



VERNON LAKERS' Nick Kapicki (16) gets muscled out of the play by Vernon minor hockey product Jeff Finley (7), of Summerland, while Buckaroos' goaltender Mark Taylor tries to cover

Shannon Pohl's shot. The action took place Saturday night at Vernon Civic Arena where Bucks edged the hometown crew 5-4. Sunday, Bucks dumped Vernon 5-1, in Summerland, to take a

commanding 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven semi-final, Interior Division Series. Game four takes place Tuesday, in Summerland. (Daily News Photo)

Buckaroos take 3-0 lead

By JIM JUDD Daily News Sports

From all appearances, Vernon Lakers are going to exit the 1983-84 BCJHL season with a whimper instead of a bang.

Lakers' big guns, which led the league in goals this season, were silent once again Sunday as the hometown Summerland Buckaroos skated to a 5-1 victory and took a commanding 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven, semi-final series against Vernon.

Saturday night, at Vernon Civic arena, Bucks bumped and grinded their way to a 5-4 victory in regulation time to set the stage for a monumental upset in the first round of playoffs.

Bucks, who didn't have a player in the top 20 scorers this season, got goals from Dan Woodley, Tom Benson, Jeff Finley, Kelly Evin and Albert Anthony in their win Sunday while Anthony and Evin, along with Brent and Shawn Harrison, and Shawn Pettijohn provided Bucks' offense Saturday night.

Rob Kossan, with a goal midway through the third period, was the only member of Vernon's once awesome offense to put a puck past Summerland goaltender Mark Taylor Sunday.

Saturday night, Gavin Shuya, Scott Young, Kossan and Glen Kirk were Lakers' marksmen.

The story for Vernon to date has been a series of consistently bad mistakes by both forwards and defence. Lakers have crossed the front of their own net with the puck and continue to pass across the front of their net while attempting to break out of their end. Anticipating this, Bucks are breaking up Lakers' plays, intercepting passes, and creating havoc in the Vernon defensive zone.

In all three games, but particularly in Sunday's contest, Lakers have been caught up ice, allowing two and three on one situations for the Bucks and numerous breakaway opportunities.

But the worst fault of the hometown crew has been its inability to put the puck in the net during scoring opportunities.

Summerland goaltender Taylor has been a standout in the series, but while Lakers are still trying to finesse the puck into the net with fancy passing plays, Bucks are thrashing it out in the trenches, winning the battle for the slot and putting the puck past Vernon's goaltenders.

Following Sunday's victory, Summerland Coach Wayne Naka was as surprised to be the winning coach as Mike Enemark was to be the loser.

"I can't hardly believe it myself," said Naka. "We didn't play as well as we did in the first two games but we got some breaks."

"We're just going to keep playing one game at a time."

However, the Bucks' mentor did have a few words of sympathy for Vernon Lakers.

"It's hard to come back after you lose two in your own building."

Meanwhile, Enemark reflected much of the anger and frustration that is running through his team now.

"We're really frustrated," Enemark said. "If we can just get out to a lead... we got down again and everyone started to panic."

Bucks led 1-0 after the first period and skated to a 2-0 lead after 40 minutes.

Despite the score, Lakers outplayed the hometown crew, Sunday, but missed on six powerplay chances as well as numerous others that came while the teams were at full strength.

Lakers' dismal powerplay in the series has connected just three of 16 times and has also allowed two short-handed goals.

Although Lakers sorely miss the presence of captain and team leader Bob Wensley, out for the duration of the year following the discovery of a confusion on his leg, the remainder of Lakers' potent offence hasn't been able to carry the load.

Dave Wensley, top scorer on the team, has managed just two assists in three games and has been held scoreless in the last two games. Young and Kossan, with two goals each, have been the only players to tally more than once.

With game four scheduled for Tuesday night in Summerland, Lakers are now faced with the unenviable task of staying off elimination and winning four straight games to take the series.

Though presently the job seems above Lakers, Enemark feels the team can rise to the occasion.

"If we can come out with the right attitude and take it one game at a time, four games will be nothing for us," he said. "This series isn't over yet — not by a long shot."

Game five, if necessary, will take place Thursday night at the Civic Arena.

HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASTICS

Seaton is best in B.C.

W.L. Seaton captured its second consecutive B.C. High School Gymnastics Championship, Saturday, in its home gymnasium.

Seaton had an overall total of 491 points to outdistance second place Hatzic by 99 points. Third place went to Guildford Park, of Surrey, with 317 points.

Clarence Fultin placed 15th with 153 points. Other local schools in the championships included Kalamalka, which finished 19th with 112 points, and VSS, in 29th spot, with 56 points.

Seaton earned the boys' title with 303 points. Mt. Baker had the second best boys' total with 250 while third place Hatzic had 235. Kal finished 11th with 53 points.

In girls' competition, Moscrop, of Burnaby, was first with 237 points. Hillside, of North Vancouver, was second with 201 points while Seaton took third place with 188. Fulton girls finished ninth at 154.

Seaton Coach Bob Davidson, who co-chaired the championships with Marlene Nickel, said he expected his team to do well. "I knew we were in the running," Davidson said. "We've got a super group of kids."

Davidson feels the reason Seaton has emerged as a powerhouse in gymnastics is the dedication of the athletes. "Our kids love gymnastics," he said. "Because we are in an isolated area, we don't get in that many competitions. So, they spend countless hours practicing... perfecting their routines."

Mike Dutcher, of Seaton, was the outstanding local gymnast. Dutcher

earned a silver medal in the boys' division three competition.

Kalamalka's Doug Sladen picked up a bronze medal for his third place finish in the boys' division one event.

Local gymnasts and their placings were:

DIVISION 3 GIRLS: Rhonda Turner, VSS, eighth; Stacey Bryan, VSS, 12th; Pat Meger, Seaton, 25th; Sanci Dewinetz, Seaton, 26th; Sandy Pal, Seaton, 29th.

DIVISION 1 GIRLS: Wanita Yuill, Fulton, 10th; Patti Dibski, Seaton, 16th; Lisa Merkel, Fulton, 22nd; Lori Drexler, Seaton, 24th; Treena Jones, Fulton, 27th; S. Usher, Kal, 32nd; L. Fox, Kal, 37th; and I. Golin, Kal, 38th.

DIVISION 2 GIRLS: Tracey Irving, Fulton, sixth; Tamara Thorburn, Seaton, 14th; S. Futtrring, Fulton, 19th; Debbie Bohme, Seaton, 22nd; Karen Aiello, Fulton, 23rd; Valerie Peters, Seaton, 36th; B. Bailey, Kal, 38th; and S. Turner, Kal, 40th.

DIVISION 4 BOYS: Martin Combe, Seaton, fifth; Colin Hamilton, Seaton, seventh; and Jerry Drake, Seaton, eighth.

DIVISION 3 BOYS: Mike Dutcher, Seaton, second; Richard Pattullo, Seaton, fourth; and Paul Harpnick, Seaton, sixth.

DIVISION 2 BOYS: Wendell Goudge, Seaton, fifth; Chris Goble, Seaton, sixth; Kyle Yakimovitch, Seaton, 11th; and Derek Moran, Seaton, 12th.

DIVISION 1 BOYS: Doug Sladen, Kal, third; Mike Melland, Seaton, 16th; Jason Dewinetz, Seaton, 18th; and S. Harvey, Kal, 26th.



SEATON'S Mike Dutcher, front, won a silver medal in the level three boys' competition at the B.C. Gymnastics Championships. Kelly Manjak of Cranbrook, right, won the gold medal while Darren Popoff, also of Cranbrook, won the bronze. (Jeff Brandt Photo)