

Wensley's spirited style sparks Lakers to victory

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers' captain Bob Wensley was back in the saddle Sunday night, coming off a month-long suspension with a goal, an assist, and a big effort that helped Lakers to a 6-4 win over Salmon Arm Totems, at the Civic Arena.

The win leaves Vernon two points behind Penticton Knights in the race for first place in the BC-JHL Interior Division.

The hometown crowd showed its appreciation for Wensley's spirited style of play although he felt he was short a stride from his regular pace.

"I just didn't have that extra punch that you need to make those big plays," said Wensley, who missed numerous scoring opportunities including three on one shift during the second period. "I'm just glad to be back, though, no matter what kind of shape I'm in."

Though Wensley and others on the team put the blame on themselves for missing opportunities, Salmon Arm goaltender Ron Bechtold was the only factor that prevented a complete blowout for Lakers.

Bechtold made 56 saves in the Totems' net, including three breakaways in the third period. Peter Martin and Jim Young, who replaced Martin early in the third stanza, combined to block 29 shots for Vernon.

Defenceman Ken MacKenzie scored twice to pace the local club. Blueliner Glen Kirk turned in the best performance of the evening and scored the winning goal.

The teams were tied 2-2



VERNON LAKERS' defenceman Jeff Doerr puts a move on Salmon Arm Totems' goaltender Ron Bechtold dur-

ing third period action Sunday night, at the Civic Arena. Doerr beat Bechtold, but sent the puck across the crease.

Bechtold made 56 saves, including three breakaways in the third period. However, Lakers won the game 6-4.

(Daily News Photo)

after one period of play with Lakers connecting twice on power-play opportunities.

MacKenzie opened the scoring at the 2:58 mark, taking a rink-wide pass from Jeff Doerr and beating Bechtold with a high, hard wrist-shot from the top of the circle.

Vernon minor hockey product Henry Reimer, who had two goals for Totems, evened the game for the visitors at 4:01 when he converted a two-one passing play that began at the Salmon Arm blue line.

Wensley gave Vernon the lead once again at 12:29 when he moved into the slot area unmolested and backhanded the puck past Bechtold.

Totems' top scorer Rob Klenk put the teams on even terms at the 13:25 mark when his shot bounced in off Martin.

Alan Young notched the only goal of the second period putting Lakers out front. That tally came with just 24 seconds remaining as Young, in the slot had the whole net to shoot at with Bechtold caught out of his crease.

Lakers' Shannon Pohl, meanwhile, earned a decisive victory over former Laker Clay Cotie in a centre ice slugfest. . . both took early showers while Pohl iced his much-used right hand.

MacKenzie stretched the Vernon lead to 4-2 just 36 seconds into the third period with another hard

wrist-shot from the circle, but Totems tied the game with a pair of goals at 1:06 and 3:42.

Kirk scored, what proved to be the winner at 5:45, and then set up Scott Young with the insurance marker at 9:20. Kirk's goal came off a hard shot along the ice from the blue line while Young put in a bullet-like drive from the top of the circle.

Lakers now have a full week before their next scheduled game. That encounter will see the local club entertain Penticton, Sunday night.

Meanwhile, the interim will give Lakers a chance to heal a lot of minor wounds that have three of their defensive corps cur-

rently on the sidelines and top scorer Dave Wensley seeing limited action.

"We were pretty tired tonight (Sunday) because we've played a lot of games lately," said Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark. "We have a lot of minor injuries that hopefully will heal during this week."

In other BCJHL action on the weekend, Summerland Buckaroos earned a 7-5 decision over the hometown Totems, Saturday night, while Penticton edged Revelstoke 3-2.

In Coastal Division action Abbotsford downed Nanaimo 7-3 and Langley defeated Cowichan 11-7. Sunday, Nanaimo earned an 8-7 win over Burnaby Bluehawks, in overtime.