PENTICTON 6, VERNON 4

Knights too tough for Lakers

Vernon Lakers dropped a 6-4 decision to Penticton Knights in a fight and penalty-filled affair Friday night in B.C. Junior Hockey League action in Penticton.

Despite the loss Lakers remain three points ahead of Knights in second place in the BCJHL Interior division with four games in hand. Kelowna Packers, whom Lakers entertain tonight at Civic arena, (8 p.m.) lead the division.

Knights, who scored three power-play goals on the evening, got the game-winning goal from former Vernon player Stacy Hartnell. Hartnell notched the winner late in the second period to give Knights a 5-4 lead after 40 minutes. Penticton scored the only goal of the third period.

John DePourcq and Jackson Penny each scored twice to pace Knights attack while Todd Hilditch added a single goal to complete the scoring for the winners.

Lakers, scoring twice while at a man advantage, got single goals from Doug Spooner, Kevin Scott, Chad Biafore, and Al Young.

Lakers jumped in front of the hometown Knights 2-0 early in the first period but Knights roared back to take a 3-2 lead. Lakers tied the score 3-3 before the first period ended.

Early in the second frame Vernon took the lead once again but Knights tied the game and went ahead before the second frame ended.

Lakers' Coach Ernie Gare wasn't too impressed with the calibre of officiating in the contest and his doubts as the referee's credibility may have been well-founded as the game erupted in a line-brawl in the dying seconds of the game.

"It was brutal," suggested Gare of the officiating.

The two teams squared off five-on-five in the last seconds with Al Young, Ed Tuckwood, and Jan Zeidel the forward line for Lakers at the time. Defencemen Jason Fox and Wes Elliott were also involved in the fracas.

The loss doesn't do Lakes any favors in spite of the fact that they were recently handed second place on a platter when the league took 10 points from Knights and gave Lakers two additional points. The club trails Kelowna by a healthy margin and still has a mathematical chance of taking first place in the tough Interior division. However, those chances diminish with each game the local club loses.

"We wanted to win that one (Penticton game) fairly badly," admitted Gare. "We had a lot of chances in the first 10 minutes of the third period but we couldn't put one home."

Lakers were outshot 40-35 by Knights with Jason Palmer in net for the loss for Vernon while back-up goaltender Mark Dykstra was between the pipes for Knights.

Lakers have an opportunity to make up some important ground tonight when they host Kelowna packers.

"We have to forget about last night," suggested Gare. "We have to have everybody on their game."

Packers were 9-3 winners against Merritt Warriors Friday night while in other BCJHL action the hometown Nanaimo Clippers edged Summerland Buckaroos 4-3 and Langley Eagles downed Juan De Fuca Whalers by a 7-4 margin.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

JANUARY 1982

Vernon Panthers lost three straight basketball games during an exhibition tour of California during the Christmas holidays. Panthers lost 64-56 to Del Mar, of San Jose, 58-47 to Pioneer, also of San Jose, and 64-39 to Los Gatos. Despite the losses, Coach Jack Yamaoka said the trip was a good experience for the club.

JANUARY 1982

Sun Valley Athletics remained undefeated by scoring a close 59-58 victory over Express Construction in Carling O'Keefe Basketball League action. In other games, second place Armstrong best National Hotel 90-65, while Trophy Gallery whipped Wheelhouse Drywall 69-71.



COACHES Ewan Paterson, centre, and Andrew Wilson, of Queenstown, New Zealand, watch the technique of racer Michael Simpson, 18, on a slalom course at Silver Star Mountain. The two coaches, along with seven racers, are training for seven weeks on the Star. (Don Weixl Photo)

New Zealand racers train on Silver Star