

CLIPPERS IN TOWN TONIGHT

Lakers hammer Rangers

The red-hot Vernon Lakers stretched their unbeaten streak to nine games with a 9-4 victory over Revelstoke Rangers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Thursday, in Revelstoke.

Lakers' boast a 9-1-1 record since Don Moores took over as head coach in late-November. However, they still trail first place Penticton Knights by 14 points.

Shannon Pohl led Vernon with three goals while veteran Greg Kowal added a pair. Singles went to Frank Dutoff, Wes Gentles, Shawn Lofroth, and Murray Baron.

Kevin Horne scored twice for Rangers while Ian Arcer and Vernon minor hockey graduate Troy Roland added one apiece.

34 SAVES

The teams were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period but Lakers took advantage of Revelstoke's porous defence to build a 6-2 lead after 40 minutes.

Vernon netminder Frank

Romeo kicked out 34 shots while Daryl Dickens and David Watts combined to make 33 saves for Revelstoke.

Lakers' Coach Don Moores was pleased with his team's effort. "We were sharp," he said. "After we took a 9-2 lead in the third period, we gave up a couple of bad goals, but other than that, our club played well."

One player who drew praise from his coach was Gord Simpson. Simpson joined Lakers this week after spending three months with Nanaimo Clippers.

AN ASSET

"Gord isn't in shape yet," Moores said, "but when he does get in shape, he'll be a real asset to us. He did some things on the ice in Revelstoke that really impressed me."

Simpson collected one assist, killed penalties, and played with a variety of linemates including Al Young. Young was also playing his first game with Lakers since signing with Vernon

Juvenile Reps last week. He had been toiling with Summerland Buckaroos.

The teams each had eight minor penalties and four fighting majors.

In other BCJHL action Thursday, Burnaby Bluehawks solidified their grip on first place in the Coastal Division by defeating Langley Eagles 9-4 and Merritt Centennials doubled Sidney Capitals 6-3.

Burnaby now has 51 points, nine more than second-place Langley.

GOALPOSTS: Lakers are back on the ice tonight, at home, against Nanaimo Clippers. Vernon will be without forward Jason Phillips, who was recalled by Kamloops Blazers and is currently on a prairie road trip with the Western Hockey League club. Penticton received some bad news this week when it learned recently-acquired Tim Coghlin will be lost to the club for up to 12 weeks with torn knee ligaments.



SHANNON POHL
... scored three

Alan Chatlain, the 20-year old defenceman who caused international controversy in December while with his junior hockey club in Czechoslovakia, will make an appearance tonight at Vernon Civic Arena when Lakers play host to Nanaimo Clippers.

Lakers, currently in second place in the BCJHL Interior Division, will be looking to keep well ahead of third place Summerland Buckaroos with a win tonight while Clippers, currently chasing Abbotsford Flyers for the fourth and final playoff spot in the Coastal Division desperately need a victory.

Chatlain was imprisoned for a number of charges following an incident in which the young Canadian player struck a 78-year-old usher during an exhibition game he and his team-mates were watching. Nanaimo was touring the Soviet-block country at the time.

Chatlain spent more than a month in a Czech jail before he was released, without charges, by Czechoslovakian officials. He faced the possibility of up to five years in prison had he been convicted of the charges brought against him.

Another player Vernon fans will have the opportunity to see is Vernon native Kevin Thorlakson. Thorlakson spent the 1982-83 season with Lakers, but was cut last year. He went to Nanaimo in September.

In 1982-83 Thorlakson was the third member of a line with Lakers' veterans Nick Kapicki and Greg Kowal, who now lead the local club in scoring.