Scott's line leads Lakers to victory over Warriors

By DON KENDALL
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Vernon Lakers scored seven unanswered goals in the third period on route to a 13-4 win over Merritt Warriors in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Friday night, at the Civic Arena.


KEVIN SCOTT

One line did most of the damage for Lakers with a total of 17 points. Centre Kevin Scott scored five goals and added three assists, right winger Doug Spooner scored four times, and left winger Stacey Hartnell picked up five assists.

Scott said it was just one of those nights when everything he shot went into the net. "I've been having trouble scoring goals," Scott said. "The chances have been there, but the goals haven't. I think tonight I concentrated when I got in close."

The game followed a similar pattern for a Vernon-Merritt confrontation. Lakers led 4-1 at the end of the first period and took a 6-2 lead midway through the second before a pair of powerplay goals put Warriors back in the game.

Scott, who now has 28 goals, said his club always seems to have a mental breakdown against Merritt. "Warriors have won only five games all season and I think we get a little over- confident against them."

Merritt's hopes of a comeback were squashed early in the third period when Spooner went to work. The veteran winger scored a hat trick, within the first three minutes and 40 seconds of the final frame.

Keith Chase, Jason Fox, Mark Greyeyes, and Craig Bedard were the other Vernon marksmen.

Cal McGowan, Alan Suzuki, Derry Menard, and Paul Kruse replied for the Warriors.

Merritt netminders Randy Beekhuizen and Gorden Besse combined to block 36 shots while Jason Palmer made 27 stops at the other end.

BCJHL scoring leader Campbell Blair was blanked until the third period. The Vernon defenceman picked up three assists in the final 20 minutes and closed in on a BCJHL record. Blair now has 153 career assists, just two less than the career assist record for defencemen set by Ian Kidd, formerly of Penticton Knights.

Blair, 20, has an opportunity to set a new mark tonight when Lakers host Abbotsford Falcons.

Friday's game was rough, and at times, chippy. Vernon was assessed 17 of 28 minor penalties, four of seven majors, and five of seven misconducts. Chase, along with Vernon's entire Scooter line, Todd Demchuk, Ian Alger, and Greyeyes, were ejected for fighting. Chase tackled Bill Burkes after the Merritt forward cut his lip with a high stick.

Although he was held to one assist, one of the most effective Lakers was winger Ed Tuckwood. The stocky veteran threw several punishing bodychecks and did an excellent job backchecking.

The victory gives Vernon 42 points, seven less than second place Penticton Knights. However, Lakers have two games-in-hand. Kelowna Packers lead the division with 56 points.

In other games Friday, Langley Eagles trimmed Richmond Sockeyes 5-4, Nanaimo Clippers outlasted Delta Flyers 9-7, Kelowna crushed Abbotsford 10-1, and Penticton nipped Summerland Buckaroos 6-4.

In Kelowna, four Kelowna players scored two goals apiece to lead the Packers to a 10-1 win over the Abbotsford Falcons.

Mike Murinko, Pat Mangold, Greg Andrusak and Bruce Bianchini scored two goals each, while singles came from Jay Luknowsky, Kevin Harter.

Brad Smiley scored Abbotsford's only goal with only 1:41 remaining in the game, spoiling Lucien Carignan's shutout.

The Packers outshot Abbotsford 33-16.

In Penticton, the Knights nearly blew a 4-0 first period lead but held on for a 6-4 win over the Summerland Buckaroos.

Brad Heschuk led the Knights with two goals, including the winner.

Penticton's singles came from Sean Hartnell, Jackson Penney, Jan Zeidel and Dowell Frantz.

Steve Fredrich had two goals for Summerland, while teammates Rich Raey and Vince Bajer added one apiece.



WINGER Doug Spooner scored four goals in the third period to lead Vernon Lakers to a 13-4 win over Merritt Warriors in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Friday night. Spooner and his linemates, Kevin Scott and Stacey Hartnell, combined for 17 points.

(Don Weixl Photo)

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