Lakers ground Eagles with third period rally

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers turned the tables on Langley Eagles' third-period rally with their own four-goal outburst to earn a hard-fought 6-4 decision against their Coastal Division counterparts in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at Civic arena Friday night.

Both teams remain in second place in their respective divisions. The loss was only the second in the past 15 games for Eagles who trail only Richmond Sockeyes in the Coastal Division.

The teams battled through a scoreless first period and Lakers held a slim 2-1 lead after 40 minutes though a lot of heroics by goaltender Jason Palmer were necessary to keep the game close for Lakers.

Eagles came out flying in the third period tying the game less than 20 seconds into the final frame and notching two more goals for a 4-2 lead by the 6:53 mark.

Mike Dutton had Eagles' goal in the second period while veterans Vern Kingley, Jim Butterworth and Jeff McLean had singles in the third for the visitors.

Kevin Scott and Mark Greyeyes each scored their first of two goals apiece during the middle frame for Lakers.

Doug Spooner's goal at 12:07 of the third period made it a one-goal game and newcomer Shawn Howard knotted the score at 4-4 at 13:38 when a gamble by Vernon Coaching staff paid off with an illegal stick call against Langley's Rick Graham.

Scott finally notched the game-winner at 14:39 converting a pass by Greyeyes and finishing off with a splendid individual effort.

Greyeyes completed a big night with the insurance marker at 17:48 with Spooner, who had a big night as well, drawing the assist.

A late call by Eagles against Todd Demchuk resulted in an illegal stick infraction against Lakers and even with the goaltender pulled in favor of a sixth attacker Eagles couldn't beat Palmer nor the tight defensive shell Lakers put up.

After being outshot 11-10 in the first period Lakers outshot the visitors by a 39-25 margin in the last two frames including 22 shots in the third period alone.

Though he gave his club full value for the victory Gare is clearly concerned at the play of his club.

"We're fighting the puck a lot and not playing up to our capabilities," he suggested. "Things just weren't clicking until late in the game — a lot of guys aren't on their game and we have to work it out."

Meanwhile Eagles' colorful Coach Muzz MacPherson felt the goaltending was the major difference.

"They (Lakers) had good goaltending — Palmer played well," he said. "We feel bad that we lost but we didn't lose it we gave it away."

Meanwhile in other BCJHL action Friday night Mike McCormick's second goal of the game with 1:33 remaining in the third period lifted Richmond Sockeyes to a 4-3 win over Nanaimo Clippers while Penticton Knights easily handled Merritt Warriors 6-1.

Other Sockeyes' goals were scored by Rob Clarke, his 50th of the season, and Jim Gunn. Clippers' scorers were Darren Biggs, Todd Finner and Kevin Harder.

In Penticton, Jackson Penney and Ken MacArthur each fired two goals as the Knights charged past Warriors. Brad Heschuk and John DePourcq had singles for Knights who led 2-0 and 4-1 by periods.

Alan Suzuki was the lone goal-scorer for Merritt.

Lakers return to the ice tonight, in Merritt, when they tackle the Warriors. Sunday, Vernon hosts Summerland Buckaroos on Rick Hansen Night. Lakers will donate $1 from every ticket sold for Sunday's game to the Rick Hansen Man-In-Motion ski-a-thon, scheduled Feb. 7 on Silver Star Mountain.

Vernon Daily News | sports
Editor — DON KENDALL

Maroons set pace in Battle of Vernon

The Battle of Vernon between Fulton Maroons and VSS Panthers is turning into a one-sided contest in Maroons' favor for the first time since the rivalary was started three years ago.

Maroons hammered Panthers 74-42 at Fulton gym Friday night to win the first of the two-game series which resumes tonight at VSS Panther Pit where the Panthers are expected to be much tougher than they were Friday.

"They (Panthers) wre in a bit of foul trouble but we really controlled the boards," explained Fulton spokesman Rob Shannon. "They'll be a lot tougher winning cause for the Maroons and hauled in 10 rebounds. Red Rush, who had eight rebounds, had 13 points while Jason Cawkell had 11 points.

Peter Sorokovsky was the only Panther to hit double figures with 13 points.

Sean Milliken and Mike McNamara also had eight rebounds each for Maroons who dominated this department with 21 offensive and 21 defensive rebounds.

The two previous Battle of Vernon contests results in easy victories for Panthers so Maroons will be looking for their first clean victory tonight.

