

LAKERS 6 RANGERS 1

Young's presence adds stability

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The return of veteran Scott Young to Vernon Lakers' lineup inspired the club to play their best hockey of the season Friday night at Civic arena as they earned a 6-1 decision over visiting Revelstoke Rangers.

The win leaves the positions of the two clubs unchanged in the BCJHL Interior Division with Vernon in second place and Rangers a distant fifth and losing ground steadily.

However, Rangers, fresh off an excellent road trip to the Coastal Division where they earned a victory over Richmond Sockeyes and lost two other games by a single goal, played far and above a team who are destined to miss the playoffs. What's more, their frustration turned to aggression as players squared off in five separate incidents of fisticuffs — each one a slugfest as opposed to the usual grappling of Junior A hockey.

Young, who has been used sparingly by University of Calgary this season where he is presently enrolled, played the role of defenceman for Lakers but lent an obvious air of maturity and stability to the Vernon lineup. Lakers' reciprocated with three full periods of

smart hockey capping a splendid team effort with the victory.

"He (Young) really showed a lot of pose and intensity," said Lakers' coach Don Moores.

Meanwhile, Moores was also satisfied with the splendid defensive effort his club turned in ... something the team has worked on of late.

"We've been trying to work on our defensive game," Moores explained. "It has given us more chances and eliminated some of their chances too."

Relentless forechecking and backchecking made for a relatively easy night for goaltender Frank Romeo who nonetheless turned in an outstanding performance in blocking 27 of 28 shots. However, Vernon defencemen played a smart game as well, taking risks when it was smart to do so but playing it safe when the occasion called as well.

The teams played through more than 18 minutes of scoreless hockey in the first period before squeezing three quick goals into the final minute and a half of the period.

Lakers' captain Greg Kowal opened the scoring as he trailed a play by Nick Kapicki and Shannon Pohl, picked up a long rebound and backhanded it into the net.



SCOTT YOUNG
... veteran player

Just 24 seconds later, Revelstoke scoring sensation Vern Kinley put the visitors on the board with a quick wrist-shot from the slot.

Defenceman Tony Christie scored the winner at 19:16 when he banged in a loose puck with Gord Simpson and Jason Phillips drawing assists.

Shawn Lofroth scored the only goal of the second frame with Al Young setting up Lofroth's shot from the top of the circle. Young, who always seemed to play better in the presence of his older bro, had a goal and two assists for the night.

Scott Young gave Lakers a three-goal edge early in the third frame while Phillips and Young, with singles, completed the scoring.

Lakers will have an opportunity to utilize their newfound stamina tonight when they host Penticton Knights at 8 pm at Civic arena.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Penticton hammered visiting Richmond Sockeyes 11-4 while Burnaby Bluehawks edged Langley Eagles 3-2.

Derek Mayer, Murray Winnicki, Todd Brost, and Ed Cristofoli each scored twice for Knights who stretched their record to 42-4 for the season. Brian Bullinger, Brian Silversen, Keith Street and Henry Reimer scored for Richmond, all on power-plays.