

Buckaroos' overtime tally provides upset against Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Summerland Buckaroos picked a perfect time to turn around their winless streak in Vernon Civic Arena.

The defending BCJHL Interior Division champions got a goal from veteran Kelly Evin 13 seconds into sudden-death overtime to post a 5-4 upset over hometown Vernon Lakers and take a 1-0 lead in their best-of-seven division semi-final.

Evin's goal, his second of the night, spoiled a courageous comeback bid by Lakers which saw them erase a 4-0 deficit that Buckaroos held until 15:15 of the second stanza.

Defenceman Jeff Doerr forced the game into extra time when his innocent-looking shot from the point took a bad hop in front of Summerland goaltender Mark Taylor and landed in the far corner of the net. The goal came with just 31 seconds remaining in regulation time.

With the monumental upset by the Bucks, who defeated Lakers just twice in 12 outings this season both of those on their home-ice, coach Wayne



SHANNON POHL
... broke ice

Naka was beside himself with joy and relief.

"It's a big, big win for us I'll tell you," said Naka, who coached his Kelowna Buckaroos to the BCJHL final against Abbotsford Flyers last season. "This is a tough, tough place for us to play."

However, Naka wasn't about to assume that his club's upset in game one

would instantly shift the momentum over to their side.

Bucks came to play hockey Friday night and out-skated, out-thusted and out-checked Lakers for much of the first two periods, creating numerous good scoring opportunities and capitalizing on them.

Not to be outdone, nor die without a struggle, Lakers finally broke the ice with Shannon Pohl's marker at 15:15 of the second period. Pohl moved up the left wing, looked for someone to centre to but eventually elected to put the puck in himself.

Trailing 4-1 going into the third stanza, Lakers got a big break when Buckaroos took four consecutive penalties. Vernon capitalized on two of them to pull themselves to within a goal.

Nick Kapicki scored the first man-advantage marker at 9:44 converting a perfect tic-tac-toe passing play. It was the kind of play that made Lakers famous throughout the season for baffling the opposition's defence. Gavin Shuya and Pohl drew assists on Kapicki's tally.



JEFF DOERR
... forced OT

Veteran Scott Young, wearing the captaincy in Bob Wensley's absence, pulled the local club to wit in a goal at 11:47 on another power-play. Young tipped in Dave Wensley's centering pass.

For Bucks, Shawn Harrison opened the scoring when his blistering drive from outside the blue line beat Lakers Peter Martin on the stick-side. Alberta

Anthony scored two in succession to give Summerland a 3-0 lead after one period, while Evin, with his first of the night, stretched the lead to 4-0 at 12:17 of the second period.

In overtime, Bucks dumped the puck into Lakers end off the draw, forced Lakers' defence to cough up the puck, with a little help from Shuya dropping his stick, and Evin walked in all alone. After waiting for Martin to drop, Evin put the puck high into the open corner for the game-winner.

Although Bucks enjoyed a lead throughout the contest, if not for the heroics of Taylor in the Summerland nets, Lakers would have easily blown them away for the seventh time this season.

Taylor was outstanding in blocking 55 shots while Martin was equally as acrobatic in making 33 saves for Vernon.

The second game of the series begins tonight at 8 p.m. at Civic arena.

In other Interior Division playoff action Friday night, Brett Hull scored five times to pace Penitence Knights to a 13-2 laugher over Revelstoke Rangers.



KEVIN POIRIER, a graduate of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association, was one of the top scorers with United States International University, at San Diego, this season. Poirier played in the B.C. Junior Hockey League with Vernon and Abbotsford Flyers before accepting a scholarship to the U.S. college.

Kal Lakers' victory puts them in semis

Kal Lakers advanced to the semi-final stage of the Provincial boys Junior Basketball Championship Friday night in Abbotsford with a 68-61 victory over Vancouver College.

Meanwhile, Kal Lakettes, advanced to the semi-final round of the Girls Junior Basketball championship in Richmond with a 45-38 victory over Laurie Tigrettes, of Cranbrook in the opening round of that playoff.

