Knights fill the net during third period

It was like old times revisited Sunday night as Vernon Lakers absorbed one of their worst beatings of the season in Penticton's Memorial Arena.

Knights scored seven times in the third period en route to an 11-4 thrashing of Lakers in one of two B.C. Junior Hockey League games. In the other contest Kelowna Packers posted a 10-3 victory over hometown Merritt Warriors. Despite the loss the BCJHL Interior division standings will remain unaltered with Vernon in second place and Penticton holding down third spot.

Lakers led 2-0 after the first 20 minutes, but Knights roared back to take a 4-3 lead after 40 minutes before the floodgates opened up in the third frame.

"They (Knights) came out strong in the third period and we didn't show up at all," suggested Lakers' Coach Ernie Gare in something of an understatement. "We were in the game until the midway point of the second period but then a combination of things got us in trouble. . .they got a couple of early goals in the third and we fell apart and they just kept coming."

"It's one of the few times that we've been blown out and it's not a good time for it to happen but we've got too much character for it to bother us. . .I think we can bounce back — we want to finish strong by beating them and Kelowna this weekend."

Jackson Penney led the winners with three goals while Brad Weschuk scored twice and singles came from Kevin Caputo, Ivan Moore, Cliff Furnseth, Dave McColm, John DePourcq and Ken MacArthur.

Despite the loss, Lakers big trio was still accountable with Kevin Scott, Mark Greyeyes and Doug Spooner each notching a single goal and Craig Bedard scoring his 44th of the season to round out the Lakers' portion of the scoreboard.

Mike Sutherland was in goal for Vernon as regular starter Jason Palmer didn't dress because he has been afflicted with a mild case of the flu, according to Gare.

Lakers also lost the services of star defenceman Wes Elliott, who was taken out of Sunday's game with a knee injury.

"It (knee) was stiff last night (Sunday) but I don't think there is any ligament damage," suggested Gare.

In Merritt, Pat Mangold led the way for Kelowna with three goals and four assists while teammate Kelly Hurd counted for three goals and two assists. Singles came from Jason Ruff, Alan Schuler, Rob Steele and Kerry Russell.

Frank Biller scored twice for Merritt and the only other goal came from Cal McGowan.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Jackson leads UBC to victory

Freshman guard J.D. Jackson, of Vernon, scored 17 points to lead the University of B.C. Thunderbirds to an 82-76 win over the Alberta Golden Bears, Friday night. Jackson was a provincial all-star with Vernon Panthers during the 1985-86 season. UBC, which finished second in the Canada West Conference, meets Saskatchewan in semi-final action, in Vancouver, next weekend. On Saturday, unranked University of Victoria Vikings dumped the Golden Bears 96-68. Spencer McKay, of Oliver, led Vikings with 33 points. Vikings wound up fourth at 5-5 and travel to Edmonton next weekend, to meet the first place