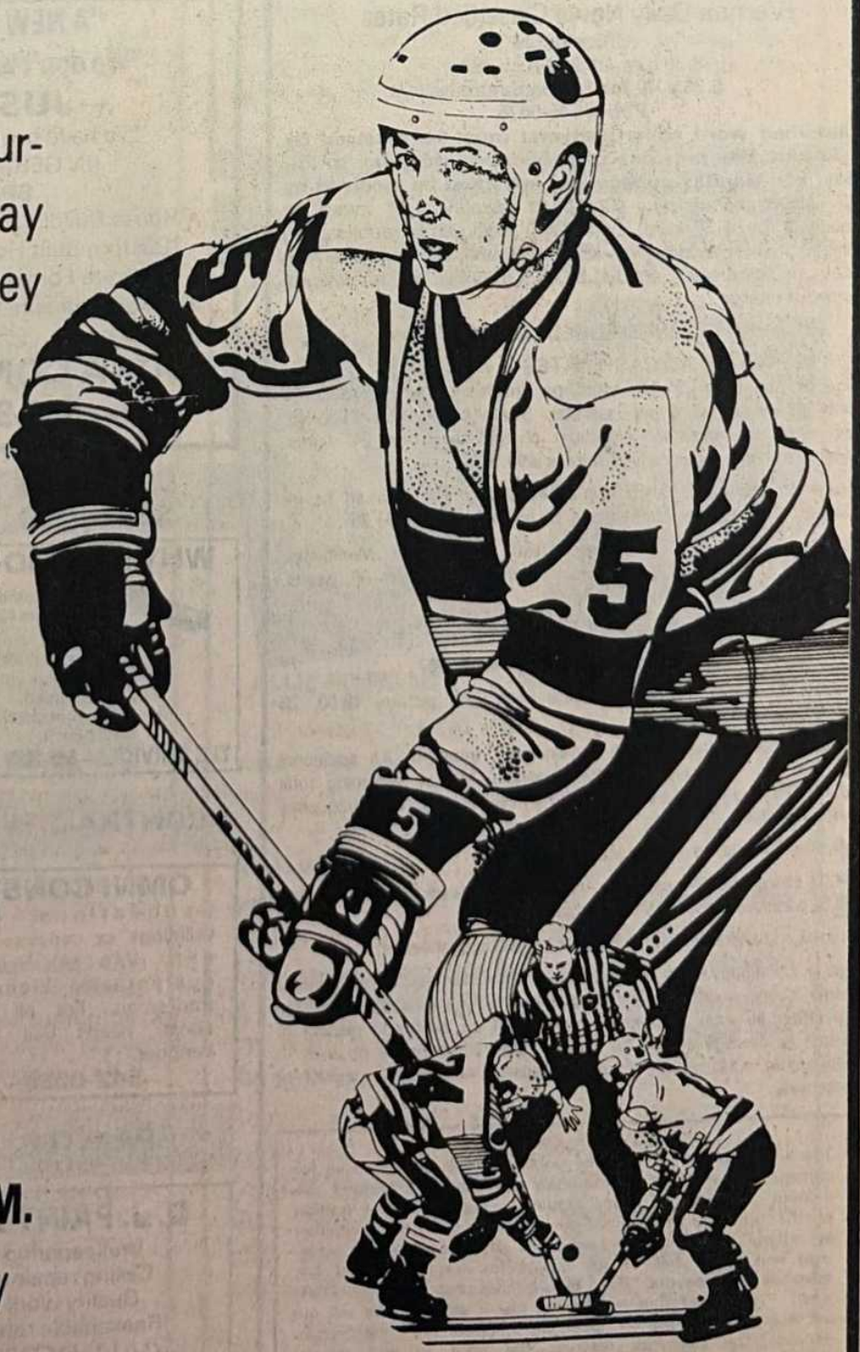
Vernon Lakers

Salute

Wheelchair Athlete

RICK HANSEN





$1.00 from each ticket purchased for this Sunday night's B.C. Junior Hockey League game between

Vernon Lakers and Summerland Buckaroos

will be pledged on Daily News Sports Editor Don Kendall for the

Rick Hansen Ski-A-Thon

on Silver Star Mountain,

Saturday, February 7th

Game Time is Sunday 7:00 P.M.

See Some Great Junior Hockey And Support A Great Cause.