VERNON 8, MERRITT 3

Lakers stretch win streak to four



Veteran defenceman Sean Hartnell scored two goals to help Vernon Lakers to an 8-3 victory over the hometown Merritt Warriors in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Sunday night.



SEAN HARTNELL

The win, Lakers' first road game this season, gives the Vernon hockey club a 4-0 record and sole possession of second place in the Interior Division. Warriors are winless in five starts and share last place with Summerland Buckaroos, who are also looking for their first win.

Hartnell scored both his goals in the first period when Lakers picked up a power-play tally and a short-handed marker while skating to a 4-2 lead. Alan Young upped the lead to 5-2 with the only goal of the second period. Ed Tuckwood and Steve Humphrey had first period goals.

In the third frame, Chad Biafore, Craig Bedard and Stacy Hartnell each scored once.

Alan Suzuki, Glen Blair, and Troy McLeod scored for Warriors, with all three goals coming during man-advantage situations.

"We were two-men short on the first two goals so there's not a lot you can do about that," explained Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare in response to the three power-play goals by Merritt.

Lakers have an opportunity to catch division-leading Kelowna Packers Friday when they play host to Penticton Knights. Packers lead Lakers by two points with a record of 5-0, including three wins on a road trip to the Coastal Division over the weekend.

Knights, 2-2 so far this season, aren't the same team that won the national junior A title last spring.

"We're looking forward to Penticton," suggested Gare. "We're playing well both offensively and defensively."

Though Lakers have played four times so far this season they haven't faced any serious threat and have some old scores to settle with Knights Friday night.

Meanwhile, in BCJHL action Saturday night, Kerry Russell scored three times to pace Kelowna to an 8-1 win over Abbotsford Falcons while Nanaimo Clippers defeated Merritt 7-3 and Delta defeated Juan De Fuca 5-3.

Kelly Hurd notched two goals for Packers while Jay Luknowsky, Brent Mowery and Kevin Taillefer had one each.

Abbotsford's goal was scored by Rick Rosecki.

There is no action in the BCJHL tonight, but Tuesday night, Summerland visits Penticton, Richmond is in Delta, and Juan De Fuca is at Nanaimo.