

VERNON 5 MERRITT 3

Lakers start new year right



WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN

Guy Paulson, of Vernon, found himself in a vulnerable position while skiing at Silver Star Mountain this week. Paulson recovered from his airborne cellent skiing conditions with a base of 143 cm.

(Don Weixl Photo)

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

Shannon Pohl, a rock-steady performer for Vernon Lakers over the past season and a half occasionally breaks out of his shell and displays flashes of pure brilliance.

Friday night was one of those occasions for Pohl as the burly winger scored twice, including the game winner, and set up another to pace Lakers to a 5-3 win over the stubborn Merritt Centennials at Civic arena.

The win leaves Lakers in second place in the BC-JHL Interior Division.

Pohl notched his first on a power-play situation early in the second period and his second, at 11:55, sandwiched a pair of goals by Centennials. That second goal gave Lakers a 4-3 lead and was the eventual winner.

Nick Kapicki's goal at 9:14 of the third frame, set up by Pohl, gave Lakers the insurance marker they needed to defeat the fourth place Centennials.

While Pohl was leading the offensive parade, goaltender Jim Young was doing a bangup job between the pipes for the local junior club. Young produced some of his most acrobatic maneuvers of his career in making 35 saves, many at point blank range.

At the other end of the rink, Merritt goalie Norm Schwing, a Vernon native, was equally spectacular but less successful. Schwing stopped 40 of 45 shots that came his way.

Centennials, who hold down the fourth and final playoff spot in the Interior Division, trailed 2-1 after one period and were behind 3-1 early in the second but a pair of quick goals, one by Todd Torrence and another by Captain Pat Ryan, pulled the visitors onto even ground with the Vernon squad.

"Merritt sort of frightens me," admitted Lakers' coach Don Moores who increased his record to 8-2-1 with the victory. "They can beat any team on any given night... you just can't take them lightly."

Moores was reluctant to admit his club played well either. The Vernon mentor blamed lacklustre performance on the post-holiday season let-down.

"We had the Christmas blues for the first two periods but we came on in the third," explained Moores. "We weren't moving the puck nearly as fast as we can."

Lakers were without the services of newcomer Jason Phillips who was called back to Kamloops of the WHL due to injury problems the major junior club has been experiencing lately.

"This will be the last time it happens though," said Moores of Phillips' absence. "After Jan. 10 he'll either have to keep him up or send him to us."

SHANNON POHL
... scored twice

Wes Gentles' unassisted marker at 1:33 of the first period and defenceman Shawn Lofroth's tally, accounted for the other Vernon goals while Torrence had two for Merritt.

Lakers are in action at Civic arena again tonight as Salmon Arm Totems will be in town. Though Vernon's big gun will still be out of the lineup there's a chance that not only Phillips but a few other faces will be in the lineup in the near future according to Lakers' General manager Vernon Dye.

Scott Young, a veteran of the WHL and the 1983-84 campaign with Lakers, was recently signed by the local club and will see sporadic action in the future while also playing with University of Calgary.

"Hopefully he (Young) will be available on a regular basis for the playoffs," said Dye. "In the meantime we'll be flying him back for games on the weekend."

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Summerland Buckaroos defeated Revelstoke Rangers 9-5, Penticton Knights humiliated Salmon Arm Totems 20-2 and Langley Eagles downed Richmond Sockeyes 6-4.

Bruins
receive
bad news

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Bruins, returning from a four-game road swing, received bad news Friday when veteran centre Barry Pederson was scratched from the lineup for a National Hockey League game today against New York Rangers at Boston Garden.

A team spokesman said Pederson has suffered a recurrence of a growth problem in his left shoulder and will have X-rays taken today.

Buffalo's top faceoff man
helps Sabres overcome Penguins

Centre Brent Peterson isn't known around the National Hockey League for his scoring ability.

But Friday night his penalty-killing and faceoff ability led to the first three goals for the Sabres in a 7-2 victory over Pittsburgh Penguins.

Peterson, one of the best faceoff men in the league, won his usual allotment against the Penguins and two helped create goals which enabled the Sabres to rally from an early 1-0 deficit.

"Sometimes you win them (faceoffs) and they go in and other times you

Nordiques defeated Washington Capitals 5-3 and Edmonton Oilers beat Winnipeg Jets 7-4.

The win raised Buffalo's point total in the Adams Division standings to 43. Montreal Canadiens lead the division with 50 points, seven more than the Sabres and eight ahead of the Nordiques.

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With the Sabres behind 1-0 on a goal by Moe Mantha and with only 13 seconds remaining in the first period, Buffalo coach Scotty Bowman sent Peterson out on a power play for a faceoff

Herron to tie the game and start the Sabres on a streak of six unanswered goals.

In the second period while killing a power play, Peterson, in almost the exact fashion, won the draw back to the point. This time Bill Hajt fired the puck past Herron for a 2-1 lead.

Buffalo made it 3-1 when Peterson took the puck behind the net and passed out front to Ric Seiling whose quick shot beat Herron.

The Sabres, struggling earlier this season, have come together the last two weeks and now have

is scoring, all four lines are working," Peterson said. "This is a team game and that's what we're doing, working as a team and we're playing a lot better."

In the third period, Mike Foligno and John Tucker scored on breakaways and in between, Paul Cyr connected on a 20-footer after a fine pass from Gil Perreault to increase Buffalo's lead.

The assist gave Perreault 1,200-career points. He is the league's 12th highest career scorer.

Wayne Babych scored for Pittsburgh during a

ment's rebound shot, Quebec's second short-handed goal in two games, made it 4-2 at the 16:42 mark.

Bob Gould scored at 7:17 of the final period for Washington, which had beaten Quebec by a combined 13-3 score in two previous games this season. Paiement scored an empty-net goal for Quebec with 28 seconds remaining.

Bob Carpenter, Washington's leading goal-scorer, sat out the final two periods after suffering a neck injury. Oilers 7 Jets 4