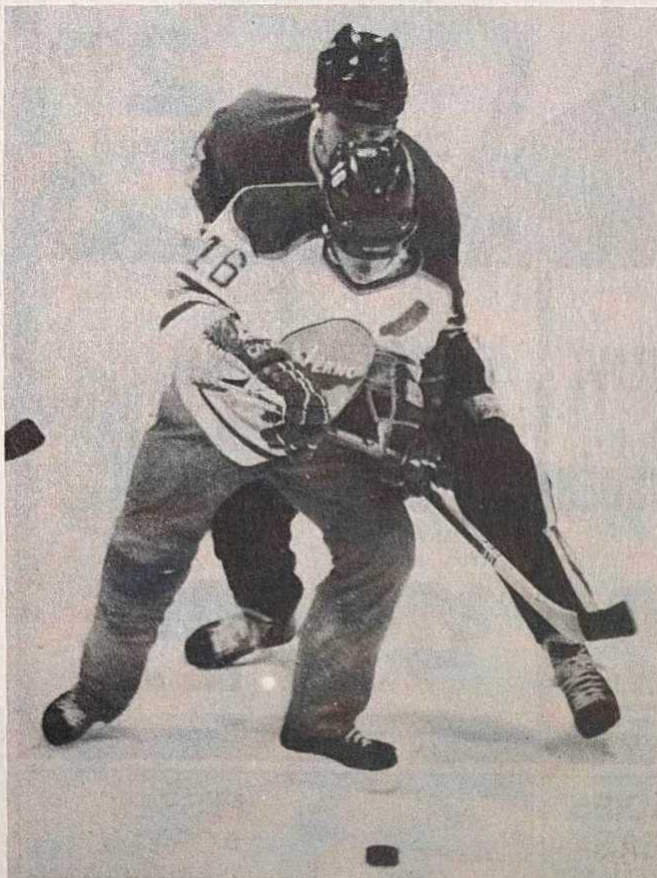


Instead, just as the pre-game publicity blitz last year bomb-

not bad — but it's still too many."

nurt — in every way.



NICK KAPICKI, of Lakers, grapples with Summerland Buckaroos' defenceman Ron Lyver during action at Civic Arena, Sunday night. Kapicki set up three goals to help

power Lakers to a 7-4 victory over Bucks giving them a 10-point cushion over third place Summerland. (Daily News Photo)

Royals second in hoop tourney

One game, decided in triple overtime, made the difference between first and second place for Vernon Royals at the Trail Senior Girls Basketball Tournament held over the weekend.

Royals dropped their first game of the tourney

61-58, in triple overtime, to Trail Lakettes. The local hoop squad won two straight after that to finish second in the four-team tourney.

The duration of the tourney opener played a vital role in defeating Royals as the local club

lost two key players due to foul trouble in the overtime periods. Bev Pilgrim fouled out in the second overtime period while Royals' 6'2" centre Tracy Johnson checked out early in the third overtime.

Johnson had been a standout to that point with 13 points, tops for the

Kowal leads Lakers to convincing victory

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The years of hard work and dedication appear to be finally paying dividends for Vernon Lakers' captain Greg Kowal. In other years the fast-skating hard-checking veteran hasn't been able to capitalize on his scoring opportunities.

Sunday night, Kowal scored three times and set up another to pace Lakers to a 7-4 victory over visiting Summerland Buckaroos.

The win opens a 10-point lead over the Bucks in the battle for second place in the BCJHL Interior Division.

Kowal opened the scoring, just 27 seconds into the game, converting a passing play from linemates Shannon Pohl and Nick Kapicki. At the 10:16 mark, the Vernon captain set up defenceman Murray Baron for a blistering drive from the point that found its mark.

Another Vernon blueliner, Brian Burlingame, gave Lakers a 3-0 cushion at 16:39 of the opening stanza but former Salmon Arm Totem Jim Klenk put Bucks on the scoreboard at 17:48.

Bucks closed to within a goal early in the second but Kowal's second tally of the night restored a two-goal lead for Lakers.

Shawn Pettyjohn, for Summerland, and Shawn Lofroth, for Vernon traded goals before the period ended with Lakers nursing a 5-3 lead heading for the dressing rooms.

Kowal's third goal at the midway mark of the final frame put the game out of reach while Greg Guest's tally two minutes later put the icing on the cake. Klenk's second goal

of the game, an inconsequential one, rounded out the scoring.

Vernon goaltender Jim Young blocked 33 of 37 shots while Bucks' Rich King was called on to make 43 saves.

Coach Don Moores felt it was another big win for his club, not just because of the proximity of the two teams, but also because his ranks are still decimated from the flu bug.

"Those guys dug deep," said Moores. "Only 13 players on the bench and we get an effort like that."

"We showed heart all weekend. We played well against Abbotsford and we went into Merritt with just 12 players ... we should have won there too."

Lakers dropped a 5-3 decision to the hometown Centennials Saturday night.

Meanwhile, Moores had high praise for his veteran players Kowal and Kapicki.

"That's their fourth



GREG KOWAL
... big night

game in four nights ... and they've been double-shifting for the past three," Moores said. "They've been working hard all year so it's nice to see it paying off for them."

Moores also spoke highly of his defensive unit that has allowed just

10 goals, in their past three games, despite playing short-handed.

"Our defence played their best game of the year as a unit," he said. "They took the body well and moved the puck well ... they got caught a few times but then they were tired."

In other action Sunday night Langley Eagles crushed Merritt 11-5, Abbotsford bombed Salmon Arm 17-2, Burnaby defeated Nanaimo 6-4, and Penticton dumped hometown Sidney 8-2.

Saturday night, Penticton trounced Nanaimo 10-3, Langley edged Summerland 6-5 in overtime, Abbotsford bombed Revelstoke 8-1, and Richmond humbled Sidney Capitals 11-1.

Lakers have until Friday night to recuperate from the flu bug. The local club will travel to Summerland for a return engagement that night. Next home game will be Saturday night when Vernon hosts Merritt.

Victoria rink wins B.C. title

Steve Skillings of Victoria stole two in the last end to win his second consecutive provincial mixed curling championship Sunday, with his second 7-6 victory of the day over Bernie Sparkes of Vancouver.

Skillings scored two in each of the final two ends to come back from a 6-3 deficit, in Duncan.

The Skillings-Sparkes matchup earlier in the day took three hours and 45 minutes to play, with Skillings having to make his last rock to force the second game.

Vernon's Mark Longworth was

eliminated from the playdowns after back-to-back losses. Longworth dropped a 9-7 decision to Sparkes and a 7-5 match to Brian Lemoel of Trail.

Longworth told the Daily News his rink curled well against Sparkes, but was flat against Lemoel. "Sparkes had to draw to the four-foot circle, on his last rock, to beat us," Longworth said.

"In the second game, we were tied 2-2 after five ends, but never really got untracked against Lemoel. Every shot was a struggle for us."

Skillings advances to the national championships, in Toronto, Feb. 10-16.