

KOWAL SCORES WINNER

Lakers nip Cents in overtime

Greg Kowal scored twice, including the winner in sudden-death overtime, to give Vernon Lakers a 6-5 win over Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Thursday, in Merritt.

Lakers overcame a two goal deficit late in the third period to push the contest into overtime.

"We were lucky to get out there with two points," said Lakers' Coach Mike Enermark. "We were missing some key players ... and we didn't play very well."

Merritt Coach Chuck Tapp agreed with Enermark's assessment of the game. "They (Vernon) were lucky," Tapp said. "We played well enough to win, but didn't have the bounces."

The game was scoreless in the first period and Cents led 3-2 after 40 minutes. Merritt increased the spread to 5-3 before Scott Young narrowed the gap at 16:58.

Then, with only six seconds remaining in regulation time and goaltender Peter Martin on the bench in favor of an extra attacker, Ron Berezowski got the equalizer.

Enermark said, "Merritt had three or four chances to clear the puck, before Berezowski scored, but they couldn't get it out of their end."



GREG KOWAL
... in overtime

Kowal got the winner on a three-on-one break, after Cents had applied pressure in the Vernon end. Defenceman Ken MacKenzie drew a Merritt defender and goalie Ray Palmer to him and then slid a perfect pass to Kowal.

Palmer was outstanding with 65 saves while Martin kicked out 62 shots. However, Enermark said shots on goal didn't really indicate the flow of play.

"Palmer kept them in the game," he said. "I thought we outshot them by 20-25 shots."

Vernon made the trip without defencemen Gavin Shuya (sore back) and Chris Saunders (concussion); forward Bob Wensley (suspended); and goalie Jim Young (flu). Scoring leader Dave Wensley suffered a possible broken hand in the second period and defenceman Tony Christie left the game with a jammed elbow, leaving Lakers with only three rearguards.

Enermark said, "We don't know how bad Dave's hand is. We hope he can be fitted with a small cast ... and may even play tonight."

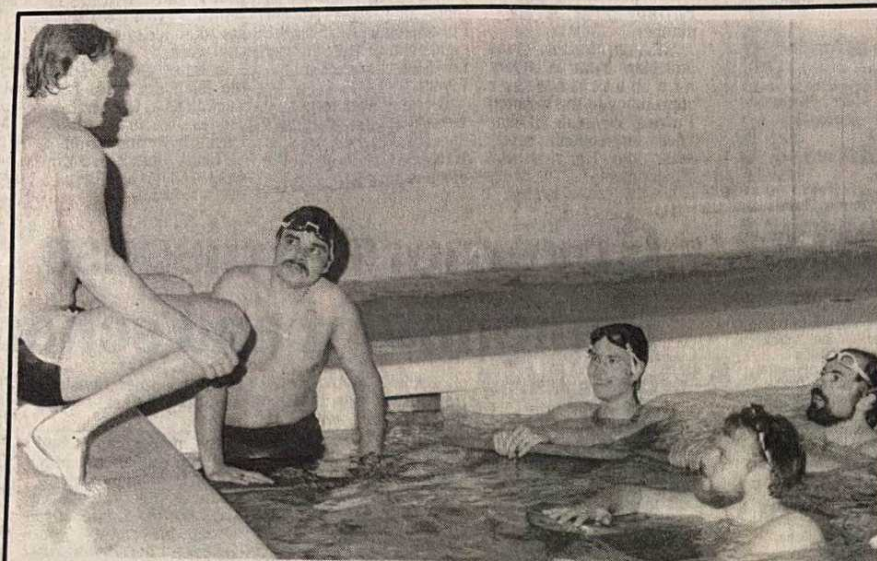
Christie and Shuya are also expected to play tonight, at home, against Summerland Buckaroos.

On the bright side, Vernon's power play scored on four consecutive opportunities in Merritt. "We tried some different things on the power play and they worked," Enermark said. "I hope it continues to click."

Lakers can move into a tie with first place Penticton Knights with a victory over the Bucks, tonight. Game time is 8 p.m.

"If we can just stay close to Penticton while we're getting over these injuries, we'll be alright," Enermark said.

On Sunday, Vernon hosts Shuswap Totems.



instruction to go along with their workouts.

(Daily News Photo)

MASTERS swim program instructor Brett Barker, kneeling on the deck, provides some pointers for swimmers,

from left: Bob Hubbard, Colleen Melton, Ernst Juli and Neil Ramsey. Swimmers receive intensive swimming

Program provides fun and competition

By PAUL GALINSKI