

BEAT SHUSWAP 4-3

Lakers remain on top



Vernon Lakers' Scott Young, acting captain in Bob Wensley's absence, moves across the blue line in a one-on-two situation during action

at Civic Arena Friday night. Lakers jumped to a 4-1 lead in the second period but had to fend off a fierce attack to earn

a 4-3 victory over Shuswap Totems. The win keeps Lakers in first place by two points.

(Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers kept their strangle hold on first place in the BCJHL Interior Division ... and their domination over Shuswap Totems intact as they edged the visiting Salmon Arm team 4-3 at Civic Arena Friday night.

Lakers jumped to a 4-1 lead just one minute and nine seconds into the second period but Totems roared back with two goals of their own before the period ended to pull within a goal. A scoreless third period decided the winner.

Lakers' coach Mike Enemark had mixed thoughts about the way his players pursued the game.

"We were fooling around trying to make the plays look pretty instead of sticking to basics," said Enemark. "It wasn't one of our better games but we deserved the win ... a first place team wins the close ones at home."

First place is only a hair's breadth from slipping away though as Penticton Knights who earned a 4-3 win over Summerland Buckaroos in overtime in Penticton.

Lakers held a wide margin in shooting throughout the contest outshooting the visitors 56-29 but in many cases making Totems' goaltender Glen Ferguson look good by firing directly into his pads.

Lakers led 2-1 after 20 minutes and scored twice in the first minute and nine seconds of the second frame but hadn't counted on Totems putting up such a struggle after that point.

"Both teams played hard," said Enemark. "We let up when we thought we had it won and it almost cost us."

Totems opened the scoring just 34 seconds into the game when Rick Munro scored his first of two for the night. Munro capitalized on some sloppy defensive work around Lakers' goalmouth and banged in a loose puck after several attempts.

Allan Young put Vernon on the scoreboard at 2:40 when he rifled in a wrist-shot from the slot on a three-way passing play from Bruce Major and Kevin Kolbelka. Major did the hard work behind the net centered to Kolbelka who redirected the puck into the slot where Young was poised for the shot.

Gavin Shuya's power-play tally at 4:31 put Lakers ahead for good. Shuya moved into the slot area and picked an open corner with his powerful wrist-shot.

Dave Wensley put Lakers in front by two just 34 seconds into the second frame as he sniped the top glove-hand corner with his wrist-shot.

Defenceman Ken MacKenzie gave Vernon a three-goal cushion at 1:09 when he moved in to take a clear shot from the slot and picked the same top corner as Wensley.

A Power-play tally by Shuswap at 14:04 pulled them to within two goals while their third goal came just a minute and a half later to close the gap to 4-3.

Albert Anthony notched Totems' second goal while Munro, with his second, scored the third.

