Lakers settle for draw with first place Packers

Vernon Lakers showed no lasting ill-effects of their loss to Merritt Warriors, Friday, as they battled to a 5-5 draw with hometown Kelowna Packers, Saturday night, in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.


JASON PALMER

The single point Saturday gives Lakers three of four points against the Interior division-leading Packers in their last two games against the Kelowna squad, on their home ice. Lakers continue to occupy third place in the division while Packers hang on to first place. Penticton Knights are second.

Lakers led throughout the contest Saturday night, but Kerry Russell's goal at 18:50 of the third frame enabled Packers to salvage the single point.

"The guy (Russell) picked it (puck) out of the air," explained Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare of the tying marker. "It went in off the handle of his stick."

"We played well enough to win and we should have. It was a close- checking, hard-hitting game."

Packers also got goals from Kelly Hurd with a pair, Kevin Harder, and Brent Mowery.

Lakers got their scoring from Kevin Scott, Mark Greyeyes, Craig Bedard, Todd Demchuk, and rearguard Chad Biafore.

Kelowna goaltender Dusty Imoo stopped 40 shots while Vernon's Jason Palmer blocked 54 shots.

"Jason (Palmer) played very well, he came up with some terrific saves," suggested Gare.

Lakers are now idle for the Christmas season but will check back into camp to begin practice sessions Dec. 30. On Jan. 1 the club will play an exhibition contest against the B.C. Canada Games Team, which is comprised of the best Junior B players in the province. That game will take place in Osoyoos.

Lakers will also come prepared to meet the challenge of obtaining first place in the Interior Division in the New Year according to Gare. Although the club made great strides towards second place in December, a two-game losing string coupled with a short hot streak by Penticton enabled the Peach City crew to put some daylight between the two clubs again.

However, Gare is still confident the club can catch Knights early in the New Year and perhaps even catch Packers.

"It's going to be very close and very good hockey in the second half," suggested the Vernon coach. "We're going to concentrate on getting ahead of Penticton first, then we'll work on first place."

"We have to come mentally prepared and play 60 minutes of hockey."

In other BCJHL action Saturday night, Summerland Buckaroos and Merritt Warriors tied 4-4, while Juan De Fuca Whalers defeated Richmond Sockeyes 6-3.

Sunday night, Lenard Joe scored at 17:13 of the third period to give Merritt a 5-4 home-ice victory over Summerland while Langley Eagles edged Whalers 5-4.

Puck bouncing for Black Hawks

By The Canadian Press

The puck finally is beginning to bounce in the Chicago Blackhawks' favor.

Right winger Wayne Presley scored two goals in a 7-4 victory Sunday night over the visiting Detroit Red Wings after firing two in a 6-2 win Saturday over the Bruins in Boston, extending Chicago's winning streak to three games — its longest in what has been a disappointing season so far.

"The guy upstairs is starting to like me, I guess," said Presley, 21, who is in his first full season with the team. "I got one off my toe last night in Boston and one bounced off my stick tonight.

"As a team, the rest of the league is going to find out that we're for real."

Chicago's record of 11 wins, 17 defeats and six ties is unreal considering the Blackhawks finished

John Ogrodnick, Lee Norwood Peter Klima and Doug Shedden scored for Detroit, which now shares fourth place in the Norris with Chicago. Both have 28 points.

Nordiques 4 Jets 4

In Winnipeg, Laurie Boschman, Thomas Steen and Dave Ellett, with his second goal of the night, scored unanswered third-period goals for the Jets, who remain winless in nine games (0-6-3).

Brent Ashton scored twice and Michel Goulet and Anton Stastny once each for Quebec.

Flyers 7 Blues 6

Tim Kerr's 12th career three-goal game, giving him 30 goals so far this season, helped Philadelphia maintain a 14-year mastery over St. Louis at the Philadelphia Spectrum, where the