

LAKERS' DOUG SPOONER (25) sprawls in front of Summerland goaltender Blu Smith, a Vernon native, as Craig Bedard (9) prepares to rifle a shot into the net during action at Vernon Civic arena Sunday night. Bedard and Spooner scored twice each to help power Lakers past helpless Buckaroos 13-2 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action. (Daily News Photo)

THREE WINS ON THE WEEKEND

Lakers hammer Bucks

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers completed a weekend sweep with a 13-2 laugher over visiting Summerland Buckaroos Sunday night at Civic arena, allowing the club to record a rare three-in-a-row weekend.

Saturday night the club embarrassed the hometown Buckaroos 15-5 while Friday night it was a 10-6 victory against visiting Delta Flyers.

In all the club outscored their opposition 38-13 in the three victories but it still leaves Lakers 10 points back of Penticton Knights and in third place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior division.

Sunday night Lakers had just one objective in mind, other than to win the game. Head Coach Ernie Gare insisted that the club concentrate on reducing its goals-against average. With that in mind the club limited the visitors to just a pair of power-play goals in the third period.

"We set our objective at three goals against or less (tonight) so we achieved our objective," boasted Gare who had voiced displeasure at the team's defensive record in spite of past wins. "I told them (Lakers) that I didn't care how many we scored.

"We've got enough offensive talent — we want to stress defence now," he added.

Vernon controlled the game from start to finish playing well in all three zones and breaking up most of Bucks' plays before they reached the Vernon blueline. Most of the Summerland shots were from well out on Jason Powell and the Vernon goaltender had little trouble with most of the 45 he faced.

Meanwhile, a number of forwards had a golden opportunity to fatten their personal records in the two-game series with Bucks and they did just that.

Ed Tuckwood scored once and added five assists Sunday adding six points to the seven he picked up Saturday night. He'll move into the top five in the Interior scoring.

Craig Bedard, along with Doug Spooner and Sandy Moger, led the team with two goals apiece. Bedard also had three assists and added 14 points to his rising total. He'll probably move into the top three position.

Other single goals came from Mark Greyeyes, Campbell Blair, Todd Demchuk, Al Young, Kevin Scott and Greg Olsen.

Tom Cross and Shawn Cyr replied for the hapless Buckaroos who occupy last place in the Interior with a record of 1-24-1.

Lakers held a 1-0 lead after one period despite their 28 shots on net. The local club opened some daylight in their lead in the second period stretching it to 8-0.

Saturday night in Summerland Tuckwood scored four times to pace Lakers while Al Young added a three-goal performance and Bedard had a pair. Singles came from Jeff Kental, Mark Greyeyes, Swan Hartnell, Stacey Hartnell, Doug Spooner and Kevin Scott.

Buckaroos' goals came from Cross, Darren Harrold, Mark Valley, Chris Hicks, and Kevin Hoey.

Vernon native Blu Smith, the latest acquisition by Summerland, shared goaltending duties with Guy Basaraba Saturday night while the Vernon goalie went it alone Sunday at Civic arena and faced 58 shots.

In other games Saturday night, Merritt Warriors stunned the hometown Penticton Knights with a 4-0 victory. Meanwhile Kelowna beat Delta 5-3 and Juan De Fuca edged Abbotsford 4-3 in overtime.

The loss handed Penticton will certainly heop Vernon's cause as they begin the long hard climb from relative obscurity in the Interior division. It was the first time since early 1983 that Merritt defeated Knights in Penticton.

Steve Manuel scored two goals to lead Warriors while Bob Bermette and Richard Brew added singles. Three of the club's four goals came on the power play.

Merritt goalie Randy Beekhuizen got the shutout by stopping all 35 Penticton shots.

Lakers have two games in hand on Knights at this point and have vowed to overtake the Penticton squad according to assistant coach George Fargher.

"We'll catch them by Christmas," he suggested.