

Lakers cRyans the blues



UNWELCOME RECEPTION

Rookie forward Troy Mick (24) gets an airborne reception from Merritt Defenceman during BCJHL quarter-final

playoff action Friday night at Vernon Civic arena. Lakers scored eight goals but still lost the game to Centennials

who received a six-goal performance from centre Pat Ryan. Game four takes place Sunday night in Merritt.

(Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers find themselves on the outside looking in after the first three games of their best-of-seven BCJHL quarter final series with Merritt Centennials and they have one man to thank for their current situation ... Pat Ryan.

Ryan, the wirey 20-year old veteran centre with Centennials, scored six times and set up two others to power Merritt to a 9-8 victory over Lakers Friday night at Civic arena. In three games Ryan has scored 10 goals and assisted on a half dozen others in the series so far.

The loss leaves Lakers trailing Merritt two games to one in the Interior semi-final series with game four scheduled for Sunday night in Merritt.

"We just couldn't contain them," said Lakers' coach Don Moores in reference to Ryan and his line-mates. "I tried two different lines but we just couldn't do it."

Ryan's wingers, Mark Bogoslawski and Kevin Cheveldave, accounted for six points each giving the Merritt threesome 20 points, collectively, on the night.

Simply no doubt where the trouble lay in Friday's loss.

"We weren't clearing the front of the net, there were second and third rebounds," explained Moores of his team's porous defence. "No doubt about it, I'm disappointed with our

defence."

The wide open style didn't appear in the game until nearly half way through the opening period. Lakers' captain Greg Kowal opened the scoring at that point on a short-handed effort which constituted the bulk of their fore-checking for the night.

Ryan popped his first two of the night before the period had ended, however, both on power-play situations.

A seven-goal flurry highlighted the second period with Vernon outscoring Merritt 4-3 and retiring after 40 minutes tied 5-5.

Cheveldave, Bogoslawski, and Todd Torrens accounted for the other Merritt goals. Al Young, with a pair, including an inspirational short-handed breakaway goal, Scott Young, Kowal, Stacey and Shawn hartnell, Shawn Lofroth, and Jason Phillips replied for Lakers.

Despite the setback, Moores isn't about to throw in the towel in this series.

"We're not going to give up," he said.

In other BCJHL playoff action Friday night a game between Summerland Buckaroos and Penticton Knights was halted at the end of the second period when Bucks ran out of goaltenders. Penticton was leading 16-0 at the time.

In other games, Burnaby Bluehaws downed Langley Eagles 6-5 to take a 3-0 lead in their series and Abbotsford Flyers beat Richmond Sockeyes 6-2 to even their series 1-1.

Royals lose game in fourth quarter

Vernon Royals hung in there until the end but the fourth quarter of their

Championship.

"They got the boards in the last quarter and that

Royals' coach Rod Schneider of Friday's game. "We can hope for a