Lakers thump hapless Bucks

Stacey Hartnell scored four goals and captain Doug Spooner came up with a three-goal performance Saturday night as Vernon Lakers extended their winning streak to eight games with a 14-1 thrashing of the hometown Summerland Buckaroos.



STACEY HARTNELL

Lakers moved to within four points of second-place Penticton Knights who were 8-2 losers to Kelowna Packers Saturday night. Kelowna, which leads the division, kept their hold on first place with a 7-1 win against Summerland, Sunday night.

Hartnell will likely move into the Interior Division's top 10 scoring leaders this week joining five of his teammates who already occupy various positions on that list.

Campbell Blair, who leads the Interior Division and the league with his individual scoring statistics, failed to score a goal but had seven assists. Blair now has 28 goals and 51 assists for 79 points, in 31 games.

Spooner added four assists to go along with his three goals.

Craig Bedard and Mark Greyeyes added two goals apiece for Lakers who broke the game open with seven goals in the second period and managed 59 shots on net during the night.

Also scoring for the Vernon club were Kevin Scott, Ed Tuckwood, and Todd Demchuk. Shaun Cyr had the lone goal for Summerland.

On Sunday, Brent Mowery, Kevin Taillefer, Kevin Harder, Doug Gardiner, Kerry Russell, Jamie Kurki and Bruce Bianchin shared Packers' scoring. Tony Bower scored for Summerland which trailed 2-0 after the first period and 3-1 after 40 minutes.

Lakers have an excellent chance to reduce the distance between themselves and Penticton when they host Knights, Tuesday night, at the Civic Arena. Lakers still have three games in hand on Knights but have a chance to catch the Peach City crew without them. Lakers also host Merritt Warriors Friday night and travel to Kelowna, Saturday, for their last game before the Christmas break.

Meanwhile, the Vernon club has a new player in its midst. Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis obtained Mike Conrad from Abbotsford Falcons and the big winger-defenceman has already arrived in camp.

At 6'3" and 207 pounds, Conrad, an 18-year old, can likely help the team at either position. Conrad played the first 10 games this season with Falcons but only recently recovered from a bout with mononucleosis which has kept him out of action. He was left unprotected by Falcons and Lis scooped him up.

Coach Ernie Gare said he'll decide at practice tonight whether he'll insert the strapping new prospect into the lineup Tuesday.