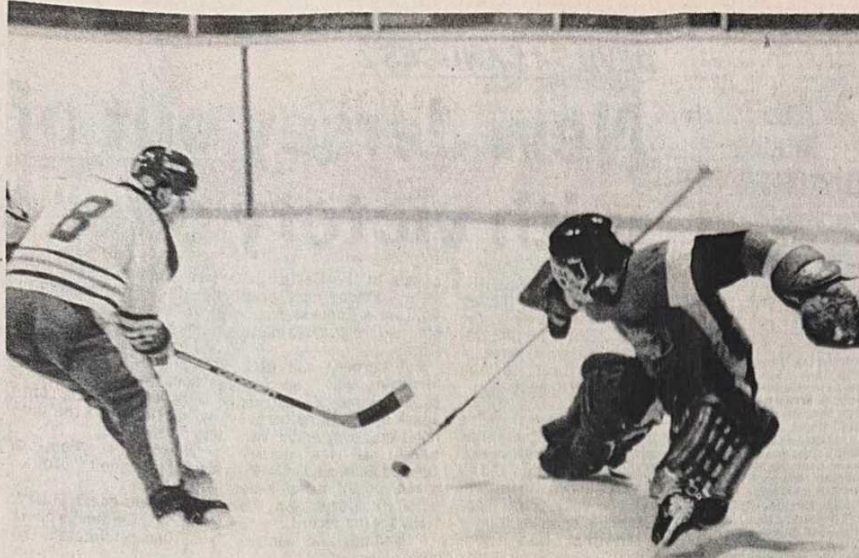




Vernon Lakers Scott Young (8) undressed Totems' goaltender Glen Ferguson on this breakaway attempt but Ferguson robbed the speedy

Lakers' forward. Ferguson was hot but Vernon still managed to pull a 7-2 victory out of the bag. Lakers have a

chance at first place in the Interior due to a loss by Penticton Knights.

(Daily News Photo)

WINTER GAMES

Vernon speedskaters win zone's first medals

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor
FORT ST. JOHN
(Special) — Four Vernon speed skaters were the first North Okanagan athletes to win medals in the B.C. Winter Games here Friday.

Tim DeVries, brother when Kittel placed first in 49.74 seconds and Neill placed second in 50.16 seconds.

Vernon Badgers won three consecutive matches Friday to advance to the semi-finals of women's volleyball competition. Vernon defeated

medals in the 1982 and 83 Winter Games.

In wrestling the Okanagan zone team, which includes seven local wrestlers, is tied for second place after four matches. Fraser Valley leads the field with a perfect 4-0 record while Vancouver Island and Okanagan

Tony Johnson of Vancouver.

Defending champion Jerome Briat lost a split decision to Lonnie McQueen of Vancouver at 147 pounds and Mike York lost a unanimous decision to Jason Trotter of Burnaby at 132 pounds.

In curling, Vernon's

LAKERS 7 TOTEMS 2

First place hopes high after victory

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

It wasn't exactly a classic confrontation but the two points Vernon Lakers earned with a 7-2 home-ice victory over Salmon Arm Totems may come in handy over the course of the next four regular season games.

Vernon's victory, coupled with a loss by Penticton Knights to Summerland Buckaroos Friday night, leaves the local junior hockey club within four points of the first-place Knights with two games in hand. It could mean first-place for Vernon after all if everything goes right in the next four games.

Vernon travels to Penticton Tuesday night in a game that may well decide, once and for all, first place in the BCJHL Interior Division.

Meanwhile, Lakers need a barrage of 66 shots on Totems' netminder Glen Ferguson in order to squeeze seven goals by the red-hot goalie. Greg Kowal was the top sniper for Lakers with three goals while center Nick Kapicki, chosen the games' first star, had a goal and four assists for a five-point evening.

Other Vernon goals came off the sticks of Rob Kossan, Dave Wensely, and Shannon Pohl while Paul Tory and former Laker Clay Cottle handled the scoring for the visitors.

Lakers opened the game with three unanswered goals in the first 20 minutes and closed with another three unanswered tallies in the final frame sandwiched between a second period that saw Totems outgun the local club 2-1.

Despite not getting on the scoreboard, center Bruce major turned in an outstanding performance only to have his wingers miss numerous golden opportunities set up by the gangly freshman. Major did draw an assist on Pohl's tally in the third period however.

Peter Martin was called on to make just 18 saves in the Vernon net but showed flashes of brilliance as the Totems,

unable to make the playoffs, showed a spark of life they haven't exhibited for some time.

"They (Totems) made us work for it, said Lakers' coach Mike Enemark. "It's not good to blow a team out all the time anyway."

Enemark was also impressed with the performance of Ferguson between the pipes for the visitors.

"He (Ferguson) played a whale of a game," Enemark said. "It also made a difference for them having their coach behind the bench."

As for his own charges, Enemark had mixed feeling owing to the fact that at times they appeared to be playing just well enough to win.

"We did play well defensively," Enemark said. "It wasn't an overly exciting game but we did what we had to do to win ... as long as we keep winning and keep the pressure on Penticton."

Knights had their hands full as the visiting Buckaroos, last year's Interior Division champions, led by period scores of 3-2 and 5-3 on two-goal performances by Wade Carlson and Albert Anthony.

Despite the loss, league scoring leader Brett Hull had another outstanding night scoring twice and assisting on two others to move to within a point of John Newberry's all-time scoring record of 183 points. Murray Winnicki had Knights' other two goals.

Summerland coach Wayne Naka said the victory improved his club's morale.

"We sure needed a game like that after losing two in a row, especially coming in with 15 players," he said. "It's something to lift us up going into the playoffs."

In BCJHL action in the Coastal Division Friday night, Langley Eagles trounced Burnaby Bluehawks 16-5 while Nanaimo Clippers trimmed Cowichan Valley Capitals 11-5.

Lakers next game is Sunday night when they take to the road to play the hapless Merritt Centennials.