

Lakers pick up pieces after terrible weekend

Vernon Lakers are picking up the pieces following a disastrous weekend in the BCJHL Interior Division.

Lakers were doubled 8-4, Saturday night, by the hometown Salmon Arm Totems after being humbled 12-6 Friday night, in Penticton. It's the first time this season the local club has dropped back-to-back games.

Meanwhile, Penticton Knights edged the stubborn Revelstoke Rangers 11-0, Saturday, to move four points ahead of Lakers in the battle for first place in the Interior. Lakers still have a game in hand on Knights, but

won't see regular season action again until Saturday when they travel to Summerland.

"We're simply not playing our positions in our own zone," said Lakers' coach Mike Enemark. "All our defencemen are thinking offence."

At the same time, Enemark is willing to concede that all the bad luck befalling the club isn't the responsibility of the players.

Our club is having a lot of tough luck lately," Enemark said. "Bouncing pucks are rolling into the net and things like that. . . mind you we've been hot for the last two

months so I guess it was bound to happen."

The key to Totem's victory Saturday may have been the fact that Peter Martin, Lakers' last line of defence, went down at the start of the third period when a Totems' player accidentally stepped on his shoulder.

"They (Totems) had just scored a goal and he (Martin) was lying on the ice when a Salmon Arm player, trying to jump over him, landed right on his shoulder."

"We could have won if Peter (Martin) hadn't been hurt."

No backup goaltender available since regular

starter Jim Young has been sidelined indefinitely with a bout of mononucleosis, so Martin had to finish the game.

Scott Young paced the Lakers' attack with a pair of goals while Brian DeLeeuw scored three times to lead Totems.

In other BCJHL Interior League action Saturday night, Summerland Buckaroos needed an overtime goal to edged Merritt Centennials 10-9.

Sunday it was Summerland over Revelstoke by a healthy 7-1 margin.

With Lakers suffering from a lack of goaltenders, Enemark plans to rebuild his defensive spirit in order to compensate.

"We're going to start with the basics this week," said Enemark. We had a team meeting Saturday night and we decided to get our priorities straight."

Besides the return to basic hockey, Enemark is hoping his veterans and older players can pull up their socks and get the ball rolling once again. That means a lot of the load will fall on the shoulders of Vernon captain Bob Wensley.

"If anybody can get us re-organized it's Bobby (Wensley)," said Enemark.

Jim Young will be sidelined for at least a couple more weeks according to doctor's reports, but with the unpredictability of the illness, it's difficult to determine a date for his comeback.

"The doctor said two to four weeks and he (Young) hasn't been on the ice since the all-star game," said Enemark.

Gilchrist's hat trick not enough for Wings

Vernon's Brent Gilchrist collected his first hat trick in junior hockey, but it wasn't enough as Kelowna Wings dropped a 5-4 decision to Winnipeg Warriors in Western Hockey League action, Saturday, in Kelowna.

Gilchrist, 16, has 10 goals in his rookie season with the Wings. On Friday, he scored once during Kelowna's 8-4 loss to Prince Albert Raiders.

Meanwhile, Kurt Wickenheiser didn't expect things to turn out quite the way they did but he wasn't complaining after scoring three goals to lead Regina Pats to an 11-0 romp over Calgary Wranglers, Sunday.

"I thought Calgary would be a lot tougher to beat than that," said Wickenheiser. "We knew they'd be tired after playing twice in two nights (Friday and Saturday against Lethbridge) so we wanted to get on them early."

"We got off to a fast start and the breaks went our way."

In other games, Lethbridge Broncos edged the visiting Medicine Hat Tigers

3-2, Prince Albert Raiders went into Portland and beat the Winter Hawks 10-4 and Kamloops Junior Oilers handed the visiting New Westminster Bruins a 11-3 setback.

In Regina, the Pats took a 3-0 lead after the first period and held a 9-0 advantage at the end of the second.

Dale Derkatch added two goals for Regina with singles provided by Taylor Hall, Doug Trapp, Jayson Meyer, Jeff Lawson, Len Nielsen and Brad Lauer.

Jamie Reeve stopped 24 shots to record his second shutout of the season.

"You can't take anything away from Regina," said Calgary coach Marcel Comeau. "Regina is an awesome club once it gets rolling and they were ready for this game. But that wasn't our hockey club out there, not the way we played."

BRONCOS 3 TIGERS 2

Bob Rouse, in his second game back after a brief stint with Minnesota North Stars, scored two goals and assisted on the other to pace Lethbridge.