That was a big, big win for us Sunday, but they're day.



VERNON LAKERS' forward Kevin Scott centres the puck, while laying on his stomach, during B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Saturday night, in the Civic Arena. Scott collected two assists, but Lakers dropped an 11-9 decision to first place Kelowna Packers. Vernon is idle until Friday night when it hosts Merritt Warriors. (Daily News Photo)

KELOWNA 11, VERNON 9

Lakers blow four-goal lead

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

Vernon Lakers have adopted a dual personality.

First place Kelowna Packers outgunned Lakers 11-9 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Saturday night, before 850 fans at the Vernon Civic Arena. After winning their first four games of the 1985-86 season, Lakers have now lost four straight.

Packers jumped to a 3-0 lead less than four minutes after the opening puck was dropped. Lakers then changed personalities into the hard-working, talented group of players assembled by Head Coach Ernie Gare. When Doug Spooner scored an unassisted goal at 16:08 of the second period, Vernon led 8-4.

Unfortunately for local fans, Lakers decided to change personalities again . . . back to the group of players who have struggled in their last four games. Packers scored seven consecutive goals, including three within the final four minutes of the second period.

Vernon General Manager Mel Lis is having difficulty figuring out his team. "When we were down 3-0 after four minutes, I wanted to find a hole to crawl in," he said. "Then, our guys worked hard and it looked like we were going to blow Kelowna right out of our building. Next thing you know, Packers are back in front."

Going into the two-game weekend series, Gare said his forwards had to start capitalizing on their chances. But, after giving up 20 goals in two outings (Vernon lost 9-6 Friday in Penticton), he must be concerned about his defensive corps and goaltending.

"We have been pointing the finger everywhere except at our goalies," Lis said. "Our defence has been getting caught up ice too much, but at the same time, our goalies aren't making the big saves when we need them. I expected (Ryan) Dennis to play better than he did tonight (Saturday)."

Veteran Pat Mangold, who ended his holdout last week, led the Kelowna attack with three goals. John Shaw scored twice and added three assists while Kerry Russell scored once and set up four others.

Darin Schwartz, with two goals, Jay Luknowsky, Kevin Tallifer, and Allen Schuler rounded out the scoring for Packers.

Frank Biller, who was branded as a sniper when he joined Lakers recently, is living up to his reputation. Biller scored three goals, giving him six in the last three games.

Defenceman Campbell Blair scored one goal and added four assists. But, like the rest of the rearguards, he did not enjoy a great night in his end of the rink.

Chad Biafore, Greg Olson, Mark Greyeyes, Stacey Hartnell, and Doug Spooner were the other Vernon marksmen.

Spooner, who added two assists, was the best of the Lakers. His hustle and forechecking gave Kelowna's defence trouble all night. But, frustration finally got the best of Spooner. Moments after Kelowna scored its 11th goal, he was ejected for fighting after starting a scrap with Mike Murinko.

Both Kelowna goalie Lucien Carrigan and Dennis finished the night with 31 saves.

Lis said, "Some positive things come out of losing. We proved we don't quit when we get behind and we proved we can score goals. But, we still lost."

Lakers are idle until Friday night when they host Merritt Warriors. Penticton Knights visit the Civic Arena, Saturday, then Lakers travel to Kelowna, Sunday night.

In other BCJHL games Saturday, Richmond Sockeyes nipped Delta Flyers 8-7 in overtime, Penticton thumped Merritt 7-1, and Abbotsford Falcons blasted Summerland Buckaroos 10-4.

In the lone Sunday game, Richmond whipped the hapless Buckaroos 7-1.

McEnroe wins title

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Top-seeded John McEnroe, playing what he called his best match in the $279,000 WCT Scottsdale Open, beat third-seeded Kevin Curren 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 Sunday to win the singles championship in this inaugural event.

The title was McEnroe's third straight in his last three tournaments and was worth $44,000 and 220 computer ranking points.

The 27-year-old southpaw previously won the Volvo-Los Angeles and the Transamerica Open

Ouchi steals victory in super curling loop

Connie Ouchi (Longhorn Pub) edged Lori White (Coldstream Hotel) 8-7 in Parkside Pontiac Women's Super Curl-

Concrete) 10-3 in seven ends.

Skobalski snapped a 5-5 tie by counting one in the eight end, stealing three