Lakers trailed 23-17 early in the second quarter as the much bigger Vancouver College club used their size and height to great advantage. However, Lakers turned things around with a bit of their magic.

"They (Vancouver College) are the biggest team we've ever seen in terms of muscle," said Lakers' coach Dave Jackson. "We started to wilt under their size and pressure so we went to a full-court press and ran a 12-2 streak on them to finish the second quarter in the lead."

Lakers led 33-29 at half time and continued their ways through the third quarter to take a commanding 52-36 lead at three quarters.

"They should have kept trying to slow us down instead of running with us," suggested Jackson. "We were able to control the game after that."

Jackson had top praise for Bruce

Babiuk who performed heroics under pressure for the local hoopers.

"He (Babiuk) was sort of a one-man gang for us against their front line which were all built like football players," Jackson said. "He got the rebounds and got them to Christensen (Lee) who gave us our fastbreak."

Although Babiuk only put five points on the scoreboard the talented youngster hauled in 12 rebounds and had seven steals.

Meanwhile Christensen tallied 20 points for Lakers while J.D. Jackson hit for 17 and Rod Charlton had 16.

Jackson feels the worst is over for his club now and that the big win Friday could mean an easy move into the final later tonight. Lakers will play Burnette, of Richmond, this morning at 10:30 in their semi-final round while Prince Rupert, also heavily favored to reach the final, plays Wellington of Victoria in the other semi-final.

Lakettes got an 18-point performance in their win over Laurie. The local girls' squad met London, of Richmond in their semi-final game this afternoon at 1:30.

As Lakettes' coach Gary Nohr predicted, both his club and Dr. Knox, of Kelowna, are just one win away from meeting in an all Okanagan final this evening.



OKANAGAN COLLEGE edged National Hotel 66-64, Thursday, in the Carling O'Keefe Basketball League final. Team members are from left,

back row: Mike dePlyffer, Wilf Haak and Kevin Cucheron. Front row: Dale Dafeo, Gary Casperson and Winston Pain. (Daily News Photo)

Okanagan College wins playoff title

Dale Dafeo's long jump shot with five seconds remaining in overtime gave Okanagan College Academics a 66-64 win over National Hotel in the Carling O'Keefe Basketball League championship game, Thursday, at the Priest Valley Gymnasium.

The game was a replay of last year's final when Academics also trimmed National Hotel in overtime.

Wilf Haak led the College attack with 22 points while Dafeo sunk 14 and Mike

Kakoske collected 12 points for Hotelmen while Pat Clements added 11.

National held a 36-34 edge at half-time and the teams were deadlocked 60-60 after regulation time.

In the consolation final, Rosman Bros. Auto nipped Spallumcheen Golf Club 50-49.

Glen Wheelhouse was the leading scorer for Rosman Bros. Auto with 16 points while Clint Kanester replied with 18 for Spallumcheen.

Poirier steady in first season

By KEVIN MITCHELL
Special to the Daily News

SAN DIEGO — Kevin Poirier didn't have any trouble deciding to accept a hockey scholarship at United States International University.

As a member of the B.C. Junior Hockey League champion Abbotsford Flyers last year, the 21-year-old Vernon product was wooed by both USIU and the University of Alaska-Anchorage.

"It was pretty funny," recalled Poirier. "There were two scouts in our dressing room, one from San Diego and one from Alaska. The Anchorage guy was just sitting in the corner by himself. It was pretty instant choosing San Diego."

Poirier, who also played one year of junior hockey with Vernon Lakers, was one of the most consistent freshman with Ron Ingram's ISIU Gulls this season.

"We expected him to play some good hockey for us," said Ingram, who enjoyed a 16-year pro career, three of which were in the old six-team NHL. "It was pleasant to see how steady he was. He's not a spotty player."

A six-foot-one, 185-pound centre, Poirier spent most of the NCAA division one season on a line with Matt Lundgren of Seal Beach, Calif. and Doug Hannonson, of Langley.

