

VERNON 11 TOTEMS 5

Lakers unleash on Salmon Arm

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers put on quite a show for their hometown fans Friday night at Civic arena, scoring three short-handed goals in a 35 second span during the second period en route to an 11-5 victory over visiting Salmon Arm Totems.

Lakers, now five points in front of Summerland Buckaroos in the race for second place in the BC-JHL Interior Division,

broke open a close game with the three-goal flurry and put it out of reach.

The big difference in Lakers' offence appeared to be the presence of speedster Sean Lofroth on the blueline. The 17-year old defenceman scored twice and set up three other goals to pace the Vernon squad.

However, Lakers' coach Don Moores is convinced that there were other, less conspicuous factors attributing to his club's success.

"The biggest change apparent tonight was that now we're shooting the puck more," said Moores who now has a record of five wins and one loss since taking over as head coach from Mike Enemark last month. "That was the difference."

Meanwhile, with centre Kyle Johnson in the penalty box for interference and Totems hoping to close the gap in a 7-4 score, Lakers went to work late in the second period. Greg Kowal, Wes Gentles and newcomer Jason Phillips each scored between 15:39 and 16:14 of the second frame to open a 10-4 lead heading into the third period. Gentles' goal came at 15:47.

Kowal had a pair of goals as well on the night as did winger Stacey Hartnell. Other singles came off the sticks of Sean Hartnell, Tony Christie, and Shannon Pohl.

Jeff Vilac scored three



GREG KOWAL
... scored twice

times in a losing cause for Totems who without the services of their three top players including Albert Anthony and Tim Coghlin. Rob Clarke scored the other two goals for the visitors who were outshot 54-26 by Vernon.

Lakers escaped from the first period with a narrow 3-2 lead after falling

behind 2-1 on a pair of goals by Clarke. Lofroth's first of the night on a power-play and Christie's goal gave Lakers their lead.

Vilac scored twice to open the second period and restored Totems' lead before Vernon cut loose with seven unanswered goals to close out the second frame.

Despite exchanging goals with Totems in the third period, Moores felt Lakers controlled the game in that frame as well.

"We kept playing out system and kept them bottled up," he explained. "We completely dominated them."

In other BCJHL action Friday night Derrick Ruppel scored three goals and assisted on another as Langley Eagles edged visiting Richmond Sockeyes 4-3.

Lakers next game will be Sunday night at Civic arena when Merritt Centennials are in town. Game time is 7 pm.

Panthers savage against Barrier

Vernon Panthers had a difficult time in posting a 98-43 victory over Barrier in their opening round of action at the 26th Annual Kamloops Christmas Tournament Friday night.

They had a tough time keeping the score as close as it was according to coach Dave Jackson.

"We were doing everything we could to keep to just 98," explained Jackson. "Everyone played for half the game."

Tim Tollestrup had 18 points and seven rebounds for Panthers who led 50-10 at half time. Brian Kruger had