looking to win their second World Series

field, who last season was the home-run champion of all

wound up second.



VERNON LAKERS' forward Ian Alger flies through the air while chasing a rebound during Saturday's B.C. Junior Hockey League game at the Vernon Civic Arena. Alger scored once to help the Lakers defeat the Richmond Sockeyes 8-5. Also eyeing the rebound in Vernon's Mark Greyeyes (14). Lakers host Salmon Arm Tigers on Tuesday night.

(Daily News Photo)

VERNON 8, RICHMOND 5

Lakers coast to victory

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers scored five unanswered first period goals and then coasted to an 8-5 decision over the visiting Richmond Sockeyes, Saturday night, in an inter-divisional matchup in the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

The victory improved the struggling Vernon club's record to 3-3 while the loss was only the second in seven starts for the defending Centennial Cup champions.

The opening period of Saturday's game was the finest 20 minutes of hockey Lakers have put forward so far this campaign as they could do no wrong against Sockeyes.

Sophomore defenceman Chad Biafore opened the scoring with a power-play goal at the five minute mark though he was later guilty of giving away the puck on numerous occasions.

Ian Alger, continuing to be a bright light in the early season for Lakers, improved the club's lead to 2-0 when he outmuscled the Richmond defenceman along the board then faked out Brendon Neil who started for Sockeyes in net.

Lakers' third goal was one of two short-handed efforts produced by hard-working Jamie Steer, who eventually earned player of the game recognition for his efforts.

"We're going to have to start spreading that award around a little more," suggested Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare in reference to Steer's accomplishment. Steer has won the player of the game award twice in three home appearances.

Barry Lightfoot and Mike Barkley increased the lead to 5-0 before the period ended, but not before Neil had been chased from the net after Vernon's fourth goal. His replacement was Glen Fry.

Lakers carried the play for the first portion of the second period, but it was Sockeyes who got all the breaks in the scoring department.

Ken Savage got the visitors on the scoreboard at 4:32 while High scoring centre Tony Bobbitt put the second Richmond goal on the board just 30 seconds later.

A power-play goal brought Sockeyes to within two goals of Lakers at 8:19 of the period. But, Vernon's second man-advantage goal of the night, a bullet from the point by Darcy Martini, let them enjoy a 6-3 lead at the end of 40 minutes.

Lakers outshot Sockeyes 29-10 in the first two periods and 36-24 on the night. Mark Tyszka went the distance for Lakers making 19 saves and earning the admiration of Richmond Coach Orland Kurtenbach with his third period heroics.

"Their goalie made some big stops in that third period," suggested Kurtenbach who took his club all the way to the national championship during his first year behind the bench in Richmond.

The two clubs traded two goals apiece in the third frame with Steer notching his second short-handed effort and Greg Parnell closing the Vernon scoring.

Rick Rozecki, who played briefly for Lakers two years ago, scored twice for Sockeyes in the third frame.

The two coaches were opposed in their annalysis of the first period with Kurtenbach citing his club's mistakes, particularly goaltender Neil's, while Gare felt his club simply outplayed the visitors.

"We made some real bad boo'boos," Kurtenbach said. "On the road you have to keep the score down and we didn't do that tonight."

"We really came out flying," suggested Gare. "There's a lot of kids that really wanted to make up for things like Summerland."

Gare was referring to Lakers' humiliating 6-5 loss to Buckaroos last week.

"They (Lakers) realize how bad we played last weekend and we worked them pretty hard in practice during the week."

In BCJHL action Sunday night, Merritt Centennials moved into sole possession of first place in the Interior division with a 7-6 win over visiting Juan de Fuca Whalers while in the only other game Sockeyes cruised to a 7-2 win in Salmon Arm against the Tigers.

In Merritt, Al Rushton scored twice for Centennials while singles came from Al Suzuki, Richard Blumer, Call McGowan, Chris Forsberg, and Frank Biller, who notched the game winner at 11:33 of the third period.

The Whalers divided their goals six ways with Sheldon Nohr, Todd Sawtell, Dale Walsh, Randy Zulinick, Ron Bhala, and Mike Vansickle getting one each.

Merritt led 5-2 after one period and 6-2 after 40 minutes.

Lakers are in action at the Civic Arena again Tuesday night when they entertain Salmon Arm.

Pirates sweep Phillies and gain some respect

By The Canadian Press

When the San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals meet in the opener of the National League championship series Tuesday night, the Pittsburgh Pirates will be looking ahead to spring training with anticipation.

"We gained some respect this year, but there's still a way to go," said Pirates catcher Mike LaValliere. "Nobody's satisfied with fourth place because we're looking for bigger and better things.

"But at least we don't have to go into next season with that last-place tag."

