

Vernon trims Rangers

By JIM JUDD

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Vernon Lakers carried a comfortable 7-3 margin early in the third period but had to stave off a late rally to defeat visiting Revelstoke Rangers 7-5 Friday night at Civic Arena.

Despite the closeness of the contest, Lakers' coach Mike Enemark dismissed the apparent lack of enthusiasm on his players' behalf.

"We let up in the third

period but then you have to almost expect that when you've beaten a team like this as often as we have," Enemark said.

Although the score indicated a close match, Lakers held a wide margin in the shooting department, peppering Rangers' duo of Frank Romeo and Mark Fitzpatrick with 62 shots while Jim Young had to only face 28 in the Vernon nets.

Rangers had numerous chances to turn the game

around as they enjoyed the man-advantage on seven separate occasions. However, on each outing Lakers' penalty-killing unit shut the Revelstoke crew down completely.

"Our penalty killing is really coming along," said Enemark. "We're starting to force and really apply the pressure... if you let any team set up they'll kill you."

Vernon got a balanced attack from its players,

with seven different snipers sharing the scoring load. Ron Berezowski and Lamont Martel led the way with Berezowski scoring once and assisting on three others while Martel had a goal and two assists.

Other Vernon goals came off the sticks of Bruce Major, Al Young, Scott Young, Ken MacKenzie and Rob Kossan.

Vern Cota scored twice for Rangers who trailed Lakers 3-1 and 6-3 by

periods. Ron Bonora, Mike Bofaro and Vern Kinley also had goals for the visitors.

Major opened the scoring with his wrist-shot from deep slot area at 6:46 of the first period while Al Young gave Lakers a 2-1 lead after Bonora had tied the game at 10:58.

MacKenzie made it 3-1 before the period ended when his shot trickled through the feet of Fitzpatrick.

Cota, with his first of the night, closed the gap to 3-2 but goals by Kossan, Berezowski and Scott Young all but put the game out of reach before Cota narrowed the gap to 6-3 before 40 minutes was up.

Martel closed the Lakers' scoring at 3:39 of the third stanza while Bafaro and Kinley had the last reply for Revelstoke.

Tonight Lakers are in Salmon Arm where they'll try and make up for a loss to that team last time they were there.

"We're going to have to be on top of our game," said Enemark of Totems. "They've got weak defence so we have to capitalize on our chances."

Sunday night Vernon hosts the much-improved Merritt Centennials who have won two straight for the first time this season. Centennials boast a pair of Vernon players in their lineup with the likes of speedy forward Kevin Thorlakson and goaltender Norm Schwing.

Cents also have the League's second top goal scorer in Brent Demerais who has netted an incredible 60 goals and more than 100 points this season. Demerais' total represents more than one half Centennials' total goal production for the season.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Penticton Knights easily stayed atop the Interior Division with a 12-2 victory over visiting Salmon Arm Totems. Brett Hull and Aaron Scott, each with three goals, led the way. Hull is one goal shy of the BCJHL record with 82. Brothers Robbie and Jim Klenk replied for the Totems who trailed 6-1 and 7-2 by periods.



Vernon Lakers Greg Kowal, 19, slides the puck by Revelstoke goaltender Frank Romeo but ends up hitting the

post on his attempt. Kowal had a string of bad luck on his opportunities which kept him off the scoreboard. However,

seven other Lakers did manage to score and enabled the local junior club to post a 7-5 victory over the visiting Rangers. (Daily News Photo)

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"I find that all the swim