



Lakers' goaltender Peter Martin sprawls across the front of the net during action in the second period of Friday

night's contest with Summerland Buckaroos at Civic Arena. Martin kept the Vernon squad in the game long

enough that their decimated lines could rejuvenate and earn a 7-4 victory against the Bucks. (Daily News Photo)

FOUR THIRD PERIOD GOALS

Decimated Lakers rally to down Summerland 7-4

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers were ripe for an upset and Summerland Buckaroos knew it.

After barely fending off Merritt Centennials the night before, Lakers looked for all the world during the first two periods Friday night as though the Bucks had finally caught them at a low moment.

But the hearty Lakers dug deep and despite the absence of six regular starters from their lineup, rejuvenated themselves in the third period to earn a 7-4 victory over visiting Summerland.

MISSING PLAYERS

"We're getting to be a third period hockey club," said a relieved Lakers' coach Mike Enemark. "We didn't have good game in the first two periods. We're missing a lot of key players but the regulars dug deep and picked up the slack . . . they've shown the younger players that the game isn't over until it's over."

Vernon were without both Wensley brothers, David out with an injured hand and Bob sitting out the last day of his suspension. Also absent were defencemen Gavin Shuya, Chris Saunders and Tony Christie, each out with injuries.

In the interim, Lakers have received sterling efforts from sophomores Greg Kowal and Nick Kapicki as well as Scott Young. The line clicked for three goals Friday night.

Young scored twice while Kowal added a single. Another pleasant surprise was the combination of Bruce Major, Kevin Kolbelka and Allan Young who also connected for two goals with Major notching both of those.

OPENED SCORING

Bucks opened the scoring in the early minutes of the first period when Shawn Harrison scored his first of two for the night on a Summerland power-play.

Young put the Lakers on even terms with his goal at 9:48 coming during a man-advantage situation as well.

Buckaroos took a 2-1 lead to the dressing room when Wade Carleson deflected one by Lakers' goaltender Peter Martin at 16:07 of the opening stanza.

Vernon tied the game once again at 6:25 of the second frame when forward-come-defenceman Glen Kirk put a shot from the blueline through the legs of Sum-

merland's Mark Taylor. Taylor made 44 saves on the night.

Buckaroos stung Vernon for the go-ahead marker at 15:15 when Harrison beat Martin on a breakaway for a short-handed tally. Harrison had stolen the puck at the Buck's blueline and outskated defenceman Ken MacKenzie to go in alone.

MOMENTUM

Young evened the score with just 18 seconds remaining in the second period and gave the team the momentum it needed at the same time. Kowal did the work behind the net and centered to Young in the slot who one-timed the disc past Taylor to make it 3-3.

Lakers struck for three consecutive goals in the third period to put the game out of reach, the first two coming in the space of 51 seconds.

Kowal 1 scored at the 56 second mark off a picture-perfect pass from MacKenzie which put Kowal in position for a solid wrist-shot over Taylor's shoulder.

Major scored his first of the night at 1:45 when he rifled in a wrist-shot from the slot.

Ron Berezowski put Lakers ahead 6-3 at 11:36 when his slap shot deflected in off a Buckaroos' defenceman.

Bucks' Kelly Evin narrowed the gap to 6-4 at 16:39 but Major put the game out of reach at 19:44 when he banged in a loose puck while standing all alone in the slot area.

Lakers' Martin was called on to make 27 saves.

OVERTIME

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Brett Hull needed his 56th goal of the season to lift Penticton Knights to a 7-6 win over the surprising Merritt Centennials in overtime. That game took place in Penticton.

Rod Poindexter had two goals for the Knights while Aaron Scott, Rey Fontaine, Mikael Jonsson and Greg Cyre also tallied singles.

John Tent and Brent Demarais scored two goals each for the Centennials who led 3-2 and 5-3 by periods. Singles came from Kevin Thorlakson and Mark Bogoslawski.

Wensley's return will help Lakers



One player can often make the difference between a championship team and a runner-up!

In the case of Vernon Lakers, that player could be **BOB WENSLEY**. Wensley received notification earlier this week, from the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association, that he may return to Vernon's line-up Sunday.

The 20-year-old forward was suspended Dec. 13 after an altercation with a linesman, in Penticton. It had been feared his punishment could be more severe ... perhaps up to a one year suspension.

A stiffer sentence would have been unfortunate for Wensley ... and the Lakers. Besides his scoring prowess, he has the ability to fire up the team with his hustle and aggressive play. There is seldom a shift when Wensley doesn't introduce a member of the opposition to the boards.

Vernon is a serious contender to win the provincial championship and having Bob Wensley back on a line with younger brother Dave and Rob Kossan won't hurt their chances one bit.

ODDS AND ENDS

Statistics released this week by the Canadian Inter-

collegiate Athletic Union show Vernon native **TOM OUCHI** ranks fifth in scoring with the UBC Thunderbirds Hockey Team. Ouchi has 17 points, including 12 assists, in 21 games. After finishing minor hockey, he starred with Vernon Canadians (now Lakers) for one season before going to UBC.

... Another local player in the college hockey ranks is **KEVIN POIRIER**. Poirier, who helped Abbotsford Flyers win the B.C. Junior Hockey League championship last year, is toiling with the United States International University Gulls, at San Diego. Poirier collected six points in his team's first 12 games.

... On the basketball court, VSS graduate **LANCE PAGE** is fourth in scoring with Simon Fraser University Clansmen. Page, a 6'4" guard, has scored 102 points for the Clan.

Well-known sportsman **NICK ALEXIS** was recently the subject of an extensive feature in the Victoria Times-Colonist Islander. Alexis was born in Victoria in 1914 and moved to Vernon in 1931. He was made a Freeman of the City, in Vernon, in 1975. His most recent contribution to the

sporting community was the founding of the Okanagan Sports Hall of Fame in Vernon's Cenotaph Park.

Vernon minor hockey graduate **GLEN FESTER** has returned to Spokane, of the Western International Hockey League, from Indianapolis Checkers, of the Central Hockey League. During a four-game trial with the Checkers, the rangy defenceman compiled a plus-minus rating of plus three. Fester played one season in the BCJHL, with Merritt Centennials, before spending four years at the University of North Dakota.

Vernon's **EDDIE JOHNSTONE** recently returned to the ice with Detroit Red Wings. The veteran winger had been sidelined since early-December with a shattered cheek bone.

MIKE WINTHER, who started his junior career in Vernon before starring with Medicine Hat Tigers, is not playing hockey this year. After graduating from junior, he was drafted by Edmonton Oilers and spent two seasons in the minor pro ranks. He is now attending university in Saskatoon and coaching the women's hockey team at that school.