

TROY MICK (22) watches his shot slide past the outside of the goal post during exhibition hockey action, Saturday night, at the Civic Arena. Mick, a graduate of the Vernon minor hockey system, scored three goals and added two assists to help Portland Winter Hawks tie the Vernon Lakers 8-8. (Wayne Emde Photo)

Lakers battle back to tie Winter Hawks

Vernon Lakers battled back from an early 3-0 deficit to earn an 8-8 draw against visiting Portland Winter Hawks in an exhibition hockey game, Saturday night, at the Civic Arena.

It is the second straight year Winter Hawks have failed to earn a win against their Junior A counterparts in Vernon, losing a 7-4 decision to Lakers a year ago.

And, though there may have been nothing to gain from the game in the BCJHL standings, Lakers did come out of it ahead by one player as Hawks' Jamie Graham remained with the local club following the exhibition encounter. Graham, a left-winger, is 5'11" and 170 pounds and was signed by the local club immediately following the game.

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare was satisfied with the draw considering the early deficit, but wasn't overly impressed with the eight goals he was forced to give up in the process.

"Whenever you give up eight goals you aren't too pleased but when you use seven defencemen you don't expect a low-scoring game," he said. "I thought it was pretty wide-open offensively."

Gare was impressed with the performances of his best forward line. Jamie Steer, Greg Parnell, and Duane Dennis accounted for six of the club's eight goals with Parnell notching three and adding three assists, and Steer collecting a pair of goals and three assists.

Defenceman Phil Soukaroff, with the first goal of the game, and Mike Barkley accounted for the other Vernon scoring.

For Portland, Vernon native Troy Mick was top gunner with three goals and was the club's outstanding player. Another top performer for Winter Hawks was newcomer Per Oloffson of Sweden who scored twice and brought the crowd to their feet with his first goal. Olaffson split the Vernon defence with a rush up the middle of the ice and put the puck just under the crossbar.

It was the first outing with Winter Hawks for the big Swede, who appears to figure in a lot of scoring for the club this season in the Western Hockey League.

Gare made no cuts following the exhibition match Saturday and doesn't plan to make any roster changes until after the next regular season game, which takes place at the Civic Arena, Friday night.

Lakers return to the practice ice tonight at 9:15 p.m.

five for 64.

Tigers trounce Buckaroos

By The Canadian Press

The Delta Flyers opened their B.C. Junior Hockey League season with an 8-3 victory Saturday night over the Abbotsford Falcons.

In other games Saturday, the Salmon Arm Tigers hammered the Summerland Buckaroos 13-1, the Kelowna Packers edged the Penticton Knights 3-2 and the Merritt Centennials defeated the Juan de Fuca Whalers 5-4 in overtime.

In Delta, Scott Frizzell scored three goals and had two assists for the Flyers, who led 3-1 at the end of the first period and 5-1 at the end of the second. Brian Betard added two goals.

Abbotsford goalie Darcy D'amours stopped 30 shots while Damian Holland made 15 saves for Delta.

In Summerland, Darren Swartz fired five goals for Salmon Arm, which returned to the league's Interior Division this season after a year's absence.

In Kelowna, Alan Schuler scored at 7:24 of the third period to give the Packers the win.

Bruce Bianchini scored the other Kelowna goal while Terry Pohl and Todd Hilditch replied for Penticton.