Lakers split on road trip

After a shaky start, Vernon Lakers finished strongly in the final two games of their three-game trip to the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Coastal Division.

Ed Tuckwood scored his second goal of the game to give Lakers a 7-7 tie, Sunday night, against Langley agles. Saturday night, Craig Bedard, who also had two goals Sunday, scored four times to pace the local club to an 11-4 thrashing of Abbotsford Falcons.



ED TUCKWOOD

The weekend spree gives Lakers a 7-6-1 record, good enough for third place in the Interior Division, where first and second places are held by Kelowna and Penticton, respectively.

Lakers led Eagles by two-goal margins twice during the game but both times Langley rallied to tie the game and then took a 7-5 lead in the third period. Tuckwood pounced on a loose puck in the crease to knot the score before the teams played through 10 minutes of scoreless overtime.

"When you come back twice from two-goal deficits and then blow one in the final period, it's pretty disgusting really," said Langley coach Muzz McPherson. "On that tying goal we should never have let the guy come out of the corner like that. Our goaltender stopped the first one and then we stood around and let them get the rebound."

Neil Eisenhut and Rob Clarke each scored twice for Eagles with singles from Brian Miller, Elliott Kagner, and Rick Graham.

Vernon Coach Ernie Gare gave full credit to his players for their play both Sunday and Saturday night, especially Sunday when the club was engaged in its third game in as many nights.

"The guys didn't give up and we got a point out of it (game) instead of nothing," he explained. "We just weren't ready against Delta (Friday night), from the goaltenders out."

Saturday night, Bedard put on a one-man show against Falcons but the other two members of that line, Al Young at centre and Ed Tuckwood on right side, also pulled their weight giving the line 15 scoring points for the night. Tuckwood also had two goals while Young scored once and set up three others.

"After Friday night I switched the lines around a bit," Gare explained.

"That line (Young, Bedard and Tuckwood) really played well. They carried us all weekend."

Stacey Hartnell also had a pair of goals in the Abbotsford win.

In other BCJHL action Sunday night, Penticton outlasted Summerland 10-7.

Jackson Penny, John DePourcq and Mike Barzal did most of the damage for Knights. Penny had four goals and two assists while centre DePourcq scored twice and assisted on four others. The third member of the line, Barzal, had a goal and two assists.

Brad Treliving, David Malcolm and Steve Chelios completed the scoring for Knights, who had period leads of 3-2 and 6-4.

Darren Harold, Steve Fredrich, Lorne Knaft, Gord Paulsen, Rich Reay, Mike Tremmell and Kevin Hoey shared the Summerland scoring.

Lakers have five days to recuperate from one hectic weekend before another begins. The club has another three games, in three days, beginning Friday night in Kelowna. Saturday, Vernon travels to Merritt while Sunday the club is at home to Summerland.

Meanwhile, in BCJHL action Tuesday, Kelowna travels to Penticton, Juan de Fuca is at Delta and Langley is in Nanaimo. There are no games tonight.