RICHMOND 9 VERNON 7

Sockeyes bury Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

There's a definite pattern emerging in Vernon Civic arena this season but it's not working in Lakers' favor.

It seems any visiting team worth its salt can walk into Civic arena, show a little discipline, play their positions, throw a few body-checks and walk away with two points at Lakers' expense.

Friday night visiting Richmond Sockeyes did just that as they skated to an easy 9-7 victory over Lakers. It was Vernon's third consecutive home-ice loss. During that time they've been outscored 25-13 by their opposition.

Clearly Lakers intend n playing the rest of the season just as they do now — as a third-place hockey club!

The loss leaves Lakers mired in third place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division — almost out of sight of Kelowna Packers and Penticton Knights who hold down first and second spots respectively. Richmond continues to hold down first place in the BCJHL Coastal Division with their win over Lakers Friday.

Sockeyes set the pace of the game early, naturally choosing to have things run according to their own liking. They laid down some punishing body-checks in the first five minutes of the game and the tactic worked like magic. Lakers tip-toed about the ice surface for the remainder of the game while Sockeyes ran up period leads of 3-1 and 7-2. They eventually stretched those leads to 8-2 and 9-3 at certain points in the evening.

With the game well in hand, Richmond Coach Orland Kurtenbach was content to lay back and let his club lapse into a defensive shell though it wasn't a very tight one. The result was a score that flattered Lakers in spite of the fact that they lost. The local club scored the last four goals of the game but it was simply a case of too little, too late.

"We had too far to go and not enough time," suggest assistant coach George Fargher.

Ironically, the two-goal difference was exactly the number of give-away goals Lakers allowed by trying to stick-handle the puck out of their own end by crossing in front of their own goal. It was playground stuff for the Richmond forwards who merely poke-checked the Vernon skaters and deposited the puck into the Vernon net.

The pair of goals didn't sit well with the local fans nor co-coaches Ernie Gare and Fargher.

"You should know at this level of hockey that you don't carry the puck out in front of your own net," hissed Fargher. "It cost us two goals tonight (Friday)."

Rob Clark scored three times to pace the Sockeye's and added a pair of assists as well. Other Richmond goals came from Bill Hardy, former Laker Jason Phillips, Mario Desjardins, Mike McCormick, Bryan Kozak and Dan Rutherford.

Campbell Blair, as usual, was an offensive sparkplus for Lakers. Also as usual, it was at the expense of his defensive game. He scored twice and set up two others.

Other Vernon marksmen were Mark Greyeyes, Al Young, Craig Bedard, Ed Tuckwood, and Stacy Hartnell.

Sockeyes needed to direct just 34 shots at Lakers' Daryl Dickens to score nine times while Lakers managed 44 shots on Sockeyes' Glen Pencer to get their seven.

The Richmond shooting was impressive but the team, in general, showed local fans and coaches alike what it takes to be a successful junior A hockey club.

"They have a good solid team — good balance and strong on their feet," observed Fargher.

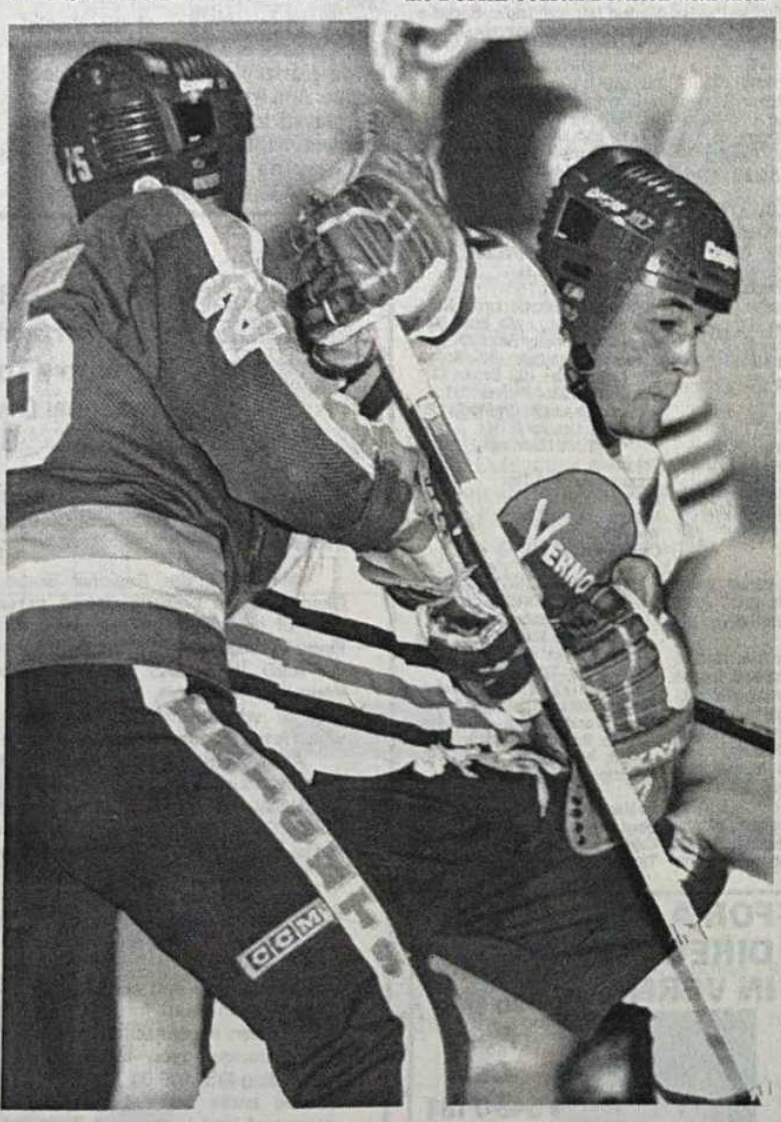
Lakers are off tonight but host Summerland Buckaroos Sunday night and an easy night may be just what the doctor ordered for a team such as Vernon which has faced the three toughest teams in the League four times in the past week.

