## VERNON 10, MERRITT 5

# Lakers extend win streak to five



CAMPBELL BLAIR GREG OLSON ED TUCKWOOD CRAIG BEDARD DOUG SPOONER STACEY HARTNELL

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers doubled Merritt Warriors 10-5, Saturday night, in Merritt giving the local club their longest winning streak of the season at five games.

Lakers now trail second-place Penticton Knights by eight points, with three games in hand. Vernon hosts Merritt, Tuesday night, and will likely see their current win streak stretched to six games. The club is in Penticton, Friday night, for an important matchup.

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare cites the team's victory in Kelowna last week as one of the major turning points in the club's fortunes this season. That win, coupled with the addition of several new faces in the line-up, have spelled success for Vernon in the past two weeks.

"That game in Kelowna was a big turning point for us," suggested Gare. "It was a big lift.

"I'm really happy with the way we've been playing lately. Our goals against is down considerably."

The biggest reason for the club's goals-against average being deflated is the appearance of goaltender Jason Palmer. Palmer, acquired in a trade with Langley Eagles in late-November, has given the club renewed confidence.

In spite of allowing five goals against Saturday night, Gare was happy with the club's defensive game, writing off at least two goals to bad luck in front of its own net.

"I thought we played well defensively," suggested Gare who used six rearguards during the game. "Wes (Elliott) played really well — I was surprised at his puck-handling ability."

Gare also suggested that the score wasn't really indicative of the play since Vernon scored four times in the final 10 minutes of the game. He gave Warriors full credit for their game and suggested that the club is getting steadily tougher as the year wears on.

Gare was also happy with the play of all three of his forward lines, but especially with the trio of Mark Greyeyes between newcomers Todd Demchuk and Ian Alger.

"They went like buzz-saws all night — our third line is looking really good now," said Gare.

Kevin Scott scored twice to pace Lakers' attack against Warriors while single goals were scored by Craig Bedard, Alger, Greyeyes, Sandy Moger, Stacey Hartnell, Campbell Blair, and Al Young.

Bill Burkes had two goals for Merritt while Frank Biller, Barry Jackson, and Darryl Kirkpatrick rounded out the scoring.

Lakers outshot Warriors 53-34.

Lakers were without the services of defenceman Keith Chase, who has been sidelined for the past three weeks with a bout of pneumonia. The big rearguard is expected to begin practicing with the club again this week although Gare won't insert him in the line-up for probably at least another week.

# Six Vernon players named to all-star team

Vernon Lakers matched first-place Kelowna Packers with the number of players selected to the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior division all-star team with six apiece.

The all-star selections were announced immediately following a meeting Sunday, in Summerland, of the Interior Division coaching staffs.

Second-place Penticton Knights had four players named to represent their club while Merritt Warriors and Summerland Buckaroos each had two players chosen.

In the Coastal division, second-place Delta Flyers edged first-place Richmond Sockeyes with five selections to Sockeyes' four.

Leading the list of players chosen from the Vernon squad was defenceman Campbell Blair while first-year rearguard Greg Olson also received the nod. Up front Doug Spooner and Ed Tuckwood will patrol right wing for Interior all-stars while Craig Bedard and Stacey Hartnell will be on the left side.

Oddly enough, Lakers' centre Kevin Scott failed to make the grade although he is among the top 10 in individual scoring in the Interior Division.

A year ago, Scott was the lone selection from the now-defunct Salmon Arm Totems and was selected the most valuable player in the all-star game, which took place in Nanaimo.

Spooner was also chosen to the all-star team in 1986 while Tuckwood and Bedard represented Summerland Buckaroos last year. This is the first occasion in three seasons that Hartnell has made the all-star ballot.

Also chosen to the Interior Division all-star team are: Lucien Carignan, goal, Kelowna; Jamie Loewen, goal, Penticton; Greg Andrusak, defence, Kelowna; Steve Chellos, Ken MacArthur, defence, Penticton; Chris Hicks, defence, Summerland; Tom Cross, centre, Summerland; John DePourcq, centre, Penticton; Brent Mowery, Kerry Russell, centre, Kelowna; Darryl Kirkpatrick, right wing, Merritt; Kevin Taillefer, right wing, Kelowna; Pat Mangold, left wing, Kelowna; Steve Manuel, left wing, Merritt.

Following are the Coastal Division all-star choices: Chris Dickson, goal, Delta; Tim Renton, goal, Juan De Fuca; Rick Graham, defence, Langley Eagles; Grant McDonald, Sean Stotts, defence, Nanaimo Clipper; Richard Stentiford, defence, Delta; Phillip Von Stefenelli, defence, Richmond; Randy Wong, defence, Abbotsford; Bryan Moller, centre, Langley; Lance Momotani, centre, Delta; Brad Smiley, centre, Abbotsford; Dave Tomlinson, centre, Richmond; Tony Bobbitt, Rob Clarke, right wing, Richmond; Peter Homes, right wing, Delta; Randy Sulinick, right wing, Juan De Fuca; Darren Biggs, Mike Knapton, left wing, Nanaimo; Neil Eisenhut, left wing, Langley; Aaron Nosky, left wing, Delta.

Both division-leading coaches were chosen to lead the respective teams with Bill Hogaboam, of Kelowna, handling the Interior team and Orland Kurtenbach, of Richmond, taking the Coast squad.



# Team rankings accurate

Vernon Royals were hoping to finish among the top 10 but found they couldn't buck the odds as they eventually settled for 12th place in the B.C. High School Senior Girls "AA" Volleyball Championship held last week in North Vancouver.

Royals' finish and that of most other teams, is something of a credit to the people who ranked the teams heading into the tournament. Royals were ranked 11th among the 16 teams competing while the gold and silver medal winners, Sutherland and Sentinel, respectively, were ranked two and three.

"The people who ranked everyone were almost bang-on for the tournament," suggested Royals' Coach Denis Murdoch. "We were ranked 11th and that's just about where we finished."

Royals had a tough day Friday at the championship, losing three of their four matches. The only match they won was against Richmond in three

Vernon Daily News | **sports** Editor — DON KENDALL

# Downhill race scheduled