



LAKERS' Frank Dutoff, 27, searches for an open man in the slot during action in the third period, Sunday night, at Civic Arena against Revelstoke

Rangers. Dutoff helped set up two goals, including the game winner at 1:18 of overtime to give Lakers a 6-5 victory and a three-point cushion over

Summerland Buckaroos in the battle for second place in the BCJHL Interior Division.

(Daily News Photo)

GENTLES SCORES WINNER

Lakers nip Rangers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

It's a lucky thing for Vernon Lakers that left-winger Wes Gentles decided to heed their advice and shoot more often.

Gentles took a centering pass from Brad Boulton and one-timed the disc into the net to give Lakers a 6-5 overtime victory over visiting Revelstoke Rangers, Sunday night, at Civic arena.

"Everybody has been telling me to shoot more instead of dippy-doodling," said Gentles, who also set up goals by Sean Hartnell and Nick Kapicki for a three-point night. "Brad (Boulton) came out with the puck,

put it on my stick and I just took a quick look and let it go."

Gentles' goal, at 1:18 of the extra period, capped a comeback by Vernon that saw Stacey Hartnell tie the game at 17:03 of the third period.

The win gives Lakers a three point cushion over Summerland Buckaroos in the battle for second place. Bucks were 10-4 losers to Merritt Centennials, Saturday night. Penticton Knights, who have yet to lose to a team in their division, lead the Interior.

Despite the dramatic finish, the game lacked intensity for the most part with Vernon unable to hold on to leads of 2-0, 3-2

and 4-3 before falling behind Rangers on a power-play goal by Troy Kaye, his third of the night.

Rangers stung the humdrum Vernon penalty-killing unit for three powerplay goals which, added together with sporadic bursts of lacklustre play, failed to impress Vernon Coach Don Moores.

"I'm happy with the win but I'm not happy with the way we played tonight," said Moores who now has three wins and a loss since becoming coach of the local club. "Our biggest problem is that we evaluate the team we're playing by who they beat ... Revelstoke lost

to Salmon Arm last night (Saturday) so they figured it would be a cakewalk."

However, Moores was pleased with his club's character.

"We showed character tying the game and then coming back to win in overtime," Moores said.

Lakers opened the scoring with a pair of goals in the early going and appeared to have the game well in hand. However, a couple of lightning-fast powerplay goals tied the game before the period ended. Rangers scored at 15:12 and 15:13 with goals by Keith Maybin and Kaye.

Sean Hartnell and Boulton were the Vernon marksmen in the first frame.

The teams traded two goals each in the second period as well with defenceman-come-forward Brian Burlingame notching a goal for Lakers at 2:21 and Nick Kapicki converting a three-way passing play between himself and wingers Shannon Pohl and Gentles.

Kevin Horne and Kaye, with his second, replied for Rangers.

Each club got one powerplay tally in the third period to send the game into a 10-minute, sudden-death overtime period. It was the first overtime game for Vernon this season and luckily it had a happy ending.

Kaye, with his third goal and Stacey Hartnell

scored the third period goals.

Although Lakers won by just a single goal, the carried the play through most of the game and held a 44-24 margin in shots on goal.

"How many times was the puck lying on the line and there was nobody there to poke it home," asked Moores concerning the spread in shots on goal. "We're just not bearing down ... that's going to take a while yet."

Lakers won't see action again until Friday night when they travel to Summerland. Sunday night, the two clubs will square off in a rematch at Arena.

"That's a big weekend for us with that home-and-home with Summerland," offered Moores. "It's an eight-point weekend if you want to look at it that way."

In other BCJHL action Sunday night, Penticton Knights broke a close game with four unanswered goals in the third period to earn a 7-2 win over visiting Merritt Centennials. In other games Burnaby Bluehawks trounced Sidney Capitals 11-3 while Nanaimo Clippers downed Abbotsford Flyers 9-5.

In Saturday night action Merritt clobbered Summerland 10-4; Nanaimo, playing their first league game since returning from Czechoslovakia, earned an 8-7 overtime win over Langley Eagles; and Abbotsford trimmed Sidney 9-1.

Simpson rink in quarter-finals

Dave Simpson, of Vernon, advanced to the quarter-finals of the Abbotsford-Clearbrook Curling Classic with a 9-5 win over Jim Armstrong of Richmond, Sunday night.

Simpson was scheduled to meet Paul Gowsell, of Calgary earlier today. In other quarter-final matches, Brent Giles, of Vancouver, took on Ted Moir, of Vancouver; Keith Switzer, of Vancouver, battled Steve Williams, of Duncan; and Tim Horrigan, of Victoria, met Kelowna's Barry Smith.

Simpson stole three in the 10th end when Armstrong missed a raise. Simpson qualified for the playoff round with a 5-3 victory over Lyle Davis, of Calgary, Saturday.

Smith eliminated Vernon's Randy Brown 9-6 in the opening playoff round, Saturday. Brown was ahead 3-1 after four ends but Smith came back with three in the fifth. In the sixth, Brown had to draw to the four-foot circle to cut out five Smith counters. Smith came back with another three in the seventh end, but in the eighth, Brown counted two. In the finale end, Smith chipped out Brown's rock to count two.

On Saturday, Brown drew to the four-foot with his last shot to grab a 5-4 win over Brian Geffner, of Vancouver.

A total of \$37,500 prize money will be presented after the championship game tonight.