Elsewhere in the BCJHL Friday night, Abbotsford Falcons edged hometown Penticton Knights 4-3 and Langley Eagles dropped Juan De Fuca Whalers 5-2.

Brad Smiley scored twice to pace Falcons past Knights. Abbotsford also got goals from Steve Eastman and Daryl Regier.

Penticton's goals were scored by Jackson Penney, with two, and John DePourcq.

Knights outshot Falcons 42-22.



CAMPBELL BLAIR had four points including a pair of goals for Vernon Lakers in their 9-7 loss to Richmond Sockeys Friday night at Civic arena. Blair is among the top five scorers in the league with his point total.
(Don Weixl photo)

O'Reilly will coach

BOSTON (AP) — Former Boston captain Terry O'Reilly, who coached the Bruins on an interim basis for their last three games, was officially named head coach of the National Hockey League team on Friday.

John Cunniff, a scout for the Hartford Whalers for the last two seasons, was named assistant coach, and defenceman Mike Milbury was given the title of player-assistant coach for the rest of the season.

Boston general manager Harry Sinden said O'Reilly, 35, would be head coach "for the remainder of this year, at least."

After Butch Goring was fired as the Bruins' 16th head coach Nov. 5, O'Reilly and Milbury served as co-coaches.

O'Reilly, who retired after the 1984-85 season, said that when he became interim coach, he had no intention of continuing in the job for the rest of the season.

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Editor — DON KENDALL

Nine Vernon Pacers among province's best

Nine members of Vernon Pacers Running Club made the top 10 lists of best runners in the province in their respective categories. Each received recognition during the Interior Running Association awards evening and banquet held recently at Kelowna.

The results were compiled from individual standings attained during the Interior Running Association's Tiger Road Race Series. This is a series of 14 races which began last February with the Vernon Winter Carnival 10 km race and ended in late October with the Kamloops half marathon.

Chief among the locals recognized for their achievements were Heidi Muckle and Jim Smiley who each placed first among their peer groups. Muckle competes in the 50 years and older category while Smiley runs among the 30-34 year old category.

Those who placed second or better included: Bill Delaney, second, men's 50 years and older; Bob Woodman, third, men's 20-29 years; Jim Tidball, third, men's 50 years and older; Lorne Siemans, sixth, men's 45-49 years; Dave Todd, seventh, men's 30-34 years; Juanita Purin, ninth, women's 30-39 years; Tom Reed, ninth, men's 40-44 years.

Muckle and Smiley also placed first and third, respectively, in the five-race Tiger cross-country series in their age categories.

Vernon Pacers meet every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. for a casual club run.

Those interested are encouraged to come out. For further information contact Siemens at 542-9119.

Sockeyes may steal rogue goaltender

Orland Kurtenbach and his Richmond Sockeyes may have stolen more than just two points from Vernon Lakers if their bid to ink goaltender Frank Romeo goes through the proper channels before that of Vernon Lakers.

Sockeyes, who defeated Lakers 9-7 Friday night at Vernon Civic arena, made it known to Romeo at that time that they were interested in obtaining his services for their club and that they would sign him to a junior card as soon as a deal could be worked out with Ron Swail, General manager of Kelowna Packers. Packers currently hold the playing rights to Romeo.

Originally, Packers were willing to strike a deal with Lakers for Romeo's services but Vernon GM Mel Lis has been hesitant in inking the 20-year old netminder who has been in Vernon camp since Wednesday.

Lis indicated that he was willing to wait until Dec. 1 before signing Romeo since any cash settlement between his club and Kelowna would be waived after that time and the local club could pick up the goaltender as a free agent. However, Lis' notion of keeping such information under wraps may backfire if Romeo decides to go with Kurtenbach instead of Lakers.

"They (Lakers) are holding out for some reason," explained Romeo who has played for eight different hockey clubs over the past five years of his junior hockey career. "They didn't want to make a commitment."

"He (Kurtenbach) says he'll give me ice-time right away so I can play myself back into shape," explained Romeo. "They (Sockeyes) also offer more promise — they obviously have a better club and there's more exposure down there (Coastal division)."

Kurtenbach, who has the top team in the Coastal division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, knows Romeo held a hot hand in the 1985-86 playoffs for Packers and figures on getting the same production from Romeo when playoffs arrive next spring in the BCJHL.

Lakers, on the other hand, have struggled throughout the early regular season, playing at or just slightly above break-even hockey. Most of the blame for the club's mediocre performance has been diagnosed as goaltending problems and the club certainly felt that Romeo would add stability to the club from the net outward. Lis was, in fact, impressed with Romeo's aggressive goaltending style during practice sessions earlier this week.

The fact remains, however, that Lis' hesitation could cost the club a chance at a brigher future as far as goaltending is concerned.