



THIS SCENE got all too familiar as the night wore on, Tuesday, at Vernon Civic Arena. Rookie goaltender Glen Mitchell could only watch as the puck goes by him into the net while

defenceman Wes Gentles (4), attempts to move a Salmon Arm Totems' forward out of the crease area. Lakers were unorganized and lacklustre as they dropped a 10-5 decision to visiting

Salmon Arm in their final exhibition game before the regular season. The local club earned just one tie in six pre-season outings. (Daily News Photo)

VERNON REMAINS WINLESS

Totems trounce Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

If Tuesday night's contest between Vernon Lakers and Salmon Arm Totems was any indication of things to come in the regular season, coach Mike Enemark and his charges are in for some long evenings.

Lakers showed little enthusiasm, emotion, desire, organization, or hockey skills as they fell victim to the swifter Totems, 10-5, at the Civic Arena.

Saving for a few rather splendid individual efforts spaced intermittently throughout the game, one word would effectively describe the display by the Vernon club... inept.

Lakers opened the scoring just one minute and seven seconds into the encounter when Frank Dutoff took a pass from winger Greg Guest and put the local squad on the board.

However, Totems replied with eight unanswered goals between 5:41 of the first period and the 10:36 mark of the second period, during which time Lakers were unaccounted for.

Enemark expressed disappointment with the outcome of the game — a contest he wanted to win badly so that his club would have at least one victory under their belts heading into the season opener, Friday, against Revelstoke Rangers, at Civic Arena.

"It's disappointing that's all I can say," Enemark offered. "We had six pre-season games though and the guys are getting worn out."

"We've got a few things to work on such as our power-play and our discipline."

Lakers' power-play did account for a pair of goals late in the second period, one by

veteran defenceman Tony Christie and the other by rookie winger Troy Mick.

Mick's goal, which until 15-year old Dennis Holland scored on a short-handed situation, was the prettiest goal of the night. Picking up a pass at Totems' blue line, the rangy youngster faked out the defence and the goaltender before casually depositing a backhand into the net.

The score stood at 8-3 at that point.

The third period saw the two clubs exchange four goals with Wes Gentles providing one of Vernon's markers and Holland dazzling the crowd with his effort at 14:27.

The goal by the Vernon youngster caught the attention of everyone.

"That was a nice short-handed goal," said Totems' coach Don Stevens. "I don't know who the

kid was, but he sure can handle the puck."

Stevens was kind to Enemark and his Lakers despite the fact that he was able to handle them so easily with a handful of veterans watching from the sides.

"They've got a lot of work to be done but I don't doubt they can play and they'll win their share of games," offered Stevens.

Enemark slashed five players from his camp immediately following the game. Earlier in the evening, General manager Carl Enemark drove to Kelowna Airport to pick up a pair of much-needed defencemen who flew in from Estevan, Sask. The pair, according to team co-owner Bud Russell, could help the club.

"They're so tough they rode on the wings instead of in seats," said Russell on a light note.