

Lakers drop to third

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Three unanswered third period goals enabled visiting Summerland Buckaroos to overcome a 2-1 deficit and post a 4-2 decision over Vernon Lakers at Vernon Civic arena Friday night.

The loss, Lakers' fifth in a row and second straight on home ice, leaves the local club in third place in the BCJHL Interior Division. Vernon's record has fallen to 7-8-1 following the current five-game winless streak while Bucks overtook them Friday in the battle for second place in the division.

It was the second occasion in which Lakers had squandered a lead and lost the game on home ice and doubtlessly Vernon coach Mike Enemark isn't too pleased with the current pace. However,

Friday night Enemark had a beef of a different nature as he felt his club got the brunt of the officials' calls.

"When you're short-handed the whole third period and half the second, it's hard to get into the flow of things," said Enemark who exchanged hot words with both the game officials and Tom Balfour, referee-in-chief of the BCJHL Interior Division who was in the stands Friday. "You've got guys in the (penalty) box or on the bench instead of in the game."

Lakers were fingered for nearly twice as many minor calls as Bucks including a period of almost six minutes during the second period when minor penalties called on Lakers resulted in their having to play two men short.

Despite the adversity of

man-power, Lakers managed to successfully kill off all the penalties in the second frame with only Bucks' Shawn Pettyjohn scoring during the 20-minute span of the period. That goal came when the clubs were at full strength.

Vernon led 2-0 after one period on goals by Shannon Poh., at 4:30, and Frank Dutoff whose shot from the point got by Summerland netminder Chris Fairley during a power-play situation.

Pohl's tally came off a precision tic-tac-toe passing play between himself and line-mates Nick Kapicki and Greg Kowal.

However, Lakers' defensive work began to break down in the third period, mostly due to the amount of time they were logging killing penalties. Bucks scored just one power-play goal in the



MIKE ENEMARK

... too many penalties

third frame but caught Vernon off guard and winded at full strength for the other two.

Pettyjohn notched his second of the night to tie the game just 26 seconds into the third frame. Miles Fenske put the winner on the board for Bucks at 9:02 while Kerry Fisher notched the insurance goal for the visitors at 14:35.

Shots on goal were even at 33 apiece though Vernon's Jim Young was outstanding during the evening making saves from point-blank during the two-man advantage situations Summerland enjoyed on numerous occasions.

While Enemark was incensed at the officiating and was virtually unconsolable, assistant-coach Len Sloan tried to sum up Lakers' futile efforts of late.

"We've deserved to win

some of these games we've lost but we just can't seem to get any breaks," said Sloan. "We try not to get down and not to let the refs get us down but it's tough when you're getting slaughtered by the calls all night."

Lakers were also hampered by the loss of their first and second string centres. Nick Kapicki took an early shower during the second period when a brief scuffle with a Summerland player brought fighting majors and game misconducts to both. Camille Simard headed for the gate early in the third frame when he argued a holding call on himself and was given a misconduct.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Penticton Knights scored five third period goals en route to a convincing 10-2 victory over visiting Merritt Centennials. On the Coast, Langley Eagles edged Sidney Capitals 9-8.

Aaron Scott scored two goals for Penticton as did Ian Kidd. Tim Comeau, Dave Shields, Todd Brost, Greg Cyr, Ed Cristofoli and Shawn Harrison also scored for Knights who lead the Interior Division with a record of 12 wins and three losses. Alan Wall and Randy McFarlane replied for Merritt.

Vernon travels to Merritt tonight as BCJHL action resumes. Following tonight's game Lakers will be idle until Friday when they travel to Penticton. The next home game is Nov. 16.

