

**VERNON 5, LANGLEY 3**

# Lakers clip Eagles' wings



VERNON LAKERS' goalie Peter Martin kicks out his left leg to make a save while defenceman Tony Christie (7)

comes to his aid during exhibition hockey action, Wednesday, at the Civic Arena. Martin, who is still recovering

from an arm injury, was outstanding as Lakers defeated the top team in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Coast Division, Langley Eagles, 5-3. (Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD  
Daily News Sports

Langley Eagles, the top dogs in the BCJHL Coast Division, have lost just six games this season. But, a swing through the Interior proved tough for the Coastal crew as they were beaten 5-3 by Vernon Lakers, Wednesday night, at Civic Arena, in exhibition action.

Tuesday, Eagles were on the short end of a 7-4 game against Interior Division leading Penticton Knights.

Clearly, Eagles had intimidation on their minds and the result was a penalty-filled affair at the Civic Arena which included numerous altercations and players being ejected from the game.

Despite what appeared as though a deliberate attempt at a game of intimidation, Langley Coach John Oliver was disappointed with the conduct of his team.

## UNDISCIPLINED

"We didn't get where we are in our league playing the undisciplined style we showed tonight," said Oliver. "The way the last two games have gone I wouldn't want to play either team (Vernon or Penticton) in the finals."

The teams traded goals and 14 fourteen minor penalties in a scrumbly first period, but in the second frame Lakers totally dominated play and outscored Eagles 4-1.

The third period reverted to the scrappy undisciplined style of hockey exhibited in the first 20 minutes.

"It was a tough game for either team to get any rhythm," Oliver said.

Meanwhile Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark had expected a rough contest from the outset.

"I was a little disappointed but I expected this to happen," Enemark said. "We started off badly but we got things going again."

Vernon received a three-goal performance from third-year veteran Rob Kossan who put the Lakers on the scoreboard to tie the game in the first period and added a pair of second period tallies to complete his hat trick.

One of the biggest stars of the game, however, was Peter Martin who defied the call of the sidelines due to injuries and put forth his best performance of the season. Martin made 32 saves with many of those being from point blank range.

## STAYED ON FEET

"He (Martin) stayed on his feet better, he challenged better, and he just had an all-round good game," said Enemark of his goaltender.

Eagles got on the board first with a power-play tally just 2:56 into the opening period. Darren Alexander poked home a rebound when Martin was sprawled in his crease.

Kossan pulled Lakers onto even ground at 12:37 and turned the game completely around when he scored a short-handed goal. Gavin Shuya made the initial play down the left wing and centered to Kossan who one-timed the puck past Eagles' Scott Bradley.

The first period saw 40 minutes in penalties as well as two players ejected for a fighting infraction.

Lakers romped through Eagles' defence virtually at will during the second 20 minutes with Kossan notching number two at 5:03. The veteran forward used an Eagles' defenceman as a screen and rifled a wrist-shot along the ice into the open corner.

## POWER PLAY GOAL

Greg Kowal scored the first man-advantage goal of the night for Lakers and gave the local club a 3-1 cushion in the process. Kowal one-timed Scott Young's centering pass from behind the net.

Kossan put his third home at 12:07 on yet another Vernon power-play, this time poking his own rebound through Bradley's pads.

Eagles' sparkplug Joe West made the score 4-2 when he snapped in a wrist-shot while cruising unmolested in the slot during a Langley man-advantage.

Scott Young gave Lakers a three-goal lead again at 18:46 when he capitalized on an Eagles' give-away in their zone.

Dave Gourlie scored for the visitors, at 4:42 of the third, and ended the scoring for the night.

Lakers peppered Bradley with 57 shots which prompted a slight reaction from Oliver on Vernon's offensive ability.

"They (Lakers) have some good forwards," he said. "I really couldn't say which team (Vernon or Penticton) is better though."

Lakers' next regular season action is Saturday night when they travel to Summerland.

## Local teams knocked out

Alex Coffey, of Quesnel, defeated Vernon's Herb Van Grootel 6-4, Wednesday, in a qualifying game at the B.C. Interior Curling Association Men's Bonspiel, in Prince George.

Coffey now advances, with 15 other rinks, to the BCICA playdowns which get under way today, also in Prince George.

Another local foursome, skipped by Jack Hockey, was eliminated earlier Wednesday. However, two Vernon rinks, skipped by Randy Brown and Dave Simpson, are in the playdowns. Top three teams from the triple-knockout event advance to the Labatts

Tankard provincial finals, Feb. 10 to 12, in Ladner.

Bert Gretzinger, of Kelowna, was among the final four qualifiers, Wednesday night. Gretzinger made a 10th end double to beat Maurice Pickering, of Trail, 5-3.

In other games, Robert Bird edged Ernie Stradlin 6-5 in an all-Prince George match and Brian LeMoel, of Trail, nipped Ralph Will, of Fernie, 4-3.

Barry McPhee, of Kamloops, went 5-0 in the zone winners' round-robin and has already qualified to compete in Ladner. Simpson placed second in the zone winners' event with a 3-2 mark.

## Tyler earns wrestling title

Vernon's Norm Tyler won the 66 kilogram junior division at the B.C. Age Class Wrestling Tournament, held last weekend, at the University of B.C.

Nine local wrestlers placed among the top six competitors in their respective divisions. Vernon wrestling coach Bruce Ritchie said his team turned in a strong performance. "Our wrestlers had an excellent tournament," he said. "Many of them re-established themselves in the top five in the province."

In the junior division, for grade 8-10 students, Darren Banks (45 kg) and Grayson Moran (48 kg) placed third. Austin Baby (52 kg) finished fourth in

Okanagan competed in Kelowna.

Brad Wyse (41 kg), Banks (57 kg), and Moran (48 kg) placed second in their divisions while Tyler (66 kg) took fourth spot.

Ritchie said his squad will engage in only limited competition, within this area, during the next two weeks. "Then, we'll go at it very hard for three weeks," he said.

Upcoming meets include the Okanagan finals, Feb. 18, in Kamloops; B.C. High School Championships, Feb. 24 and 25, in Vancouver; and the B.C. Winter Games, March 1-4, in Fort St. John.

## Sabres battle back