EDGE REVELSTOKE 4-3

Lakers fend off Rangers' rally

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Revelstoke Rangers have reached the point of frustration with Vernon Lakers. So much so, in fact, that they actually attempted to injure Lakers' goaltender Jim Young in order to win the game Friday night at Civic Arena.

The plan nearly worked as Rangers bounced back from a 4-0 deficit but ended up dropping a 4-3 decision to the hometown Vernon squad.

"We got thrown off our game when they intentionally ran our goalie," said an irrate Lakers' coach Mike Enemark. "They knew they weren't going to get anything past him (Jim Young) and that's why they did it."

The incident occurred mid-way through the second period when Young ventured beyond his crease to clear a puck and was subsequently taken heavily into the boards by Rangers' Gary Ruff. Young was taken to hospital where a broken finger and possible sprained wrist was feared but only a bad bruise diagnosed.

Meanwhile, after opening up their four-goal lead Lakers all but went to sleep for the remainder of the game. Only an all-out effort in the dying minutes prevented Rangers from notching the equalizer.

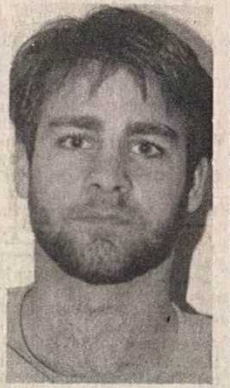


GAVIN SHUYA
. . . winning goal

Defenceman Gavin Shuya's bullet drive from the point was the eventual winner. Shuya notched that goal on a power-play situation at 14:22 of the first period. It was Lakers only goal in five man-advantage opportunities on the night.

Tony Christie opened the scoring at the four minute mark when he deflected Shuya's shot from the point. Dave Wensely made it 2-0 at 6:31 when he one-timed a centering pass from Ron Berezowski.

Kevin Kobelka gave Lakers a three goal lead at 10:03 converting a give-and-go play between himself and Allan Young.



BOB WENSLEY
. . . ordeal over

Rangers did all their damage on power-play situations, breaking the unbeatable Young's shutout bid at 19:03 of the opening period when Rich Dusevic hammered home the second rebound during a goalmouth scramble.

Ron Bonora and Bryant Perrier each scored once for the visitors during the second period but neither team scored during the final stanza.

Lakers' Young and Peter Martin combined to block 27 shots while Revelstoke's Frank Romeo was outstanding as he kicked aside 57 shots.

While Lakers lost the services of Young and Scott Young during the Revelstoke game, the team was enlightened by the news that captain Bob Wensley would be back in uniform Jan. 14.

Wensley's month-long ordeal ended Friday when the BCAHA announced that as of midnight Jan. 13 his suspension would be up and he could resume playing.

The news came as a real lift for the Lakers.

"It's been really tough," said Wensley. "I've never experienced anything like that in my life . . . I really felt helpless.

"I'm not going to alter my style because of this incident but I'm going to think things out a lot more in future," he added.