PENTICTON 9, VERNON 6

Knights defeat slumping Lakers

Like a boxer without a knockout punch, Vernon Lakers lack the killer instinct.

Lakers controlled the play, but dropped a 9-6 decision to Penticton Knights, Friday night, in B.C. Junior Hockey League action in Penticton. For the third consecutive game, Lakers dominated play, but ended up on the short end of the score.

"We were all over them," said Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis. "We didn't get any breaks around their net and it seems every time they shot, it went in our net."

Despite being outshot, Penticton held period leads of 3-1 and 8-3. Vernon narrowed the gap to 8-6 and hit the goal post on two other occasions before Knights added an insurance goal in the dying moments.

Veteran John Deporque led Penticton with three goals. Jackson Penny tallied twice while Mike Barsal, Dowell Frantz, Shawn Howard, and Cliff Furnseth added singles.

Stacey Hartnell and Frank Biller scored two goals each for Vernon while Campbell Blair and Craig Bedard added one apiece.

Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare pulled starting netminder Pete Repole after the sixth Penticton goal. Ryan Dennis, who is scheduled to start between the pipes tonight against Kelowna Packers, finished the game.

Lis said, "We're not going to panic. We're playing well enough to win. One of these nights, we'll get the bounces going our way."

The red-hot Packers visit Vernon tonight, at 8 p.m. Kelowna, which has lost only once in eight outings, thumped Merritt Warriors 10-4, Friday night.

"There is no point worrying about that (Friday night) game," Lis said. "We have to start thinking about Kelowna. And we'll be ready for them."

In another game Friday, Nanaimo Clippers doubled Delta Flyers 6-3.

Kevin Taillefer scored three times to lead Kelowna's romp over visiting Merritt.

The game was marred by a series of fights in the final period that resulted in seven Kelowna players and five Merritt players being ejected from the game. The Kelowna coach was also thrown out.

Kevin Harder and Jay Luknowski each scored twice for Kelowna, while other goals gcame from Alex Patterson, Kerry Russell and Pat Mangold.

Richard Brew scored twice for Merritt, with Kevin Ned and Steve Manual adding singles.



MEL LIS



STACEY HARTNELL

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Silver Star leads nation

Thousands of Canadians, from coast to coast, took advantage of an introductory downhill ski program during the 1985/86 season.

The Labatts Skiing Is Believing Program attracted 24,000 first-time skiers to Canadian slopes last winter. And Jamie Doran, of Vernon, Western Canada's Skiing Is Believing Coordinator, expects a 100 per cent increase during the upcoming ski season.

Doran said, "We have set the national target at 50,000 people and we feel that is a realistic figure."

The program was introduced in 1984/85, on a trial basis, in the Okanagan Valley. Due to its success during the trial period, it was expanded to the national level last season.

solid with its support and belief in the program. They provide an excellent introductory package for the skiers."

Skiing Is Believing includes equipment rentals, a lesson and lift ticket for a discount price.

"It provides an excellent opportunity for people to find out if they like skiing . . . with only a minimal cost," Doran said. "To go to a mountain, rent equipment, take a lesson and purchase a lift ticket, the cost would be double what we are offering with Skiing Is Believing."

Doran admits some ski operators were concerned initially because they felt it provided an excessive discount. But, that opposition is now disappearing.

"More and more mountains are