BLAIR BREAKS BCJHL RECORD

Lakers' streak continues

By DON KENDALL
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NANAIMO (Special) — Vernon Lakers stretched their winning streak to five games with a 6-3 victory over Nanaimo Clippers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action before 1206 fans Friday night in nanaimo.


CAMPBELL BLAIR

Vernon now has 70 points, seven more than third place Penticton Knights who dropped a 5-4 decision to Kelowna Packers, Friday.

In Nanaimo, Lakers didn't look like a team that was playing its second tough game in 24 hours. They hit hard, checked tenaciously, and limited Clippers to three power-play goals.

"That was one of our best defensive efforts of the season," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "We proved we can play it tough . . . in a small rink."

Vernon centre Kevin Scott continued his incredible scoring pace with two goals and an assist. Scott now has 22 points in his last five games and leads the Interior Division with 104 points.

Doug Spooner, Ian Alger, Shawn Howard, and Campbell Blair were the other Vernon marksmen.

Blair's goal established a BCJHL record for career points by a defenceman. The 20-year old rearguard now has 236 points, one more than former Penticton defenceman Ian Kidd. Blair is also only two goals short of the single season goal-scoring record for defencemen which is 36, currently held by Doug Lidster, formerly of Kamloops Braves.

Scott's line, which includes Mark Greyeyes and Spooner, finished the night with six points. They now have 59 points since being united at the start of the current winning streak.

Darren Biggs, Cory Manton, and Zvonko Malenca scored power-play goals for Clippers.

Lakers led 1-0 at the end of the first period and 4-2 after the second.

While Scott, Spooner and Blair gained most of the recognition for their scoring exploits, one of Vernon's outstanding performers in recent games has been defenceman Wes Elliot. Elliot, who collected a pair of assists Friday, has been moving the puck well and clearing the front of his net with authority.

"This is probably the best hockey I've ever played," said the 6'3" defenceman. "I'm concentrating more on keeping my head up."

Gare said Elliot hasn't had a bad game in recent memory.

"I keep telling the scouts to watch him . . . he doesn't make any mistakes," Gare said.

Lakers' netminder Jason Palmer continued to play well with 36 saves including 15 in the first period. At the other end, Wade Flaherty kicked out 28 shots.

It was a busy night in the penalty box with Lakers taking 14 of 21 minors, three of six fighting majors, and three of six game misconducts. In one of the most lopsided fights of the season, Vernon's Ed Tuckwood pounded Nanaimo tough-guy Mike Knapton.

Palmer gets a well-deserved rest tonight when Lakers meet Juan De Fuca Whalers in Victoria. Newcomer Mike Sutherland, who started the season with Swift Current Broncos of the Western Hockey League will be between the pipes for Vernon.

Vernon will be without defenceman Chad Biafore, who has an injured ankle while defenceman Jason Fox is considered a doubtful starter after receiving a mil concussion Friday night after a hard hit by ex-Kelowna Packer Kevin Harder.

Elsewhere in the BCJHL Friday night, Langley edged Delta 6-5.

In Penticton, Kelly Hurd scored two goals to lead Packers past Knights 5-4. Kelowna jumped to a 3-0 lead by the 6:20 mark of the first period and hung on for the victory with period leads of 4-1 and 4-3.

Also scoring for the Interior Division-leading Packers were Jason Ruff, Greg Andrusak and Brent Mowery.

Penticton got two goals from John DePourcq and singles from Ken McArthur and Mark Sorensen.

In Langley, Rick Munro scored his second goal of the game at 3:50 of the third period to propel the Langley Eagles to a 6-5 win over Delta Flyers.

Jeff McLean and Verne Kinely also scored two goals each to round out the Eagles scoring. For Flyers, Rene Vinopal and Lance Momotani scored two goals each while Peter Holmes got the single to complete the Flyers' scoring.

Junior Maroons beat Kalamalka hoopsters

Steve Desjarlais scored 12 points to lead Fulton Junior Maroons past Kalamalka Lakers 56-28 in Junior Boys Basketball League action Thursday night.

In another contest, Fulton Junior Girls defeated Kalamalka Lakettes by a 54-25 margin.

Meanwhile, at the St. Michaels' School Invitational Basketball Tournament in Victoria, Fulton maroons Senior "A" Boys team dropped a 67-55 decision to Caribou Hill School of Burnaby. Caribou Hill will host the B.C. Senior "A" Boys Basketball Championship this year.

For the Junior boys, Todd Dulaba added eight points while Andre St. Godard had seven. Brian Whitwell was tops for Kal with nine points while Jim Anderson contributed eight.

Junior Maroons led 27-14 at the half and 44-20 after three quarters.

Jo-Anne Rush scored 14 points for Junior girls while Denise Hansen and Sheri Velin added 10 points each.

Mike Pottinger scored 11 points and Ted Rush had nine plus 13 rebounds for Senior maroons who trailed 15-14 and 36-26 leading up to the half. Jason Cawkell and Trevor Jones also had nine points each for Maroons.

The two teams that lose by the least amount of points in round robin advance to the tournament finals.



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