

Simpson scores game winner in triumphant Vernon return

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

The irony of Gord Simpson's first appearance at Vernon Civic arena since October, 1983, culminated in the third period Friday night when the speedy centre scored the game winning a goal to help Lakers defeat Nanaimo Clippers 8-7.

Simpson had previously toiled for one and a half seasons with the Clippers and that they should be the first team he plays on Vernon ice was ironic enough.

However, Simpson, who also turned in a superb checking game and set up another goal by teammate Tony Christie, wasn't concerned that he got the game winner, only that his team won the game.

"As long as we won it

doesn't matter who scores the winner," said Simpson who left the local club early last season following a heated dispute with team General Manager Carl Enemark.

BIG LEAD

Lakers jumped to a 4-1 lead in the first period but a goal by Nanaimo defenceman Al Chatlain, his first of two for the night, closed the gap to 4-2 before the period ended.

Sloppy defensive work in the second and third periods allowed Clippers to get out of the second period with a 6-6 tie while an early goal to start the third frame gave the visitors a short-lived 7-6 lead.

However, Vernon forward Frank Dutoff, playing one of his strongest games to date, scored his second of the night, a hard blast from the top of the face-off circle, to tie the game 7-7 at 6:44.

Simpson's goal, on the power-play, began when

the speedy centreman stepped out from behind the net, virtually uncontested, and backhanded a shot past Clippers' goaltender Darren Worms.

Greg Kowal also scored a pair of goals, both in the first period, as he turned in one of his best performances to date as well. Shannon Pohl who also set up two goals, and Greg Guest, with a single, rounded out the scoring for Vernon.

TWO EACH

Kary Coroy, and Chatlain had two each for Clippers while Mitch Poulin, Rob Schmidt, and Jamie Cayford had singles.

Jim Young, who was particularly sharp in the first period when he stopped 14 of 16 shots, made 34 saves for the game while Worms turned aside 29 Vernon shots.

Although from a spectators standpoint the game was a highly enter-



GORD SIMPSON

... winning goal

would be a shoot-out and that's what happened."

Lakers were without the services of Al Young who is in Oliver this weekend with the Vernon juveniles while forward Jason Phillips is with Kamloops Blazers on a road trip.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Interior Division leading Penticton Knights destroyed visiting Sidney Capitals 12-2 while Burnaby Bluehawks beat Langley Eagles 7-5.

Joe Murphy scored three times for Knights while Dave Shields, Ed Cristofoli, and Scott Rawson each had two goals.

Sidney, who were out-shot 93-22, got goals from Graham Bewley and Todd Becker.

In Langley, Ken Jorgenson scored three times for Burnaby who increased their first-place lead over the Eagles to 11 points.

**Busy
Sunday**