

Lakers sweep games

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers won a ho-hummer against Merritt Centennials 7-2 Sunday night to cap a successful weekend that saw the local club win three games in as many nights.

Saturday night, Lakers trounced the hometown Salmon Arm Totems 13-1 while Friday night they posted a 7-5 win over Revelstoke Rangers.

Defencemen Glen Kirk and Gavin Shuya, along with winger Allan Young, each vaulted over the 20-goal plateau Sunday with Kirk and Shuya scoring twice each and Young notching a single.

Meanwhile Rob Kossan scored his 35th tally of the season while Greg Kowal rounded out the Lakers' scoring drive with his 17th goal.

Saturday night, Kevin Kobelka scored a hat trick with two-goal efforts from Scott Young, Bruce Major and Shannon Poh. Dave Wensley got back on the scoring track with his 39th while Kossan, Kowal, and Tony Christie had singles to round out the scoring.

For Merritt, Pat Ryan and Kevin Cheveldave scored once each but were never really in the game as Lakers took period leads of 2-0 and 5-1 en route to their 39th victory of the season.

The win keeps Vernon within striking distance of Penticton Knights while

first place in the BCJHL Interior Division is still a calculable possibility at this point. Lakers trail Knights by six points, with two games-in-hand on the Peach City crew.

Kirk and Kossan notched goals during the first period Sunday night with both skaters scoring off rebounds by Dave Wensley.

Kirk's second goal opened the second period scoring when he put a low slapshot past Merritt's Ray Palmer off Kowal's drop-pass.

Shuya scored a pair in succession to give Vernon a 5-0 lead with the two goals a mirror reflection of each other. Shuya picked up a loose puck at the blue line, walked in unmolested and picked a corner with his bullet wrist-shot.

Cheveldave put Merritt on the board at 18:19 of the second frame, spoiling Jim Young's shutout bid.

Kowal deflected Shuya's



KEVIN KOBELKA
... hat trick

blast from the point at 12:42 of the third period while Young's power-play tally at 14:44 sandwiched Ryan's goal at 13:46.

Young was called on to

make 23 saves in net for lakers while Palmer kicked out 46 for Centennials.

Although the two points will come in handy in the long run, Lakers' coach Mike Enemark felt there was little redeeming value in the victory.

"It's tough playing these guys (Merritt)," said Enemark. "They play really scrumbly hockey ... there's no benefit in playing them."

However, Enemark was suitably impressed with the effort Lakers turned up during Saturday's encounter with Salmon Arm.

"We really played well," Enemark said. "It was encouraging that we played the whole game ... we never let up."

Lakers now have eight games remaining in their regular season schedule with their next contest being a rematch, at home, against Salmon Arm, Tuesday night. Although captain Bob Wensley will rejoin the team, swarthy

Scott Young will sit out the remaining two games of a three-game suspension he received for a match penalty he picked up during Saturday's game. Young will be eligible to resume playing Feb. 28 against Summerland Buckaroos, in Summerland.

In other Interior League games Saturday night, Brett Hull set a new BCJHL scoring record as he fired four goals to pace Penticton Knights to a 7-5 win over visiting Summerland.

Hull now has 86 goals, in 54 games, erasing the old mark of 83 set in 1982-83 by Cliff Ronning of New Westminster Royals.

Meanwhile Revelstoke trounced Merritt 11-7 Saturday night and posted an equally easy 11-2 decision over Salmon Arm, Sunday. Ron Bonora scored three times against Merritt and added two more against Salmon Arm.

Kalamalka hoop teams advance to valley finals

Kalamalka Lakers Junior Boys Basketball Team won a pair of games on the weekend, defeating Armstrong 50-28 and Fulton Maroons 40-32 to capture the North Zone championship.

Lakers, along with the winner of a match between Armstrong and Fulton, will advance to the Okanagan Valley championship, in Kelowna, next weekend. Lakers will enter that championship with a sparkling record of 39 wins and one loss and will be the top seeded team.

Armstrong battled Lakers to a 22-21 score at half-time but was outscored 28-7 in the second half.

Lee Christensen scored 18 points for Lakers while Bruce Babiuk added 15 points and had 14 rebounds.

In the zone final against Fulton, Kal enjoyed leads of 19-16 after the first half and 31-18 in the third quarter. Tim Tollestrup led Kal with 13 points and seven rebounds. Babiuk added 12 points and six re-

bounds while Rod Charlton had 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Bruce McElroy was the top scorer for Fulton with a 22-point performance and 15 rebounds.

Babiuk and Christensen were named to the tournament all-star team while McElroy was selected most valuable player.

Since Fulton has never beaten Armstrong, the latter is entitled to a backdoor challenge for the second north zone berth.

Kalamalka will face KSS of Kelowna in their opening round match during the valley championship while Valleyview of Kamloops will face the winner of Princess Margaret and McNichol Park, of Penticton. Dr. Knox, champs of the south zone will play the winner of Fulton and Armstrong while Penticton will face McArthur Park, of Kamloops.

Penticton is the only team to hand Kal Lakers a defeat this season, winning the Kalamalka Tourna-

ment with a 56-52 victory.

Meanwhile Kal Lakettes captured the North Zone girls' title by sweeping three consecutive games on the weekend.

Lakettes had an easy time defeating Enderby 59-19, J. L. Jackson, of Salmon Arm, 58-22, and Shuswap 48-22.

Shuswap and J. L. Jackson will meet in a backdoor challenge to determine the second berth out of the zone.

Lakettes' Coach Gary Nohr received some good news on top of his team's good fortunes.

"We've just learned the number one ranked team out of the South Zone (McNichol Park) was beaten so we have a better chance to get to the provincials," said Nohr. "OK Mission will be our toughest competitor in the valley championships now."

Kal meets OK Mission in the first game of the valley finals next weekend.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

FEBRUARY, 1979

For the ninth consecutive year Salmon Arm Jewels will represent the Okanagan in the British Columbia senior girls' basketball championships. Jewels, the defending provincial champs, dumped Penticton Lakettes 40-34 in Saturday's final game at the Okanagan playdowns in Kamloops.