period.

Aaron Scott and Rod Poindexter rounded out the Pentiction scoring.

Jim Young faced 37 shots in the Vernon nets while Lakers managed an identical 37 drives on Jeffrey. Both goaltenders were outstanding on many of the point blank shots coming their way.

"We really needed that one but I think we showed a lot of class and pride coming back the way we did," Enemark said.

LINE BRAWL

Meanwhile, Vernon may suffer the loss of a few players following a line brawl with just 16 seconds remaining. Captain Bob Wensley received a match penalty when he roughed up a linesman who was preventing him from going to the aid of a teammate in a compromising situation and his status is unknown.

Kapicki gave Rod Poindexter a lesson in fisticuffs at the game's conclusion and may also face a match penalty, which usually carries a three-game suspension.

In a Coastal Division match, Abbotsford Flyers came from behind to defeat Richmond Sockeyes 8-7.

VERNON LAKERS'
defencemen Glen Kirk, left, and Tony Christie converge on the puck during BCJHL action Tuesday, in Pentiction. The hometown Knights built a 4-0 lead and hung on to edge Lakers 4-3. The victory moved Pentiction to within two points of first place Vernon. Lakers' final game before Christmas will be Friday, at home, against Shuswap Totems.
(Daily News Photo)

Vernon soccer team rejoins Okanagan loop

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

Vernon will have an entry in the Okanagan Valley Soccer League during the 1984 season.

Vernon withdrew from the valley loop after the 1982 season due to a lack of players and executive. Prior to the formation of the Vernon City League, in 1979, this city had four entries in the OVSL.

GM NAMED

Marty Stein, who coached Vernon Panthers High School Team this year, will act as general manager and also play with the newly-formed valley squad.

Stein told the Daily News the team had no trouble gaining re-entry into the league. "They contacted us," Stein said. "The OVSL wanted Vernon back."

Other teams in the loop are from Kelowna (3), Pentiction (2), and Kamloops.

Stein said he doesn't expect any trouble fielding a competitive side.

25 PLAYERS

"More than 25 players have already expressed interest," he said. "I'm sure we'll have a good club."

In addition to the top players from the city loop, Stein hopes to have Kelly Schley and Chris Reeves, who played with Kelowna Kickers last season, in the line-up. Schley and Reeves, who live in Vernon, were named to the league's second all-star team.

The rookie general manager is facing some problems. "We need a coach and sponsor," Stein said. "It is imperative that we have an experienced coach. And we'll need a sponsor to help cover expenses. We won't be too bad off... we've still got our uniforms from last year."

Anyone interested in coaching, or playing, is asked to phone Stein at 542-1991.

JUDD'S JOURNAL