

ALAN YOUNG puts a perfect pass on the stick of Lakers' Craig Bedard (9) during second period action Sunday night between Vernon Lakers and Summerland Buckaroos at Civic arena. Bedard had two goals and Young had three assists as Lakers throttled the visitors 10-4. (Daily News Photo)

BLAIR CHASES SCORING RECORD

Lakers throttle Bucks

Vernon defenceman Campbell Blair is rapidly closing in on the B.C. Junior Hockey League record for most points by a rearguard and is dangerously close to becoming the Interior division's leading scorer at this point in the season.

Blair, a 20-year old from Prince George and formerly with Summerland Buckaroos, turned his scoring prowess on his former team-mates Sunday night netting three goals and leading Lakers to a not-so-easy 10-4 victory over Summerland at Civic arena.

The win gives Lakers an 11-10-1 record and keeps them in third spot in the Interior while Summerland's record drops even further to 1-20-2 and fourth place.

In addition to his three goals, Blair added an assist on rookie Bob Dever's first BCJHL goal to give the stocky rearguard four points on the night. It was his second four-point night in as many games and he now has 52 points in just 22 games.

Meanwhile, Kevin Scott, a newcomer to the Lakers' lineup this season, scored twice and added a pair of assists while Craig Bedard, who leads the team in goal-scoring, had a pair of tallies as well.

Ironically, the local team couldn't muster a single power-play goal all night though they did come up with a short-handed effort in the first period. Bucks, however, managed to sting Lakers for three man-advantage markers, two of them in the first frame when they held Lakers to a 3-3 tie after 20 minutes. Penalties managed to keep the game closer than it should have been during the first half.

Buckaroos hung in until the third period actually, trailing Vernon 6-4 after 40 minutes.

However, four unanswered third-period goals salted the victory away for Vernon as Blair notched his second and third of the game and set up Dever as well.

Blair opened the scoring at 4:57 of the first frame while Todd Demchuk's short-handed effort gave Lakers a 2-0 lead. Bucks closed the gap to 2-1 with Shane Verey's goal at the 10:14 mark but Bedard gave Lakers a two-goal margin once again with his first of the night at 11:11.

Kevin Hoey, with another Summerland power-play goal, and Mark Valley knotted the game at 3-3 before the period ended.

Lakers restored their two-goal lead with goals by Bedard and Scott just 20 seconds apart midway through the second frame.

Chris Hicks scored Bucks' third power-play goal of the game to make it a one-goal game at 17:09 of the second frame. It was as close as Bucks would get in the contest however.

Stacy Hartnell blew a thundering slapshot from the slot past Guy Basaraba to make the score 6-4 before the middle frame ended.

Blair's two, Scott and Dever closed the scoring during the third period. Bedard also chipped in a couple of helpers for a four-point night as well.

Lakers' number two netminder Ryan Dennis didn't exactly have an easy time as he faced 34 shots during the night. Basaraba faced 49 drives.

Lakers are now idle until Sunday when they travel to Kelowna to face the League-leading Buckaroos. The next home game for Lakers isn't until Nov. 28 when they entertain Delta Flyers of the Coastal division.

In the only other BCJHL action Sunday night, Penticton Knights easily defeated the hometown Merritt Warriors 6-1. John DePourcq led Knights with a pair of goals while singles came from Ken MacArthur, Jackson Penny, Al Novakowski, and Brad Heschuk.

Richard Brew replied for Merritt.

Saturday night, Kelowna Packers overcame a 4-1 deficit to beat Richmond Sockeyes 7-5 in Kelowna while Delta Flyers clobbered Juan De Fuca Whalers 7-5 and Nanaimo Clippers doubled Langley Eagles 6-3.