

Knights shutout Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

It was one of those "should have, could have, would have" nights for Vernon Lakers Sunday as they dropped a 5-0 decision to visiting Pentiction Knights, at Vernon Civic Arena.

Lakers should have scored in the first period and it would have made all the difference and they probably could have won the game.

As it was, Knights' goaltender Derek Pizzezy stood the local squad on their heads with his outstanding performance. Pizzezy blocked a 47 drives Lakers shot at him, including 20 in the first period.

The loss means nothing in the standings with Knights remaining in first place in the BCJHL Interior Division while Lakers are in second place.

Lakers' coach Don Moores, hardly disappointed with the effort his club put into the game, reflected some of the frustration the team felt in not being able to get anything by Pizzezy.

"The shots were 20-11 in the first period and it could have very easily been 3-1 for us," said Moores.

However, the difference wasn't simply in the goaltending as Moores explained.

"The last time we played we had 81 hits during the game and we had just 21 tonight (Sunday) and that's the difference in the game," Moores said. "But Pizzezy was the difference in the first period."

Knights led 1-0 after 20 minutes on a power-play goal by Tim Paller. The game-winner took a bad hop in front of

the goal and flipped over the outstretched pad of Frank Romeo, who also turned in a fine performance making 38 saves.

Lakers carried the play throughout the first period and relentless forechecking worked well in their favor.

With Knights' second goal by Murray Winnicki at 8:08 of the second frame, the momentum began to shift and by the time Shaun Edwards blasted in number three from the blueline, Lakers were playing more of a defensive role.

Todd Brost and David Shields added third period goals to complete the scoring.

Moores said there were some positive sides to the loss.

"It didn't make any difference to our standings or anything but it makes a difference to me and the team because we know if we play them right we can win," he explained.

Lakers' game against Revelstoke Saturday night was cancelled when a slide closed the highway near Three Valley Gap.

In other BCJHL action Sunday night, Burnaby Bluehawks coasted to an 11-3 win over last place Sidney Capitals, Richmond Sockeyes edged Summerland Buckarros 8-7, and Langley Eagles downed Nanaimo Clippers 11-5.

Saturday night, Abbotsford Flyers defeated Summerland 11-5, Nanaimo bombed Sidney 13-6 and Merritt Centennials beat Salmon Arm 11-3.

Lakers' next home action will be March 4 when Summerland is in town for the last regular season game.



LAKERS' CENTRE Nick Kapicki (16), gets ready to deflect a shot from the point during action in the first

period, Sunday night, between Lakers and Pentiction Knights. Knights' goaltender Derek Pizzezy was outstan-

ding, blocking all 47 Lakers' drives in earning a 5-0 shutout against the local squad.

(Daily News Photo)