**OVERTIME VICTORY IN KELOWNA**

# Lakers stun Packers at home



Two streaks came to an end Friday night in Kelowna, much to the relief of Vernon Lakers.

Doug Spooner scored his second goal of the game at 2:44 of sudden-death overtime to give Lakers a 7-6 victory over the hometown Kelowna Packers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action. It was the first time in six tries that Lakers have beaten the division-leading Packers and the loss snapped a 15-game unbeaten streak at home for the Kelowna junior club.

The victory was a complete turnaround of events for Lakers as they came from behind a 5-3 second period deficit and were outshot by Packers 41-35. In past games Lakers had blown leads of as much as four goals to Kelowna and outshot them in most games as well.

Lakers' Coach Ernie Gare couldn't put his finger on any one aspect of his club's game as being the strongest but chose to commend all his players instead.

"I told them that we could make the third period our big period and they just worked really hard," said Gare. "Jason (Palmer) made some big saves and that certainly was a part of it but Spooner's line and everyone else worked hard too."

Stacy Hartnell, playing on the left side with Spooner and Kevin Scott, also scored twice giving that line four goals on the night. Other goals came from Campbell Blair, Craig Bedard, and newcomer Ian Alger recently acquired, along with defenceman Wes Elliott, from Abbotsford.

"Wes (Elliott) was really steady and Alger played well in the corners and is good with the puck," said Gare of his latest acquisitions.

Gare chose to go with just four defencemen for the game and suggested his rearguards were visibly tired in the third period.

Lakers got some help from Packers early in the third period when the home club picked up nine minutes in penalties to just two minutes for Vernon following an altercation. The difference allowed Lakers to score three power-play goals and take a 6-5 lead.

Packers tied the game with four minutes remaining to send the contest into overtime.

Kelowna's goals were scored by Terrance Head, Stan Marple, Jay Luknowsky, Pat Mangold, Darren Schwartz, and Kelly Hurd.

Vernon took a 2-1 lead after the first period but fell behind 5-3 after 40 minutes.

Lakers have a modest four-game winning streak going now and have a good chance to extend it as they play a home-and-home series with Merritt Warriors tonight and Tuesday night. Warriors are fourth in the Interior division with just three wins.

Vernon Daily News | sports
Editor — DON KENDALL