

PENTICTON netminder Jamie Loewen goes to his knees to block a shot during BCJHL action Saturday night, at the Vernon Civic Arena. Going for the rebound are Vernon's Jamie Steer (9), Greg Parnell (laying on the ice), and Ian Alger (background). Lakers dumped the Knights 9-4, but just 24 hours later, dropped a 10-5 decision in Merritt. (Daily News Photo)

MERRITT 10, VERNON 5

Centennials thump Lakers

Merritt Centennials scored seven power-play goals on their way to a 10-5 win over the Vernon Lakers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Sunday, in Merritt.

The lopsided loss came just 24 hours after the Lakers had trounced Penticton Knights 9-4.

In Merritt, the Cents led 3-1 at the end of the first period and 10-4 after 40 minutes.

"We had a terrible night," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "We got off to a bad start and our goaltending wasn't sharp."

Starting netminder Mark Tyszka was relieved midway through the second period, by Barry Rysz, with his club trailing 7-1. Tyszka and Rysz combined to stop only five shots, while surrendering seven goals, in the second period.

Gare said, "Mark is a lot better goalie than that. He'll bounce back . . . he just had an off-night."

Former Laker Frank Biller scored three goals for the Centennials. Paul Cruse tallied twice for the winners while Paul Gentes, Bob Vermette, Richard Blumer, Chris Forsberg, and Al Rushton added singles.

Jamie Steer stretched his scoring streak to four games with a pair of goals for the Lakers. Steer has now blinked the red light eight times, in four outings. Ian Alger, Mike Barkley, and Kevin Harder added singles.

Vernon's penalty-killing, which had been nothing short of sensational in weekend victories over the Kelowna Packers and Penticton, was dismal in Merritt. Cents scored three times during a seven-minute powerplay advantage, in the second period, when Darcy Martini was off with a minor penalty for instigating a fight and a major for fighting.

"Our penalty killing had been great," Gare said. "I don't know what happened. Our guys were running around all over the ice."

On Saturday, Barkley scored four consecutive goals, including three in the final period. Steer added three goals while linemates Greg Parnell scored once and set up three others and Ian Alger collected one goal and one assist.

Brad Heschuk, David McColm, Kevin Kaputo, and Clayton Fahey countered for the Knights, who rode a three-game win streak into Vernon.

Penticton goalie Jamie Loewen blocked 36 shots while Rysz kicked out 27.

The game was marred in the third period by four fights on the ice and a melee involving fans behind the Penticton bench. When order was restored 15 minutes later, eight players and Penticton assistant coach Don Parrott had been ejected.

By the end of the night, 17 game misconducts were handed out.

Lakers return to the ice Tuesday night when they travel to Summerland to meet the hapless Buckaroos. The Richmond Sockeyes blasted Summerland 16-3, Sunday night. The Bucks are winless in five outings.

In other weekend games, Kelowna Packers and Salmon Arm Tigers battled to a scoreless deadlock, Packers trimmed Nanaimo Clippers 4-3, Chilliwack edged Abbotsford 7-4, Richmond downed Juan de Fuca 4-2, Delta hammered Summerland 10-3, and Salmon Arm dumped Merritt 7-5.

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Lengthy strike expected

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Football League strike will claim its 14th game tonight — Denver Broncos at Cleveland Browns — and a top NFL executive said it's unlikely any of the games will be rescheduled.

While picketing lost steam over the