

VERNON LAKERS' centre Kevin Scott, second from left, watches as his shot from a terrible angle eludes Juan de Fuca Whalers' goalie Tim Renton during BCJHL action, Saturday night, in Victoria. Scott scored three goals, including the winner in overtime, to lead Lakers to a 7-6 win over Juan de Fuca. After this shot got past Renton, the Whaler netminder spent the rest of the night on the bench. (Daily News Photo)

Lakers extend streak with overtime victory

By DON KENDALL
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A battered, but happy, group of junior hockey players arrived home from the Coast, Sunday night.

Kevin Scott's third goal of the game, at 3:12 of sudden-death overtime, gave Vernon Lakers a 7-6 win over Juan de Fuca Whalers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Saturday night, in Victoria.

Vernon won six consecutive games, in nine days, including three on the Coast swing.

"They've earned a couple days rest," says Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "It was a tough week."

Defenceman Campbell Blair, who now has 100 points, scored on a wrist shot from the slot area, with less than four minutes remaining in the third period, to force overtime.

Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis said, "It wasn't a pretty win, but we'll take it. I'm happy to be going home with six points."

Ian Alger, with two goals, and Shawn Howard were the other Vernon marksmen.

Bruce Courtnall led the Juan de Fuca attack with three goals. Courtnall's older brothers, Russ and Geoff, play in the NHL with Toronto Maple Leafs and Boston Bruins, respectively.

Randy Zulinick tallied twice for Whalers while Bruce Robinson added a single. Todd Sawtell added four assists for Juan de Fuca, which is fifth in the six-team Coast Division.

Goalie Mike Sutherland, making his first start for Lakers, could have sued his defence for non-support on numerous occasions. Sutherland faced 56 shots, including 22 in the third period.

"I was a little nervous before the game because I hadn't played since early-December," Sutherland said. "But once we started, I felt good."

Sutherland played 33 games in the Western Hockey League, over the past two seasons, with Lethbridge and Swift Current Broncos. He was cut by the Broncos in December, but remained in Swift Current until he completed grade 12, last week.

At the other end of the rink, Tim Renton and 15-year-old sensation Byron Dafoe combined to block 41 shots for Whalers.

Only a couple cheap goals by Scott prevented Juan de Fuca from running away with the game in the early going. Whalers were in front 2-0 at the end of the first period. In the opening seconds of the second period, Scott let a harmless-looking wrist shot go from the blue line that somehow eluded Renton. Juan de Fuca scored two more goals to open a 4-1 lead before Scott put another shot in the net, from a ridiculous angle, while killing a penalty. That goal sent Renton to the bench and sparked the Lakers.

Vernon led 5-4 after the second period, but Whalers refused to quit. With Lakers showing the effects of their third game in 48 hours, Juan de Fuca battled back to take a 6-5 edge and set the stage for Blair's dramatic goal.

Craig Bedard had an opportunity to end the game with 1:40 remaining in regulation time. Todd Demchuk sent a perfect centering pass to Bedard, but the Vernon winger deflected his shot wide of the open Whalers' net.

In overtime, after referee Rik Eden called Whalers' Rod Trenholm for charging, Sutherland made a great stop on a slapshot from the deep slot by Kevin Nohr. On the rebound, Courtnall fired the puck wide. Then, just 10 seconds later, Scott picked up his own rebound and flipped the puck past Dafoe, who was sprawling on the ice.

Gare said, "We need a few days to heal our injuries. A lot of guys played hurt on the weekend."

Mark Greyeyes (charleyhorse), Scott (charleyhorse), Ed Tuckwood (bruised hand), Jan Zeidel (bruised hand), and Jason Fox (mild concussion) are among the walking wounded. Defenceman Chad Biafore will be sidelined about three weeks with pulled ankle ligaments.

Lakers need only one victory, in their six remaining games, to clinch second place in the Interior Division. Vernon has 62 points, nine more than Penticton Knights.

In the lone BCJHL game Sunday, Dusty Imoo kicked out 28 shots to lead Kelowna Packers to an 8-0 win over Merritt Warriors.



JUAN DE FUCA defenceman David Bortollo gives Vernon forward Todd Demchuk a rough ride through the crease during BCJHL action, Saturday night. Demchuk's hustle and forechecking helped lakers win three games on their swing through the Coast Division. (Daily News Photo)

Blair sets his sights on more BCJHL records

Two down, four to go for Campbell Blair, of Vernon Lakers.

The 20-year-old defenceman has set two B.C. Junior Hockey League records and is challenging four others. Blair now holds the records for career assists (163) and career points (238) by a defenceman.

He is within striking distance of two other marks. Blair is only one goal shy of the record for goals in a season by a defenceman (36), set by Doug Lidster when he played with Kamloops Braves in 1978-79. With 100 points, he is eight away from the record for points in a season by defencemen, set by Ian Kidd, formerly of Penticton Knights.

With six games remaining, two other records appear to be out of reach. The record for assists in a season (77), is shared by Bruce Harris, formerly of Bellingham Blazers, and Kidd. Blair currently has 65 assists.

The mark for career goals, also established by Kidd, is 81. Blair currently has 75 goals in this three and one-half year career.

"If I have a couple five point games, I might be able to break those records," Blair said. "But it doesn't seem probable right now."

However, the record he cherishes most could fall next weekend. He said, "The record I want the most is the one set by Lidster . . . for goals. That record is nine years old and it was set by someone who has gone on to play well in the NHL."

Lakers return to the ice Saturday night, in Merritt, and Sunday, in Summerland.

Vernon junior hoopsters capture two tournaments

Vernon Royal-Panthers captured the Pleasant Valley Secondary School Angels Junior Girls Basketball Tournament championship on the weekend, in Armstrong, with an easy 48-24 victory against Lumby in the final game.

It is the fifth straight tournament championship for the Vernon team which is undefeated in league and tournament play this season.

Paula Dibski scored eight points to pace Royals in the final. Dibski was also chosen the game's most valuable player for her performance.

In semi-final action, Corinne Vanderwal was a force to be reckoned with as she scored 29 points in a 75-33 victory against Fulton Junior Girls. Vanderwal was chosen as that game's most valuable player.

Vanderwal also had a team-high 21-point performance in the club's opening game Friday night when they defeated J.L. Jackson of Salmon Arm by a 51-19 margin. Julie Urquhart was selected the most valuable player of that game.

Royals all contributed to the team scoring during the three games of the tournament, according to Coach Ray Kimoto.

Royals will compete in their final tournament before the zone and Okanagan playoffs, next weekend, at Princess Margaret in Penticton.

Four of the top teams in the Okanagan will be playing in the tournament.

Meanwhile, Royals have a busy week with regular season games Tuesday and Thursday nights. Tuesday, Royals are in Armstrong while Thursday they travel across town to take on Seaton Sonettes.

Meanwhile, in the VSS panthers Junior Boys Basketball Tournament at VSS on the weekend, Panthers received a 30-point performance from Sheldon Brown as they defeated KLO Cougars, of Kelowna, 63-57 to win the championship game.

Steve MacKenzie added 20 points for Panthers. Brown was chosen as the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Both Brown and MacKenzie were chosen to the all-star team.

In the consolation round, Fulton Junior Maroons got 12 points from Todd Dulaba and Steve Desjarlais as they overcame Penticton 59-39 for fourth place in the tourney.

Panthers' next league game is Tuesday night, in Armstrong.

AROUND WORLD

The first person to sail solo around the world was 51-year-old Joshua Slocum of Westport, N.S., in 1895, says the Toronto Star.