## PENTICTON 7, VERNON 6

# Lakers drop close one to Knights

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers got off to a frustrating start in their toughest weekend schedule of the season Friday night as visiting Penticton Knights skated off with a narrow 7-6 victory at Civic arena.

Once again a valiant come-back bid by Lakers went in vain when, after overcoming a 6-3 third-period deficit, they surrendered the winning goal in the dying minutes of the game.

The win leaves Penticton a single point back of division-leading Kelowna Packers while Lakers are well back of the front-runners in third place. The local club entertains Packers tonight on home-ice while Sunday they travel to Penticton for a return match with Knights.

Knights' specialty teams made the difference Friday night as the visitors scored four times on the power-play and limited Lakers to just a single goal while at the man-advantage. Meanwhile, Knights led throughout the contest, forcing Vernon to play catch-up hockey all night in their own arena.

Penticton opened the scoring at 6:48 of the opening period and led 3-2 at the end of the frame despite being outplayed and outshot by Lakers. Vernon opened up with an aggressive, hard-hitting game that would easily have netted them a victory in the long run had they kept up the pace. They outshot Penticton 50-27 on the night.

Ken McArthur, Shawn Howard and Jan Ziedle each scored once for Knights in the first period while rearguard Sean Hartnell and Kevin Scott replied for Vernon.

Hartnell had an exceptionial night on defence for Lakers while the rest of Head Coach Ernie Gare's rearguards turned in only a mediocre effort at best.

The teams traded goals in the second period with Craig Bedard notching his 20th of the season for Lakers and Knights' John Depourcq restoring the visitors' lead during a three-on-three situation.

Knights opened up some breathing room in the third period with goals by



SEAN HARTNELL KEVIN SCOTT

Ziedle and Depourcq, both their second of the evening.

However, three successive goals by Lakers, including two in an 18-second span, knotted the score at 6-6 by 15:39 of the period. Scott, with his second of the game, Stacy Hartnell and Wes Gentles each scored once. Gentles' marker came immediately after Lakers had killed a five-minute major penalty, and it appeared the locals had the situation well in hand.

However, Shawn Howard picked up a loose puck at his own blueline, skated unhindered up his wing and fired a high rising shot over Darryl Dickens' shoulder to give Knights the win at 16:51 of the period. Lakers' right winger was guilty of being out of position on the play, as was the Vernon defenceman on that side.

The winning goal seemed to typify the kind of night both clubs were having as far as Gare was concerned.

"We'd make a mistake and they would capitalize on it," suggested the Vernon Coach, who was only mildly amused by his team's comeback bid. "We shouldn't have been in a position where we had to come back from three goals."

"We didn't play aggressively enough in our own building. . .we didn't kill penalties well and that hurt us," he added.

Penticton coach Duane Pentland was more forgiving of Lakers' ways however, and was actually impressed by what he saw Friday night.

"You have to give Vernon credit for coming back from a three-goal deficit," he said. "They (Lakers) have a good team and they'll be ready to go again Sunday night."

Between now and then, however, Lakers must face Kelowna Packers who were 8-1 winners against Summerland Buckaroos Friday night.

"It's going to be a different story tonight (Saturday) guaranteed," suggested Gare.

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