

Lakers tough on home pond

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports
In a close-checking, fast-paced contest between two relatively evenly-matched hockey clubs, Vernon Lakers proved masters of their own corral Friday night with a narrow 5-4 victory over visiting Langley Eagles at Vernon Civic arena.

The win leaves Vernon squarely in second place in the BCJHL Interior Division while Eagles remain atop the Coastal Division and continue their Interior road swing against the Rangers.

The game featured a goaltenders' duel with

the third period, broke a 4-4 deadlock and proved to be the winner for Lakers.

both clubs exhibiting tremendous skating and checking skills. However, Lakers also employed a system of intimidation, mostly from the bench, which Eagles coach Ron Coleman despised but admitted threw his young club off their game.

"We usually leave the playing to the players but they (Mike Enemark and assistant coach Len Sloan) were verbally trying to intimidate our players from the bench," said Coleman. "I've never seen two coaches on a bench with less class in my life... we're not sore losers, they played a great game, but those two coaches could've started a war."

Enemark, meanwhile, made no attempt to duck Coleman's accusations but admitted to the intimidation tactic, defend-

ing the maneuver by his own experiences.

"Len (Sloan) is on the bench to intimidate them," admitted Enemark, showing no remorse for his tactics which netted his club two points for the evening. "Penticton has done it for years and it works. We have to do it, it's got nothing to do with dirty hockey."

True to his word,

Enemark's charges picked up only a handful of minor penalties and allowed just one goal to be scored against them on the night during man-advantage situations by Langley.

The two teams were tied 2-2 and 4-4 by period scores with the toughest grinding coming during the second period.

Lakers' 16-year old rookie winger Greg Guest accounted for two goals on the night, both coming on break-aways. The first evened the score at 1-1 in the opening stanza. His second put Lakers in front 3-2 at the seven minute mark of the second period. Lakers took the lead on four separate occasions during the course of the evening.

Veteran captain Greg Kowal notched his 10th of the season on a power-play situation in the first period while newcomer Randy Kaler's tallied late in the second period.

Former Penticton Knight Seattle Breaker Derrick Ruppel scored once during a man-advantage situation for Eagles while his second attempt, during an identical situation, put Lakers' goaltender Jim Young down hard for a few minutes.

Young, who was praised by coaches at both ends of the rink at the games' conclusion, was brilliant in blocking 39 shots. Ruppel's one-timer from the slot in the third period nearly took his head off, though, and typified the kind of hard work it took to backstop Lakers to their victory.

"It takes a lot out of you," said Young following the game. "That third period was the toughest I ever played."

Veteran Rod Ware, Marty Plazma, and Dean Duprey also scored singles for Eagles who opened the scoring just 41 seconds into the first period.

Players on both teams showed signs of physical exhaustion at the completion of the game... not surprising considering the amount of punishment both clubs handed out and took.

"We played physically tough, played our posi-



GREG GUEST
... scored twice

tions and did our jobs," explained Enemark. "We pulled together as a team... that's the difference between last years club and this years."

The victory wasn't without its cost however. Lakers lost the services of speedster Sean Lofroth who went down in the third period — the immediate diagnosis was a broken forearm though that awaits confirmation at this point.

In the only other action Friday night in the BCJHL, visiting Abbotsford Flyers got a rude welcoming from the hometown Penticton Knights who won their ninth consecutive game with a 15-1 laugher over Flyers.

Winger Joe Murphy scored three goals, two on the power-play for Knights while Todd Brost and Scott Rawson each scored twice. Knights held period leads of 5-1 and 9-1. Rob Reid was the only Flyer to beat goaltender Grant McPhail who was called on to make just 17 saves for Penticton.

Lakers are idle for the remainder of the weekend but travel to the hostile territory occupied by Penticton Knights Tuesday evening. A victory by Lakers would move the local club to within three points of first place and would constitute the first loss of the season for the high-flying Knights.



HEADING a long list of prize and award winners honored at the recent annual meeting and banquet of the Vernon Golf and Country Club women were these major trophy recipients. From

left: Jimmy Wills and Cris Kendy, joint winners of the District No. 3 Chairman's Trophy; Libby Foord, Captain's Cup; Kathy Sand, Mackenzie Cup; Moe

Turner, club championship and the Watson Cup; Pat Ree, Wadsworth Cup; Anne Watson, Wilmot Cup; and Celia Merritt, Corbett Cup.

(Daily News Photo)

LOCAL GOLFERS RECEIVE AWARDS