Ingram, who often used Poirier to shadow Northern Arizona Lumberjacks' superstar Greg Adams (the nation's top scorer), expects Poirier to have a more productive sophomore year.

"After a year in the league, he'll score even more goals," said Ingram. "He's getting better every game and he's got a good attitude."

WORST SEASON
The youthful Gulls suffered through their worst season ever with a 4-31-2 record, earning wins over Denver, Air Force, Alaska and Northern Arizona. Poirier collected seven goals and 22 points in 37 games to finish fourth in team scoring.

"It was a frustrating season, but a building season," said Poirier. "Hopefully we'll have a lot to look forward to with all the freshmen back next year. After a year where we (Abbotsford) only lost six games all season, I got used to winning."

As for the difference between junior and college hockey, Poirier said, "College hockey is a step faster than junior. In practice you don't notice, but as soon as you hit the ice, you better keep your head up."

The Gulls, California's only college hockey team, practice daily at the Mira Mesa House of Ice, a rink which seats about 2,000. The only time USIU sells out for a home game is when powerhouse clubs like North Dakota and Minnesota are in town.

BIG CROWDS
"When we get a big crowd it's mainly alumni for the other teams," said Ingram. "It's like we're playing on the road all the time."

Backed by a \$100,000 a year budget, the Gulls travel in comfort.

"I was impressed by the travelling," said Poirier. "Going to Montreal (to play Concordia Stingers) was the highlight. Playing in North Dakota and Minnesota was great too. I had never played in front of that many people, 7,000 good hockey fans."

Perhaps the toughest part of playing hockey in Southern California, especially for the 14 Canadians with the Gulls, is getting used to the climate.

"It's tough coming to practices in shorts and wearing shades," smiled Poirier. "You kind of wish you were at the beach, but then you have to realize why you're down here."

OFF-CAMPUS
A business administration student, Poirier, his wife Laurie and son Brandon live off-campus in the Mira Mesa area of San Diego.

"She enjoys living down here," said Poirier of his wife. "She comes to all the games, but she doesn't like us losing all the time."

Because the Gulls are an independent ranked team, they have to be voted in to the NCAA playoffs. However, USIU's poor record this year hardly rated them any national recognition.

"I'd like to finish my four years here," said Poirier. "There's always the possibility of playing pro hockey, but right now I'd like to finish hockey here and get a degree. I'd like to stay down here after ... Vernon's always home and I hope to go back one day, but I'd like to settle down here."

Poirier, Hannonson, Don Yewchin of Nanaimo, Doug Fomenko of Langley and Lawrence Duke of Burnaby are all ex-Abbotsford Flyers at USIU.

Says Yewchin on Poirier, "He's a smart hockey player. He's really strong with the puck and a hard worker."

The Gulls' captain this year was Mickey McCarthy, of Edmonton, who played junior hockey for St. Albert Saints, in the Alberta Junior League.

McCarthy perhaps sums up best the Southern California college hockey philosophy.

"Who's smarter? The guy going nowhere in hockey playing in the snow in Wisconsin or the guy going nowhere in hockey playing in the sun in Southern California?"

Defends title

NAIROBI (Reuter) — Ken Brown of Britain opened defence of his Kenyan Open golf title in spectacular form Thursday, shooting a five-under-par 66 in the first round of the \$112,000 (Canadian) tournament. Brown collected five birdies and one eagle, dropping only two strokes to par to hold a one-stroke lead over compatriot Steve Hadfield.

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Editor — DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

Frenchmen meet Mustangs

Toros Mustangs takes on Lumby Flying Frenchmen in White Valley Hockey League playoff action tonight, at 9 p.m., in Lumby. Winner advances to the 'b' side final, Sunday at 8 p.m., against National Hotel Raiders. The 'B' side winner will battle Labatts Sabres in the WVHL championship game next Wednesday night.

