

Third period rally not enough for Lakers

Vernon Lakers scored three power-play goals in the third period to erase a 4-1 deficit only to have Langley Eagles counter their rally with three man-advantage tallies to earn a 7-4 victory over the local club in a BCJHL game in that Coastal Division city Friday night.

Meanwhile, Penticton Knights, 11-4 winners against Salmon Arm Totems, moved back into first place in the Interior Division while Lakers are once again in second place with five wins, two losses and a tie.

Aside from Lakers' third-period rally, coach Mike Enemark wasn't impressed with their style

of play nor the club's attitude toward the game in general.

"I was disappointed in the way we played, especially after we tied the game in the third period," said Enemark. "You can't expect to play poorly for two periods and win it in the third and I think it was a good lesson for the guys... you have to be prepared to play for three periods."

Lakers, with just four veteran skaters and a goaltender in their lineup were victimized by their inexperience as much as anything, especially playing on the incredibly large ice surface of the Coastal Division club.

"It's such a big ice surface that the power-play was the whole story," explained Enemark. "Once you start running around on that big ice you're dead."

The two teams scored a total of nine man-advantage goals although Lakers were stung for six of those by the division-leading Eagles. Enemark was disappointed in his team's penalty-killing as a result.

"We didn't penalty kill as well as we can, we just couldn't kill the full two minutes each time," he said.

Eagles goals came from Rob Clarke, Rod Ware, Tim Ziola, Derrick

Ruppel, Richard Sloan, Jeff Butler, and Neil Eisenhut.

Lakers got single goals from veteran Greg Kowal, winger Greg Guest, Sean Hartnell and Dave Millan.

Vernon continues their road swing through the Lower mainland tonight when they travel down the road to Abbotsford where they will compete against the League champion Flyers. Flyers, however, who narrowly avoided folding as a club earlier this week, are winless to date in regular season play.

"We know nothing about them (Flyers) but they haven't won a game yet and a team like that is dangerous because they're hungry for their first win," said Enemark who would dearly like another victory on their road trip this weekend.

Lakers will close out their Coastal Division trip Sunday night in Richmond where they will go up against Vernon natives Bruce Major and Henry Reimer, the top point-getters in the Coastal Division at this point.

"They (Sockeyes) have a pretty good club but all their goals are coming from one line," Enemark said. "Defensively they don't move the puck well so lots of fore-checking and positional play should win the game for us."

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Penticton Knights trounced Salmon Arm Totems 11-4 and Summerland Buckaroos defeated Merritt Centennials 7-4.

In Penticton, Aaron Scott scored three goals to lead the Knights while Cliff Furnseth and Todd Brost each scored twice for the winners and singles came from Joe Murphy, Dave Shields, Greg Cyr and Shawn Harrison.

Albert Anthony, Jeff Kentel, Doyle Flaherty and Kent Maltais replied for Totems who trailed 3-2 and 6-2 by periods.

In other games tonight, Nanaimo plays host to Revelstoke, Summerland travels to Merritt and Langley is at Sidney.

Late junior cuts bolster juveniles

Bolstered by a number of returnees and new prospects cut late by the Vernon Junior Hockey Club, coach Al Noakes was able to lead his Vernon Coca-Cola Juveniles to a pair of lopsided exhibition victories last weekend.

The results have given Noakes' a new perspective of his team and given him renewed hope for success this season in the juvenile loop.

Vernon juveniles posted a 9-4 decision over visiting Salmon Arm, Friday night in Vernon, while Saturday in Kamloops, the local team earned an easy 9-3 win over hometown Kamloops. Previously, Vernon had dropped a decision to Kelowna in an exhibition game.

The pair of easy wins hasn't flooded Noakes' head with false illusions. He knows that anything coming his way this season will still be the result of hard work on his club's behalf.

"At this point they (Salmon Arm and Kamloops) aren't going to be the tougher teams in the league," said Noakes. "We're going to be competitive no doubt about that but I don't think we'll lead like we did last year."

However, Noakes did manage to bolster his defensive corps... the problem area he an-

ticipated earlier in the pre-season. The arrival of Tony Toth, recently trimmed from Vernon Lakers' camp, has strengthened Noakes' blueline corps while the return of veteran goaltender Rich Potter, from Revelstoke Rangers, gives the juvenile crew an ideal backstop as a last line of defence.

"Rich (Potter) played well for us last year and I'm sure he'll have another good year," said Noakes.

Noakes was also pleased to get Toth.

"I'm quite happy," offered the Vernon coach. "He (Toth) is big, he can skate and he'll definitely help us. He played very well against Kamloops last Saturday."

Toth, 17, is a first-year juvenile, but judging by the amount of time spent with the juniors this season, it will likely be his first and only year with the 18 and under squad.

"He's essentially a rookie but the experience at junior level was definitely good for him," explained Noakes.

A further batch of midget reps back from junior camps aren't going to hinder the progress of the juvenile club either. Some of these players include Alan Tomiak, Curt Peterson and Arne Flaten.

Despite the considerable gap in the weekend scores, Noakes feels he has to do further work on his offensive aspects of the game.

"The one difficulty we had last weekend, and it's hard to believe after scoring 18 goals in two games, was coming out of our own end," explained the juvenile mentor. "That's what we're working on right now."

However, the overall view at this point leaves Noakes feeling optimistic about his team's chances this season.

"We've got a good aggressive team and that's what I want," said Noakes. "We're hitting good all over the ice and I'm looking forward to a good season."

Players sent down

VANCOUVER (CP) — Vancouver Canucks have assigned centre Grant Martin and defenceman Bruce Holloway to Fredericton Express of the American Hockey League, the National Hockey League team announced Friday.

