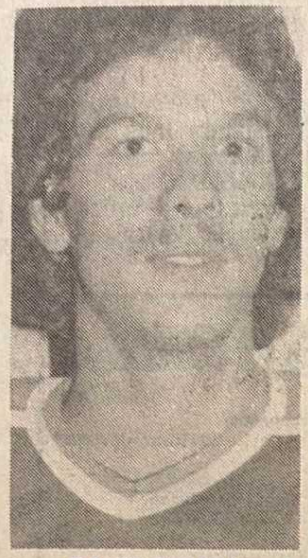
KNIGHTS 12 VERNON 6

Lacklustre Lakers were losers to high-flying Penticton squad

When Vernon Lakers and Penticton Knights do battle there are generally a lot of goals scored. Friday night there were a lot of goals scored but unfortunately most of them were scored by Knights as they doubled visiting Lakers 12-6.

The win leaves Knights in sole possession of first place in the BCJHL Interior Division, two points ahead of Vernon who have one game in hand on the high-flying Penticton crew.

Lakers' General Manager Carl Enemark didn't try and make excuses for the less than adequate play of the Vernon squad.



GAVIN SHUYA
. . . scored twice

INTIMIDATED

"What excuses can you make when you get blown out like that," said Enemark. "We got beat very soundly. . .they intimidated us and we fell for it."

Meanwhile, Enemark didn't take anything away from the style of play exhibited by the front-running knights.

"Jefferey (Mike, goaltender for Knights) had a hell of a game right through," Enemark said. "They (Knights) were putting them in the net and we weren't."

Despite the lopsided loss, Lakers actually outshot Knights 56-45. Suspicions of poor defensive play were confirmed by Enemark.

"You can't blame our goaltender because he had no defence in front of him," Enemark said. "They were stick-checking everybody all night."

The teams were deadlocked 1-1 after the opening 20 minutes but Knights pulled ahead 7-3 after two periods.

"The first period we definitely were controlling the game and then we lost it," said Enemark. "We just didn't want it bad enough."

Making up for their lack of defensive quality, Lakers got three goals from their blueline squad including two from Gavin Shuya and one from Ken MacKenzie.

Rob Kossan, Scott Young and team scoring leader Dave Wensley picked up the remaining goals for Vernon.



BRETT HULL
. . . two goals

Knights got a four-goal performance from Rod Schluter while Interior scoring sensation Brett Hull, along with Ed Christofoli, scored two goals apiece. Singles came off the sticks of Aaron Scott, Shawn Edwards, Mark Verigan and Tim Comeau.

Vernon netminder Peter Martin made 33 saves while Jefferey blocked 50 shots in the Penticton net.

Lakers have allowed 21 goals against in their last two outings against Penticton and that doesn't sit too well with Enemark who's afraid the defensive lapses will hurt them tonight when Lakers travel to Salmon Arm.

"After coming off a game like last night we could blow it again tonight," Enemark said.

In the only other BCJHL game played last night, Langley Eagles stretched their record to 30 wins and six losses with a 3-2 victory over lowly Cowichan Capitals. Eagles will be in Vernon to take on Lakers Feb. 1.

Other action tonight will see Merritt Centennials in Summerland while Penticton travels to Revelstoke. Lakers need help from Rangers who have stung Penticton for three victories.