Hoop tournament

Eight teams are competing in the Armstrong Molsons Senior 'b' Men's Basketball Tournament this weekend, at the Priest Valley Gymnasium. Play got under way today and continues Sunday. Consolation final is scheduled Sunday, at 12 noon, with the championship game at 1:30 p.m.

Sign import

REGINA (CP) — Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Canadian Football League have announced the signing of import defensive back and punt return specialist Walter Black. The five-foot-10, 175-pound University of North Carolina Tar Heels veteran ran back 40 punts for 422 yards last year, setting a divisional U.S. college record.

Leads sweep

OSLO (AP) — Norway swept the first four overall placings in the Nordic combined event Friday at the Holmenkollen Ski Festival. Espen Andersen led the team winning the 70-metre jumping event Thursday and placed third in the 15-kilometre cross-country race Friday.

Americans win

YOKOHAMA, Japan (Reuter) — Americans Pam Shriver and Ann Kiyomura beat second seeds Anne Hobbs of Britain and Wendy Turnbull of Australia 6-4, 6-4 Friday in the semifinals of a \$175,000 women's international doubles tennis tournament. Top seeds Billie Jean King and Sharon Walsh beat fellow-Americans Beth Herr and Gigi Fernandez 6-0, 2-6, 6-3 in a first-round match.

Add rookie

OTTAWA (CP) — Ottawa Rough Riders have added rookie import wide receiver Reuben Eckles to the list of hopefuls to make the Canadian Football League team this season. With veterans Tyrone Gray and Dwight Edwards already on the roster, the Riders went back to Wichita State University in Kansas for the 1982-83 Missouri Valley Conference all-star, who played for three years with Riders' alternate quarterback Prince McJunkins.

Cites coaching

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — John Denny attributes his 1983 Cy Young Award-winning season to coaching tips, a healthy body and a clear mind. Denny, 31, preparing for the 1984 baseball season at Philadelphia Phillies' spring training camp, said "(Pitching coach) Claude Osteen helped me with my motion and my delivery and ironed out some things that I had been doing wrong." Denny sees no reason why he shouldn't do as well as he did last year. "I might even do better."

Ends retirement

CINCINNATI (AP) — Aaron Pryor, who retired last year as the World Boxing Association's undefeated junior welterweight champion, said Friday he's ending his self-imposed, six-month retirement and is soliciting offers for a bout.

"I never really retired, I just rested," Pryor, 28, said at his Cincinnati home.

Pryor and his manager, Cincinnati restaurant operator Buddy LaRosa, said LaRosa is talking with several boxing promoters, including Bob Arum and Don Elbaum, about arranging a fight.

Pryor vacated his WBA title when he announced his retirement in October. Johnny Bumphus has since claimed the title.

Rings stolen

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — Two World Series rings were among \$26,000 worth of goods stolen from former major league star John (Boog) Powell's house, police said Friday.

Powell earned the rings in 1966 as a member of Baltimore Orioles and in 1977 when he was with Los Angeles Dodgers. The rings were valued at \$4,000.

Score tennis wins

BRUSSELS (AP) — Tomas Smid and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, John McEnroe of the U.S. and Thomas Hogstedt of Sweden scored quarter-final victories in the Belgian indoor tennis championship Friday.

In the semifinals, Hogstedt meets McEnroe, who beat fellow American Johan Kriek 6-3, 6-1. Hogstedt eliminated Belgian Bernard Boileau 6-4, 4-6, 6-1.

HOCKEY ROUND-UP

CHL

Indianapolis 11 Colorado 3

IHL

Peoria 4 Flint 2

B.C. Junior

Langley 5 Abbotsford 3

(Langley leads best-of-seven quarter-final 2-0)

Nanaimo 7 Richmond 6

(Nanaimo leads best-of-seven quarter-final 1-0)

Penticton 13 Revelstoke 2

(Penticton leads best-of-seven quarter-final 1-0)

Summerland 5 Vernon 4 (OT)

(Summerland leads best-of-seven quarter-final 2-1)