

BURNABY 6 VERNON 2

Bluehawks adjust to Lakers' game

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Muzz McPherson deserves a pat on the back for doing his homework as a coach.

The colorful mentor of the Coastal Division leading Burnaby Bluehawks, scrutinized the small playing surface of Vernon Civic arena during the BCJHL All-star game Jan. 17 and used his findings to advantage in securing a 6-2 victory over Vernon Lakers Friday night at Civic arena.

The win leaves things unchanged for the two clubs with Bluehawks still well in front of Langley Eagles for first place on the Coast while Lakers are in second place in the Interior Division.

The victory evened the two-game series between the two clubs at one game apiece for the regular season schedule.

"We played well defensively and it's not easy to do in such a small rink," said McPherson whose Bluehawks make stops in Revelstoke and Salmon Arm before returning to the Coast. "We moved the puck out of our own end quickly . . . they (Lakers) throw the puck in a lot and try chase it but we were prepared for that."

Lakers jumped in front of the visitors 2-1 in the first

period but over the course of the next 40 minutes Bluehawks systematically erased Vernon's lead and went on to record the victory.

Bluehawks had some help from the Lakers in winning the contest, however. The local squad looked tired and uninspired through most of the game while Burnaby appeared more physically and mentally prepared to play. Only a handful of Lakers played with any sort of consistency throughout the contest.

"I thought they looked tired," commented McPherson of his opponents. "We thought they'd really come at us."

"There's no doubt we're in a slump," countered Lakers' coach Don Moores who boarded the team bus along with his charges following Friday's game and headed for Vancouver Island where they will play Nanaimo Clippers tonight and Sidney Capitals Sunday. "We've been playing in spurts."

Defensively, Lakers' game has been something of a disaster in the recent outings, being outscored 23-11 in their last three games . . . all losses.

Veteran Nick Kapicki opened the scoring for Vernon converting a passing play from linemates Greg Kowal and Shannon Pohl. Kapicki and Pohl also had a hand in

the club's second goal at 18:24 of the first period. Wes Gentles' shot from the blueline beat goaltender Mike Maisonneuve.

The two goals sandwiched a tally by Bluehawks' Dave Johnston, his first of three for the night.

Bluehawks scored three unanswered goals in the second frame and added two more in the third to salt the game away.

Gord McCinnes added a pair for the visitors who were outshot 44-30 by Lakers. Ron Knechtle added a single to complete the scoring.

In other BCJHL action Friday night Penticton Knights shutout visiting Merritt Centennials 7-0 while Langley Eagles moved into second place in the Coastal Division with a 9-6 victory over Sidney Capitals.

Mike Moree, playing in his first game with Penticton, scored twice for Knights as did Greg Cyr while Rod Ware, Derek Mayer and Scott Rawson had singles.

In Langley, Shawn Harrison led the Eagles' attack with three goals while Rich Dusevic added a pair. Todd Decker scored twice for Sidney.

Lakers' next home game will be this Friday when they entertain division-leading Penticton Knights.



NICK KAPICKI
... set up two