

VERNON LAKERS' defenceman Campbell Blair (4) puts a shot in, on the short side, during B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Saturday night. Blair scored twice to lead Lakers to an 8-7 win over Kelowna Packers. This goal, his 38th of the seson, will stand as a record for most goals in a season by a defenceman. (Wayne Emde Photo)

Blair sets two records in final game of season

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers closed out the regular B.C. Junior Hockey League season on a winning note Saturday night with an 8-7 victory over Kelowna Packers and it was a night for celebrations and breaking of records.

Defenceman Campbell Blair scored the first goal of the game to set a new BCJHL record for goals in a seson by a defenceman. Later in the same period, he scored another goal and set up one other by Craig Bedard, then collected a second assist in the second period to set a new record for points in a season by a rearguard. The four-point night gives Blair 38 goals and 72 assists for 110 points, breaking the previous record of 108 points set by Ian Kidd, formerly of Penticton Knights, in the 1984-85 season. His 38 goals eclipsed the old mark of 36 set by Doug Lidster and equalled by Blair five games ago.

Blair's exploits helped set a torrid pace for Lakers who jumped in front of Packers 4-2 in the first period and led 8-5 after 40 minutes though they enjoyed an 8-3 lead briefly.

A pair of third-period goals by Packers set the stage for a dramatic finish that saw Lakers kill seven consecutive penalties in the final frame en route to preserving the win. In handing Packers the loss, it ensured the Kelowna club would not break the BCJHL record for fewest losses in a season. Heading into the contest, Kelowna had just four losses, one fewer than the record of five which they equalled with the loss.

Naturally Blair was ecstatic with his four points and especially with the pair of goals. The Lakers' defenceman had been sitting at 36 goals since Feb. 7 when he scored once against Merritt Warriors.

"I feel like everything is complete," explained Blair who will play for University of Maine Black Bears on an NCAA scholarship program next season. "I got my records and we won our last game. . .we'll be in a good frame of mind now beating Kelowna in the last game, it should be good.

"I wasn't even worried about it (records). It's even sweeter in a big game like this. It was nice to get the points record too — I wasn't expecting that one at all."

Blair managed to break four standing records for a defenceman this season with the two additional records set Saturday.

Besides Blair's two goals, winger Ed Tuckwood broke out of a lengthy scoring slump with a pair of tallies to help pace the victory. Bedard, Mark Greyeyes, Doug Spooner, and Kevin Scott each contributed a single.

Kerry Russell scored twice to pace Kelowna while singles came off the sticks of Alex Patterson, Pat Mangold, Kelly Hurd, Jay Luknowsky, and Rob Steele.

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Lakers chased Dusty Imoo from the Kelowna net after their sixth goal in the second period. Replacement Lucien Carrignan allowed two more goals and the two combined to make just 26 saves off Vernon shooters.

Mike Sutherland, meanwhile, made 41 saves for Vernon. Though he was beaten on a couple of questionable goals, he came up with some outstanding saves when the club needed them in the third period.

Gare made full use of everyone on the club including newcomer Dave Munk, who saw a regular shift, as did rookie defenceman Bob Dever, who filled in for Wes Elliott.

"Specialty teams really pulled it out for us," suggested Lakers' Coach Ernie Gare. "This was a big plus for us, we came out tonight with a lot more zip."

Lakers powerplay came up with three goals on the night while the penalty-killing units allowed Packers just two goals on a dozen opportunities.

Gare concurred with an observation that Blair's early goal lifted the team.

"That goh everyone going and we just kept going,," he said.

The Vernon club opens the BCJHL Interior Division semi-final Tuesday night at the Civic Arena when they host Penticton Knights in the first game of a best-of-seven series. Knights earned a 4-2 decision over Lakers in their last regular season encounter Friday night, but Lakers have an extra home game to their advantage in the series if it becomes necessary. Game two will take place Wednesday night in Penticton.

In other BCJHL action Saturday night, Merritt Warriors downed Summerland Buckaroos 7-4, Langley Eagles doubled Abbotsford Falcons 8-4, Delta Flyers edged Richmond Sockeyes 6-4, and Juan de Fuca Whalers hammered Nanaimo Clippers 11-4.

Warriors will take on Packers in the other Interior Division semi-final series.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Van Der Meulen has great meet

Gary Van Der Meulen, formerly of Vernon, led the University of Calgary to the Canada West University Athletic Association swimming and diving combined title, Sunday, in Vancouver. Van Der Meulen was a triple meadalist, winning the 200-metre and 400-metre freestyle events along with the 200-metre butterfly. The Calgary men accumulated 647 points to outdistance second place University of Alberta, which had 378.

