PENTICTON'S HOME WIN STREAKS ENDS

Lakers off to a good start



LAKERS' CAPTAIN Doug Spooner (25) gets a bit of an unfriendly welcome from Merritt defenceman Alan Suzuki (10) during action Friday night at Civic arena. Lakers jumped out in front 2-0 in the opening minutes but had to fight hard for a 6-3 victory over the hard-nosed but youthful Merritt squad. Lakers entertain Portland Winter Hawks in an exhibition game tonight. (Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers got off to a quick start in their season home-opener Friday night against visiting Merritt Warriors, taking a 2-0 lead within the first minute and 20 seconds but eventually had to settle for a 6-3 victory.

It was the second consecutive loss for the young and inexperienced but hard-nosed Warriors who boast just three experienced juniors in their lineup.

Lakers' record is 1-0 with their second game Tuesday night against visiting Summerland Buckaroos. The local club hosts Portland Winter Hawks of the Western Hockey League tonight in an exhibition match against the major junior Hawks. Game time is 8 p.m.

Warriors showed good discipline after falling behind 2-0 and held Lakers to a 3-0 lead after the first period by strengthening their play around their own net. Lakers outplayed the visitors badly in every period but a rash of minor penalties helped to even the play between the two clubs.

Warriors finally got on the board early in the second period and outscored Vernon 2-1 in that frame to cut Lakers' lead to 4-2 after 40 minutes.

The two clubs remained scoreless through the first 11 minutes of the third frame until Vernon defenceman Campbell Blair put an innocent-looking shot from the red line past Merritt goaltender Randy Beekeuizen. Lakers scored their sixth goal a short while later when Ed Tuckwood combined with Blair on a two-on-one situation.

Merritt's Steve Manuel picked up his second of the game on another power-play situation to close the scoring at 16:35.

Stacy Hartnell scored twice for Lakers in the first period while Blair had two goals on the night along with two assists. Former teammate Craig Bedard had the other Vernon goal.

Stuart Jackson also scored a single for Warriors who were outshot 55-29 by Lakers. If not for the solid goaltending of Beekeuizen it might have easily been a blowout for Vernon. Darryl Dickens tended nets for Lakers.

"I thought he (Beekeuizen) played a hick of a game," said Vernon coach Ernie Gare who was relieved to have his first win under his belt. "We left a lot of loose pucks around the net though . . . we have to improve our drive for the net for those rebounds."

Gare was satisfied with the victory but wasn't overly pleased with the 26 minor penalties his club picked up during the night.

"We still have to drill it into the guys to stay away from those bad penalties," he said. "We had a good first period but the penalties disrupted our flow. We were in the penalty box most of the second period and at even strength we outplayed them and controlled the play."

Meanwhile there is good news for every team in the BCJHL Interior division. Penticton Knights' 54-game home winning streak came to an end Friday night as visiting Langley Eagles earned a 3-2 decision. In other action Friday night Kelowna Packers defeated visiting Summerland Buckaroos 8-3.

Langley led 2-0 after the first period and 2-1 after the second. Bryan Moller scored two goals for Eagles while Bruce Robinson backed him with a single. Ivan Moore and Ken MacArthur counted for Penticton.

In Kelowna Kevin Taillefer scored three times for Packers while Kelowna goaltender made 24 saves.

In games tonight Summerland plays host to Langley, Penticton travels to Merritt, Juan de Fuca Whalers host Richmond Sockeyes and Nanaimo Clippers play the Flyers in Delta.

Canadian fails to qualify

ESTORIL (AP) — Brazil's Ayrton Senna grabbed the pole position, while Canadian rookie Allan Berg of Calgary failed to qualify for the running today of the Portuguese Grand Prix motor race.

Senna, in a Lotus-Renault, says he's optimistic about his chance of beating world championship-leader Nigel Mansell to stay in contention for the 1986 title.

Mansell held the pole overnight in a Williams-Honda and, in much faster track conditions, through 56 minutes of the final hour of qualifying.

"I took the chance of waiting an extra five minutes for my final run, waiting for a clear track," Senna said. He went out on what was "not a perfect lap, because you are always finding the limits in qualifying."

It looked more ragged than his usual smooth style. But it was 8-10ths of a second faster than Mansell's best, as the Briton spun off trying to improve. Senna's time was one minute 16.673 seconds, an average speed of 204.238 kilometres an hour, compared with Mansell's time of 1:17.489.

Berg's time of 1:26.620 in an Osella was the slowest, leaving him the only driver not to qualify for the 26-car grid today.

The pole was Senna's seventh this year and the 14th of his career.

He is one of the four contenders for the world title.

ESKIMOS 32, B.C. 3

Turnovers prove costly as Edmonton trims Lions

VANCOUVER (CP) — Greg Harding scored his first Canadian Football League touchdown Friday night and didn't waste time making a bold prediction on behalf of his Edmonton Eskimo teammates.

"Defence won the Super Bowl for the Chicago Bears and our defence will take us to the Grey Cup," Harding said after the Edmonton defence forced nine turnovers and garnered eight quarterback sacks in a 32-3 shellacking of the British Columbia Lions.

It was Edmonton's first win under the dome at B.C. Place Stadium in four years and came before a sellout throng of 59,478, the largest CFL crowd of the season.

