

Lakers take advantage of age and experience

Having a hockey club comprised of mostly older players really paid dividends for Vernon Lakers, Wednesday, as they downed Summerland Buckaroos 5-2 in Summerland.

"Our age showed up here," said Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark. "The younger guys tired in the third period but the older ones had the stamina ... that's how we won the game and that's one of the advantages of having an older club."

Lakers scored three unanswered goals in third period, two by 19-year old veteran Scott Young and one by 20-year old Glen Kirk.

The teams skated to 1-1 and 2-2 period ties.

Lakers were at a disadvantage going into the game, coming off a 10-day Christmas layoff and having to play on the league's largest ice-surface. However, Enemark said his team took it in stride.

OUT OF SHAPE

"Actually the guys were so badly out of shape they had to play their positions very well ... especially since it's such a big ice surface," said Enemark.

Despite the tactical style of play, Enemark was impressed with the action in the game.

"It wasn't as fast as some games but both

teams gave everything they had," he said.

Lakers led throughout the contest, opening the scoring on Rob Kossan's goal early in the first period. Randy Toews tied the game for Summerland before the period ended.

Defenceman Jeff Doerr put Vernon ahead 2-1 in the second period only to have Jim Perrich tie the score once again for the Bucks.

Young put the Lakers out front for good with the winning goal at the 12 minute mark of the third period and then put the insurance marker on the scoreboard with a short-handed effort moments later.

Kirk's goal rounded out the scoring.

36 SHOTS

Lakers' goaltender Jim Young was especially sharp in blocking 36 shots by Buckaroos and in Enemark's eyes gave the Summerland crowd something to thank about.

"Jim Young showed a lot of people there that he should have made the all-star line-up," said Enemark.

The game wasn't without its mishaps though as Lakers' spark-plug Nick Kapicki suffered a gash to his eye that required several stitches to close and kept him out of the game for the re-

mainder of the evening.

There were just 10 minor penalties handed out with Lakers fingered for six of those.

IN LIMBO

Meanwhile, one Vernon player will be back in the line-up for the game Friday, against Revelstoke, while another's status is still in limbo.

Winger Ron Berezowski will return to the fold following his six-game suspension which officially ended after Wednesday's game. Captain Bob Wensley, along with the remainder of the club and management, is still waiting for word on a

possible lengthy suspension.

"We got word that a decision won't be made until after the new year," said Enemark. "If it goes 21 days or six games, the 21st day will be up prior to the game against Czechoslovakia and he will be able to play."

Lakers host the Czech Junior National squad Jan. 5.

Lakers' next home game is Friday night when they host Revelstoke. Children can get into the game free of charge if they bring a can of food for relief hamper funds.



SCOTT YOUNG
... scored twice

Silver Star boasts excellent conditions

Ski conditions on Silver Star Mountain have never been better, according to spokesman Mike Duggan.

"We've had about 25 centimetres of new snow in the past 72 hours," Duggan said. "I've never seen the skiing so good."

Despite the excellent conditions, Christmas season crowds are down noticeably this year. Duggan said, "The pre-Christmas cold snap scared away a lot of skiers ... particularly from the prairies. Alberta schools are still on holidays next week so those people may be postponing their ski holiday, not

cancelling it."

Due to the decrease in business, the long lift lines usually associated with Christmas season skiing, are not common.

"The longest line I saw Tuesday or Wednesday was five minutes," Duggan said, "and that was on the Vance Creek Chair, at the busiest time of the day. Most of the time you can ski right on to the lift."

Silver Star is reporting a base of 110 centimetres. All lifts are operating daily, with night skiing from Tuesday to Saturday.