PACKERS 6, LAKERS 5

Late goal spoils Vernon rally

Kevin Taillefer's goal with slightly more than a minute left to play lifted hometown Kelowna Packers to a hard-fought 6-5 victory over Vernon Lakers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Friday night in Rutland.

The goal spoiled a valiant comeback bid by Lakers who overcame a 5-2 deficit early in the third period with three straight goals.

The loss leaves Vernon 12 points back of Packers who lead the BCJHL Interior Division. Penticton Knights continue to hold down second place with Lakers occupying third.

Taillefer deflected a shot from the point past Vernon goaltender Darryl Dickens who made 30 saves during the game. With both teams playing tight defensive hockey in the dying minutes, Vernon coach Ernie Gare was expecting the final decision to come in overtime when Taillefer's goal ended the game.

"We were looking to go into overtime but then we got a bad bounce in our end," explained Gare. "Everybody was where they were supposed to be. It was really frustrating, we should have at least got a point out of it."

Backed by solid goaltending from Lucien Carrignan, Packers jumped out front of Lakers 2-0 in the first period and extended their lead to 4-1 after 40 minutes. Packers regained a three-goal lead early in the third frame when they made the score 5-2 but successive goals by Craig Bedard, Ed Tuckwood, and finally Kevin Scott knotted the game at 5-5.

Bedard scored the first goal for Lakers to give him two for the night. Al Young rounded out Lakers' scoring with a single goal.

Brent Mowery notched a pair for Packers while Alan Schuler, Kevin Harder and Darren Schwartz were also marksmen. Packers' record is now 13-2-1. They host Nanaimo Clippers tonight.

Meanwhile, Gare and his band of followers have to shake off Friday's loss and get ready to meet Merritt Warriors tonight in Merritt. It's particularly frustrating for Lakers since they felt they should have been on the winning end of the stick in Friday's encounter.

"We outplayed them (Packers) through most of the game and I can't fault my guys because they never gave up and they came back from a three-goal deficit," said the Vernon coach.

Lakers had several opportunities to actually put the game away, especially in the final seconds immediately preceding Taillefer's game-winner when Vernon winger Mark Greyeyes was alone in front of Carrignan but couldn't get the puck past him.

Meanwhile, Merritt Warriors, who have won just one game so far this season, have continued to improve as of late and Gare will caution his charges not to take tonight's contest lightly.

"Merritt has been playing well so we can't take them lightly," he suggested.

In spite of the loss Friday night, there have been encouraging signs for Gare that things are picking up with the club. For one thing, all five of Lakers' goals against Packers came from their forward units whereas in past games, it has been the defensive unit that was carrying the bulk of the scoring.

"We're very close (to playing sound hockey) right now but we're not getting that final break or something," Gare said.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Penticton Knights staged a late rally to tie visiting Nanaimo Clippers 5-5, Abbotsford Falcons edged Juan De Fuca Whalers 4-3 in overtime, and Langley Eagles defeated Delta Flyers 11-9.

In Penticton, Knights scored three goals in the final two and one half minutes to earn the overtime tie.

Shawn Howard, Mike Barzal and Tim Roux scored the late goals for Knights who trailed 2-0 and 4-1 by periods. Cliff Furnseth and Brad Heschuk added the other Penticton goals.

Guy Burr scored three times on the power-play to pace the Clippers who also got goals from Darren Biggs and Todd Finner.

Vernon Daily News | **sports**

Editor — DON KENDALL

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

Rookie netminder Shawn Oswald blocked 61 shots but it wasn't enough as the Vernon Lakers dropped a 3-1 B.C. Junior Hockey League decision to Revelstoke Rockets. Dan DeJaeger, Cole Henderson and Mike Fisher scored the Revelstoke goals while Pete Oliphant replied for Vernon. The loss leaves Lakers in third spot in the Interior Division. They have 12 points on the year, six back of second-place Kelowna Buckaroos.

DAILY NEWS SCOREBOARD

WAWANESA CURLING LEAGUE

Skip, Sponsor	W	L	Pts
Longworth, Waddy's Restaurant	4	0	8
Gretzinger, Rutland Tire	4	0	8
D. Smith, Bertram Realty	3	1	6
Simpson, Baron Insurance	3	1	6
Eason, Evergreen Irrigation	2	2	4
Brown, M and K Ready Mix	2	2	4
Harris, Kal Tech	2	2	4
Walsh, Express Construction	2	2	4
Schmirler, Fairglass Doors	2	2	4
McCune, Shady's Pizza	2	2	4
McCrady, Willow Inn	2	2	4
Laface, Westgate Motor Inn	1	3	2
Wynn, RJ's Chicken	1	3	2
Deliver, Squires Four Pub	1	3	2
Hannan, Interior Lift Truck	1	3	2
Cameron, McCulloch Station	0	4	0

LAKESIDE INN MEN'S DART LEAGUE

TEAM	W	L	F	A	Pts
Lakeside Diddlers	5	0	56	19	10
Waddy's 180's	5	0	54	21	10
Hot Shots	3	2	46	29	6
First Choice	3	2	40	35	6
The Drinkers	2	1	23	22	4
Lumby Short Shafts	2	3	36	39	4
Longshots	1	2	20	25	2
Underdogs	1	4	28	47	2
Cliffhangers	1	4	26	49	2
Board Bashers	0	5	16	59	0

MAJOR WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

TEAM	PTS
Drapers	20
Lis Equipment	16
Hustlers	15
Net Benders	3

SUNDAY HONEYMOONERS VOLLEYBALL

TEAM	GP	W	L	Pts
[illegible]	16	16	0	16