KNIGHTS 3, LAKERS 1

Penticton netminder spectacular



PENTICTON KNIGHTS' Captain John DePourcq (19) unloads a slapshot while Bob Dever (24) defends in Lakers' end during action between the two clubs, Tuesday night, at the Civic Arena. DePourcq scored a pair of power-play goals and Knights' goaltender Jamie Loewen made 58 saves as Penticton earned a hard-fought 3-1 victory against Lakers. Vernon now trails Knights by six points, with three games-in-hand.

(Daily News photo)

Vernon Lakers' bid for second place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division was put on hold Tuesday night at the Civic Arena thanks mainly to the red-hot goaltending of Penticton's Jamie Loewen.

Loewen made 58 saves and captain John DePourcq scored two power-play goals as visiting Knights took a 3-1 victory from Lakers in a tough, hard-hitting intense matchup here Tuesday.

The victory leaves Knights six points ahead of Vernon in the battle for second place in the division. However, Lakers have three games-in-hand on Penticton.

The goaltending at both ends of the rink was outstanding as both Loewen and Lakers' Jason Palmer got in the way of many high-percentage scoring opportunities by both clubs. Palmer made 33 saves in goal for Lakers. The difference turned out to be a few defensive errors for Lakers and a lucky break, or two, for Knights.

Lakers' defencemen failed to clear the front of the net which resulted in both Penticton goals in the second period. Late in the third period with Kevin Scott and Steve Chelios already off for roughing, Knights fingered Lakers' right-winger Ed Tuckwood for an illegal stick. The result was a power-play for Knights which afforded them their insurance marker at 19:43 of the final stanza.

Meanwhile, in spite of having six of the Interior Division's top 10 scorers in their midst, Lakers could get nothing past Loewen with the exception of Wes Elliott's goal, at 5:41 of the third period. Elliott's shot from the point eluded Loewen and offered the local club a spark of renewed hope, but it was as far as they would get.

Lakers missed a number of golden opportunities. Tuckwood missed a wide-open attempt from the slot when a Knight defenceman gave him the puck in the first period. Todd Demchuk missed on a clear breakaway in the second and Ian Alger missed an open net in the same frame when the puck hopped over his stick.

In the dying seconds of the game, Vernon rearguard and the league's highest scorer, Campbell Blair, got another breakaway but lost the puck in his skates. DePourcq's goal followed a few seconds later.

"It was just one of those nights when our goal scorers couldn't score and Loewen was incredible," explained Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "Our leading scorer gets a breakaway and loses the puck in his skates — that's the kind of night it was for us."

Gare felt that an early goal might have changed the complexion of the game. The teams battled through a scoreless first period.

"When we failed to score in the first period I think it game them (Knights) more confidence," suggested Gare. "I think if you don't get to Loewen early, he gets stronger."

Meanwhile, Knights, Head Coach Dwayne Pentland concurred with Gare's assessment of the goaltending at both ends of the rink, and also praised his own penalty-killing.

"We had some great penalty killers and Jamie (Loewen) came up big for us," he said.

Knights led 2-0 after the second period on DePourcq's power-play tally and then Todd Hilditch's game-winner at 17:33 of the frame. Hildich got hold of a lucky bounce in front of Palmer and with nobody around to offer him any resistance, he put the rebound past the Vernon netminder.

Meanwhile, Gare wasn't too happy with the illegal stick but couldn't fault Tuckwood for his equipment since it came right off the rack in a local sporting goods store.

"He (Tuckwood) said he thought it was legal," said Gare. "He bought it (Titan) right off the rack and they're supposed to be legal."

The loss also halted Lakers' winning streak at eight games and will definitely put the club's bid for second place on hold until after the new year. Lakers have just two games remaining before the Christmas break and won't be able to make up their three games in hand on Penticton until 1987.

In other BCJHL action Tuesday night Nanaimo Clippers edged Juan De Fuca 7-6, and Richmond Sockeyes shaded Delta Flyers 6-5. Both games ended in overtime.

INTERIOR DIVISION SCORING LEADERS

Player, Team	G	A	Pts.
Blair, Vernon	28	51	79
Taillefer, Kel.	28	49	77
DePourcq, Pent.	37	36	73
Bedard, Vernon	33	37	70
Mowery, Kel.	27	43	70
Tuckwood, Vernon	27	36	63
Scott, Vernon	22	41	63
Hartnell, Vernon	27	35	62
Russell, Kel.	23	37	60
Mangold, Kel.	29	30	59
Young, Vernon	16	43	59

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

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fulton hosts volleyball trials

B.C. Winter Games zone volleyball trials are scheduled Saturday, at Clarence Fulton Secondary School. Round-robin play gets under way at 10 a.m.

Shuswap stops Shooting Stars

Shuswap Lakers stretched their winning streak to six games with a 71-64 victory over Shooting Stars in Vernon Major Men's Basketball League action, Monday night, at VSS.

Lakers now hold a one-half game lead on second place Apple Lane Restaurant, which id idle this week.

Chris Dewitt led the Shuswap attack with 28 points while Glynne Green dropped in 12.

Rob Gardner, with 12 points, and Stacey Smith, with 11, replied for However, Nor Kor still ended up on the short end of the score.

Dale Olson led Waddys with 37 points while Wally Fisher added 20. Jim Maundrell and Owen Schoenberger chipped in with 14 apiece.

Larry Olson countered with 49 for Nor Kor while Vic Eng added 15.

Rene Dolcetti, a former member of Canada's national team, was a dominant force for Scenic Valley. The 6'8" centre scored 35 points and completely controlled the boards. Lorne Hanson