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Lakers hammer hapless Buckaroos

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Summerland Buckaroos tried to lull Vernon Lakers to sleep but it didn't work as the hometown squad scored an 8-1 victory Tuesday night at the Civic Arena.

It was Lakers' second win in as many starts in the B.C. Junior Hockey League regular season. Buckaroos have now dropped three straight and can be expected to lose frequently if they plan to play every game like they did Tuesday night.

Bucks managed 15 shots on net, but seriously threatened on only a few of those opportunities. Darren Harold's shot from the circle caught Ryan Dennis at a bad angle in the first period to spoil what otherwise should have been a shutout for the Laker goaltender.

Although Lakers appeared reluctant to put the sleeping Buckaroos out of their misery for most of the evening, they did manage to pepper Summerland goaltender Guy Basaraba with 56 shots, including 21 in the first period when Bucks managed just three shots on Dennis.

Considering the ease with which Lakers scored their first two goals the game might have been a blowout. Instead, Lakers settled for period leads of 4-1 and 6-1 en route to their victory.

"There's a danger of playing down to their level so I kept shifts short and we concentrated on keeping the shots and the goals against down," explained Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare.

It was the first opportunity for Gare to assess Dennis, who showed up Monday afternoon after being trimmed from Kamloops Blazers' camp.

"He (Dennis) is technically a pretty sound goaltender but he really didn't get tested too much tonight," Gare said.

The line of Kevin Scott between Craig Bedard and Ed Tuckwood proved to be the most formidable of the Lakers' line combinations, though they did most of their damage in the first period. Tuckwood and Scott both had goals while Bedard had three assists and Scott chipped in a pair of helpers.

Alan Young had the only two-goal performance of the game while linemate Doug Spooner had a goal and two helpers. Young also assisted on Spooners' goal to give both a three-point night.



AL YOUNG



KEVIN SCOTT

Other Vernon goals came from left-winger Mark Greyeyes who also had an assist, defenceman Kris Ganzert and Greg Leaky. Defenceman Sean Hartnell, who is starting to look and play like the third-year veteran he is, had two assists.

In other BCJHL action Tuesday night Rob Clarke scored three times in the third period to help the Langley Eagles to an 8-7 comeback win over the Abbotsford Falcons. Clarke's last goal came with only 52 seconds left to play. Randy Wong cut the margin to one goal with 13 seconds left but Falcons couldn't get the equalizer.

Langley took a 3-2 lead after the first period but Falcons rebounded to go ahead 5-4 after 40 minutes.

Neil Eisenhut had two goals for Eagles with Cam Matches, Bud Fagrie and Darren Taylor getting singles.

As well as Wong, Rick Rosecki and Troy Kaye scored twice for Falcons while Brad Smiley had a goal and four assists. Jeff Dobish picked up the other Abbotsford goal.

Lakers next action will be Friday night when they host Nanaimo Clippers, of the Coastal Division.