Local player scores

Vernon minor hockey graduate Troy Mick scored one goal and added an assist to lead Portland Winter Hawks to a 5-3 win over New Westminster Bruins in Western Hockey League action, Sunday, in the Royal City. Mick's linemate, Dennis Holland, added two assists for the Winter Hawks.

Bowlers honored

Elma Dalziel and Tim Blaney have been honored as Bowlers of the Week at Lincoln Lanes. Dalziel rolled a three-game total of 822, 267 pins over her 185 average. Blaney had a 659 threesome, 176 pins over his 131 average.

Honeymooners

In Honeymooners Volleyball League play Sunday, the scores were: Wine Zellers 3, Hi Ballers 1; Lakeside 3, Weekenders 1; Heffalumps 4, OK Bobcats 0; Ball Mastesr 4, Zaphyrs 0; Classics 4, Ogopogos 0; and Gordi's Gang 4, H and L Glass 0.

Short fight

LONDON (AP) — Briton Lloyd Honeyghan stopped U.S. challenger Johnny Bumphus in two rounds Sunday to retain his World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation welterweight titles.

Referee Sam Williams of Detroit halted the contest — set for 15 rounds — after 55 seconds of the second round when the challenger was caught on the ropes and heading for a third trip to the canvas.

Honeyghan had floored the 26-year-old American in the first round and knocked him down at the start of the second.

It was Honeyghan's first defence of two of the three titles he won from Donald Curry in Atlantic City last September — one of the biggest upsets in boxing history.

First victory

HONOLULU (AP) — For Cindy Rarick, a former University of Hawaii golfer, winning her first Ladies Professional Golf Association tournament in Hawaii made the victory all the more memorable.

"I can hardly believe this," she said. "I had a lot of friends out there, and it sure helped."

On Saturday, Rarick shot a 5-under-par 67 to overtake leaders Jane Geddes and Alice Ritzman to win the $300,000 Hawaiian Ladies Open.

She ended the three-day tournament at the Turtle Bay Hilton and Golf Club with a 9-under-par 207, two strokes ahead of Geddes and three strokes ahead of Ritzman.

Richer suspended

MONTREAL (CP) — Centre Stephane Richer has been suspended by Montreal Canadiens general manager Serge Savard after he made the surprise announcement he was quitting the Sherbrooke Canadiens of the American Hockey League.

"Until further notice, Stephane will not be getting a salary from the Canadiens," his manager, Pierre Meilleur, said Saturday.

Richer said Friday in Sherbrooke after a rough game against the Nova Scotia Oilers, he was no longer interested in playing for the Canadiens' farm team.

Meilleur called Richer's actions "headstrong."



CAMPBELL BLAIR DOUG LIDSTER IAN KIDD

Blair's record chase

Vernon Lakers defenceman Campbell Blair broke four B.C. Junior Hockey League records and was close to two others. The records shattered and challenged by Blair were (*signifies records broken by Blair).

Previous record	Blair's total
Goals in a season by a defenceman, 36, set by Doug Lidster with Kamloops in 1977-78.	Blair, 38*
Assists in a season by a defenceman, 77, set by Bruce Harris, Bellingham, in 1978-79 and Ian Kidd, of Penticton, in 1984-85.	Blair, 72
Points in a season by a defenceman, 108, set by Ian Kidd, of Penticton, in 1984-85.	Blair, 110*
Goals in a career by a defenceman, 80, set by Ian Kidd, 1982-85.	Blair, 78
Assists in a career by a defenceman, 155, set by Ian Kidd, 1982-85.	Blair, 170*
Points in a career by a defenceman, 235, set by Ian Kidd, 1982-85.	Blair, 248*

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

FEBRUARY, 1982

Vernon Senior Secondary School Royals girls basketball team lost out to B.C.'s top ranked senior girls basketball team. Royals went down 57-52 at the hands of Penticton Lakettes. Royals led at half-time, 30-22. Coach Andy Gilbert said the team played well in the first half, but "ran out of gas towards the end."

FEBRUARY 1982

Vernon Lakers continued on their losing ways, falling 10-1 to the Penticton Knights in B.C. Junior Hockey League Play in the South Okanagan city. The Knights had only lost five of 51 regular season games. Lakers were last in the interior division of the BCJHL. Vernon still had a chance to grab a playoff spot, however, with four games remaining.