"I had the jitters in the first quarter," said Harding, a defensive back with National Football League experience with the New Orleans Saints. "But our secondary coach (Don Sutherin) had us so well prepared that we were ready for anything B.C. threw at us."

After getting beat badly twice in the opening quarter by B.C. receiver Jim Sandusky, Harding picked off an errant throw by Lion pivot Roy Dewalt in the second quarter and raced 38 yards for a touchdown to give the Esks an 11-3 lead.

REMATCH SOON

The victory pushed the Eskimos, 8-3, to within two points of the leading Lions, 9-3, in the Western Division standings and the two teams meet again next Friday in Edmonton, where the Esks also won 36-13 July 3.

"Our defence was knocking the ball and people down all over the place," said Edmonton head coach Jack Parker. "We hit them with some big plays and that was the difference."

Kick-return specialist Henry Williams raced 74 yards with a punt return for a touchdown in the third quarter and quarterback Matt Dunigan fired 64 yards to wide receiver Stephan Jones in the last quarter for the only offensive major of the game.

The Edmonton defence was led by the charge of end Stewart Hill with three quarterback sacks and tackle James Zachery with two. Middle linebacker Danny Bass had two of the four Edmonton interceptions.

"Our defence might look like it's boring," said Bass, "but we've done a great job with it this season."

Tom Dixon, under pressure recently for his inconsistency, kicked for the other 14 Edmonton points, including three field goals in as many attempts.

WILSON UPSET

Many the Lions were embarrassed by the lack of a productive offence, especially 16-year veteran centre Al Wilson.

"Our defence played Grey Cup football," said Wilson, "but the offence played Pop Warner."

"Sure, we had only four days between games and Edmonton had a two-week layoff, but that's no excuse for the way be blocked".

The B.C. defence held Edmonton to eight first downs and 114 net yards, with seven quarterback sacks, as Dunigan completed only seven of 24 passes for 94 yards.

Dewalt was forced to throw on the run by the fierce Edmonton rush and completed 19 of 37 passes, with three interceptions. B.C. had 11 first downs and 220 net yards.

"Edmonton lined up and kicked our butt up front," said B.C. head coach Don Matthews. "We didn't get the big turnovers and they did."

Edmonton, undefeated in six games this year against western teams, lost defensive back James Bell in the fourth quarter with a possible neck injury after he tackled B.C. slotback Jan Carinci.

Bell was taken from the field in an ambulance and rushed to hospital for examination.

Vernon among few who will host racing

Vernon and Kamloops may be the only B.C. Interior cities to host horse racing during 1987.

Williams Lake dropped out of the B.C. Interior circuit in 1985, and after poor crowds this summer, Princeton and Osoyoos are rumored to be considering cancellation of their 1987 dates.

Bill Gosset, secretary of the Vernon Agricultural Society, which operates Racing Days, said Vernon did not suffer from poor attendance, or lower mutuel wagering handles this year.

"We don't have the same problem as the other centres," Gosset said. "Our crowds were as good, or better, than ever. Our mutuel handle was higher this year, than in 1985, which is September. Poor crowds in the spring may force Kamloops to race only in September next year, according to Gosset.

"It is possible that there will be racing only in Vernon and Kamloops," he said. "The other tracks have a real problem."

Vernon Racing Days was held on four consecutive weekends, from July 12 to Aug. 4, with racing twice per weekend. Gosset said it is not feasible to race more than twice per week.

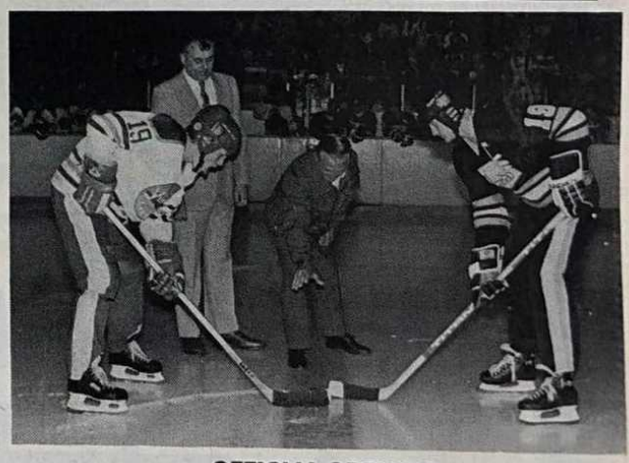
"We can't extend our meet by running three or four times per week," he said. "We just don't have the horses. Even major tracks, like Vancouver and Edmonton, are short of horses. The cost of maintaining a horse is so

Oilers want title back

The Edmonton Oilers don't like to be called losers, nor are they fond of labels such as ex-champions.

They spent a long summer answering too many questions about their loss to the Calgary Flames in the Stanley Cup semifinals last spring. Each answer was accompanied by the

Vernon Daily News | **sports** Editor — DON KENDALL



OFFICIAL OPENING

Vernon Mayor Lyall Hanson dropped the first puck to officially open Vernon Lakers' season home-opener and first game of the 1986-87 B.C. Junior Hockey League season. Lakers won the game 6-3. (Daily News Photo)