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sports

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Sockeyes near series sweep

The Richmond Sockeyes took a seemingly insurmountable 4-0 series lead Saturday in the B.C. Junior Hockey League final by posting an easy 5-1 win over the hometown Kelowna Packers.

The Sockeyes scored three unanswered goals in the last half of the third period en route to the win in the best-of-nine final. The Sockeyes can sweep the series in straight games if they win the fifth game scheduled for Tuesday in Richmond.

Jason Philips opened the Sockeyes scoring with a short-handed goal in the first period. Dave Tomlinson extended the margin to 2-0 early in the second before Brent Mowery scored Kelowna's only goal at 13:23 of the middle frame.

Richmond's third-period insurance markers came from Philips, Bill Hardy and Mike McCormick.

Packers coach Bill Hogaboam said his team "just couldn't finish the plays. They (Richmond) are on a high. Sometimes when you're on a roll like that things just click."

Sockeyes coach Orland Kurtenbach agreed with his counterpart.

"The guys are on a natural high. It was a nice game for us to win. If they're willing to listen and cut down mistakes we'll do well at home (Tuesday).

The Packers held a 27-24 edge in shots on goal as Sockeyes netminder Frank Romeo turned in another sparkling performance against his former teammates.