The Pirates completed the season with a 4-2 victory Sunday over Philadelphia and three-game sweep of the Phillies that left the teams tied for fourth in the NL East. After a 46-59 start, the Pirates won 34 of their last 57 games to finish out of last place for the first time since 1983.

In other NL season-ending games, it was: the Chicago Cubs 7, the Montreal Expos 5; the New York Mets 11, St. Louis 6; the Cincinnati Reds 2, Houston Astros 1; the Los Angeles Dodgers 5, San Diego Padres 3; and San Francisco 5, the Atlanta Braves 4 in 10 innings.

On Saturday, it was: Montreal 5, Chicago 4; New York 7, St. Louis 1; San Francisco 6, Atlanta 3; Houston 6, Cincinnati 4; Pittsburgh 10, Philadelphia 5; and San Diego 1, Los Angeles 0.

A crowd of 26,734 at Three Rivers Stadium for the finale treated its young Pittsburgh team like a pennant winner. After the game, the fans stood and applauded as the players came out the dugout, many of them throwing their caps to the fans.

Pittsburgh trailed 2-1 with two outs and nobody on in the eighth, but Mackey Sasser singled and Barry Bonds walked to start the winning rallyagainst Steve Bedrosian, 5-3. Jose Lind singled home Sasser, and Bonds scored the go-ahead run when right fielder Keith Hughes threw the ball to the backstop.

Cubs 7 Expos 5

Last-place Chicago knocked Montreal out of a second-place tie in the East as Dave Martinez hit a two-run triple and Rafael Palmeiro and Keith Moreland added solo homers.

Andre Dawson managed only a single in four at-bats as he fell one short of becoming the first major-leaguer since George Foster in 1977 to hit 50 home runs.

Giants 5 Braves 4

At San Francisco, West Division champion San Francisco hit four homers, including Bob Brenly's game-winner in the 10th inning, to establish a club record for a season. Will Clark hit two homers and Chili Davis added his 24th.

Brenly's leadoff homer off reliever Jim Acker, 4-9, gave the Giants 205 for the season, one more than they had in 1962, when the club won its only NL pennant in San Francisco.

Mets 11 Cardinals 6

New York finished second in the East with a five-run ninth inning against St. Louis, highlighted by Lee Mazzilli's two-run single and Tim Teufel's two-run double. Gary Carter and Keith Hernandez homered for the Mets.

Reds 2 Astros 1

Cincinnati put a frustrating cap on Nolan Ryan's frustrating season for Houston. Ryan, 8-16, led the majors in strikeouts with 270 and the NL in earned-run average at 2.76. He struck out 10 in seven innings, but allowed two runs in the fifth on an RBI single by Terry Francona and a run-scoring double by Terry McGriff. Tom Browning, 10-13, pitched an eight-hitter for eight innings.

Dodgers 5 Padres 3

Steve Sax went 3-for-3 and drove in two runs with a homer and a single, leading Los Angeles over San Diego. Rookie right-hander Shawn Hillegas, 4-3, went six innings, allowing two runs and five hits, for the victory.

NFL players to meet

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gene Upshaw, executive director of the National Football League Players' Association, will meet with the union's 28 player representatives in Chicago tonight to discuss, among other things, a possible change in the union's bargaining position.

Upshaw said he will leave it up to the team leaders to decide whether the union should change its stand, particularly on the key issue of free agency.

"Gene Upshaw has never represented his view, but represented the players," he said Sunday in a telephone interview. "If the players change their mind, it's Gene Upshaw's job to change his mind."

The meeting comes in the wake of reports several teams are getting ready to end the two-week strike by reporting en masse and the union is prepared to take free agency off the table.

"We'll get those guys in there and see where they are now," Upshaw said. "We will look at what player reps are saying.

"The majority will rule ... we have to do what's good for all of us."

Super league starts

The Parkside Pontiac Ladies Super League begins in 1987-88 season Tuesday night with four games at the Vernon Curling Club.

The opening round has Lori White (Labatts) meeting Janis Rutledge (Village Trophy and Engraving), Maureen Bird (Vernon Station) facing Sharon Delver (Rosman Bros. Auto), Vicky Midtdal (J.C. Bradley Jewellers) playing Diane Hockey (Pardners Restaurant), and Bertha Kilborn taking on Jean Skobalski (York Transmission).

Bird, the defending league champion, is returning with the same line-up this winter. Bird's second, Denise Forsberg, and Midtdal threw rocks for Vernon's Doug Smith, who won the 1987 provincial mixed championship.

Delver, the defending zone champion; White, who placed third in league play last season; and Midtdal, who has a new front end; are expected to ice strong teams again this year.