

SIMARD SCORES WINNER

Lakers end slump

Vernon Lakers' losing streak came to an abrupt halt at five games Saturday night in Merritt.

Camille Simard's goal at 16:47 of the third period lifted the slumping Lakers to a 5-4 come-from-behind win over the hometown Centennials.

Simard's tally came just minutes after winger Greg Guest had scored to tie the game. Centennials overcame a 3-1 first period deficit to lead 4-3 early in the third frame.

To win evens Lakers' record at eight wins, eight losses and a tie but leaves them a single point back of second place Summerland Buckaroos in the BCJHL Interior Division. Bucks were 8-4 winners over

Sabres sweep weekend games

Sabres moved into first place in the White Valley Hockey League with a pair of weekend victories, in Lumby.

Sabres defeated Telmast Warriors 11-1, Saturday, and National Hotel Raiders 5-3, Sunday. In another game Sunday, Warriors blasted Lumby Flying Frenchmen 12-5.

On Saturday, Ray Williment led Sabres with a goal and four assists. Kevin Beavus and Jeff Wejr scored twice while Bob Sophonow, Tom Day, Don Ulansky, Brian McAlister, Wayne Hoover, and Frank Joe added singles.

Darcy Anderson replied with the lone goal for Warriors, who trailed 1-0 at the end of the first period and 4-1 after the second.

On Sunday, against Raiders, Don Baillie was the offensive star with three goals for Sabres while Hoover and Beavus added one apiece.

Brian Hunt, Rich Creelman, and Frank Lewis countered for Raiders.

The teams were deadlocked 0-0 at the end of the first period and 2-2 after 40 minutes.

Anderson led Warriors past the winless Flying Frenchmen with two goals and four assists. Mike Enemark had three goals and two assists while Len Sloan scored twice and set up three others for Telmast. Rick Rysz, Calvin David, Terry Garrington, Derrick Smithson, and Rick Lodout rounded out the scoring for Warriors.

Ros Hornell, with three goals, Brendon Altwasser, and Jim Decofee blinked the red light for Lumby. Ron Schunter collected four assists.

Warriors jumped to a 5-1 lead after the first period and held a 9-2 margin after the second.

League play resumes with a doubleheader Wednesday, in Lumby. At 7 p.m. Raiders take on Warriors and at 9 p.m., Frenchmen clash with Sabres.

Revelstoke Rangers in action, Sunday night.

After blowing yet another lead Saturday night, Lakers' coach Mike Enemark began to get that all too familiar queezy feeling in his stomach before his club stormed back for the victory.

"Our guys finally decided that they were tired of losing when we went down 4-3," said a relieved Enemark. "After that we just took the game away from them."

Simard, standing all alone at the side of the net, rifled in a rebound from about 10 feet out for the game winner.

"It was in and out so fast I thought it hit the post," said Enemark.

The game featured goals by players who have been lying in dormancy throughout the team's five-game futility record. Guest's goal was his first since the club defeated Langley, Oct. 19. Nick Kapicki scored his first since Oct. 12, while Mike Vansickle and Tony Christie both scored their first markers since the club returned from their swing through the Coastal Division in early October.

"Maybe this means our guys are out of their slump," said Enemark.

Meanwhile, Enemark admitted he did a lot of sweating during the latter part of the third period when Lakers had to defend a one-goal lead against the speedy Centennials.

"The last 37 seconds was a long, long time," he said. "We've got a lot of young players and some who just aren't used to winning."

Enemark sighted centre Dave Milan, formerly of Cowichan Valley Capitals, as an example of the latter problem. Milan's former club won just nine games last season.

Christie and Kapicki both scored in the first period while Vansickle's tally came early in the second frame.

Enemark also felt the absence of bad penalties contributed to the club's success as much as anything else.

"The refereeing was very fair for both sides," Enemark said. "I think anytime we get that kind of officiating that we'll win the game."

"Looking at it now that it's over it added character to our club," added Enemark in reference to the losing streak. "It taught us the difference between what it takes to win and what it takes to lose."

Enemark's impressions may be put to the test once again Friday when Lakers travel to Penticton. The club hasn't won a game in the Peach City since the Interior Division semi-final in 1983.

In other BCJHL action Saturday night Revelstoke Rangers humbled Salmon Arm Totems 9-1 while on the Coast it was Richmond over Sidney by an 11-2 margin and Abbotsford over Nanaimo 8-4.

Sunday night, Merrit defeated Salmon Arm 5-2, Summerland doubled Revelstoke 8-4, Bruce Major had his second consecutive five-point night as Richmond defeated Nanaimo 12-4, Burnaby downed Signey 15-3, and Langley doubled Abbotsford 10-5.

Juveniles lead league

Dean Freayh scored three times and assisted on one other to pace Vernon Coca-Cola Juveniles to an 8-1 win over visiting Salmon Arm Juvenile Reps, Sunday night.

Saturday night, Vernon defeated hometown Penticton 6-4 in the closest contest of the season for the local hockey club.

The pair of wins leaves Vernon undefeated in five games and in first place in the Okanagan-Mainline Juvenile Hockey League with 10 points.

Despite the fact that his team is embarking on a familiar pattern of success, coach Al Noakes feels there are definite differences between this year's club and the one he coached to the provincial final last season.

"The difference between last year's club and this one is that last year we were strong right off the bat and this team continues to improve every game," said Noakes.

Vernon picked up first year midget and late Vernon Lakers cut Dennis Holland for the game against Salmon Arm, Sunday. Holland responded to the call to duty with a pair of goals and two assists.

Les Olsen also turned in a two-goal, two-assist performance while Ben Sudol had one of each. Bill Baron and Todd Wold were held goal-less, but each collected three assists.

Saturday night, Baron paced the local juveniles with two goals and two assists while Geoff Porter, Freayh, Olsen, and Dale Danallanko each had a single goal.

The local club has outscored their opposition 56-20 during their first five victories and the result has left Noakes optimistic about the remainder of the season.

"We're looking forward to a good season," said Noakes. "We've played everyone in the league now so we know what they all look like."

With veteran blueliner Alan Tomiak out of the lineup with a separated shoulder, Noakes signed Alan Godel as a replacement for his defensive corps and was impressed with his play on the weekend.

"He played very well both games for someone with no experience at the rep team level," said Noakes. "That's just another plus."

Meanwhile, winger Troy Roland parted company with Noakes' squad to try his luck in the Junior A circuit. Roland is now playing with Revelstoke Rangers.