Lakers hammer slumping Tigers

Vernon Lakers maintained their grip on first place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division by blasting the slumping Salmon Arm Tigers 14-2, Saturday, in Salmon Arm.

The loss, coupled with a ruling by the BCJHL, leaves the Tigers in last place. BCJHL Vice-President Vern Dye of Vernon announced today that the league has taken eight points away from Salmon Arm for using more than eight imported (out of province) players.

"We've got rules and regulations to live by," Dye said.

The ruling gives the Summerland Buckaroos, Kelowna Packers, Chilliwack Eagles, and Merritt Centennials two additional points in the league standings.

Lakers now have 18 points, two more than the Penticton Knights and Merritt. Kelowna now has 15 points, Summerland four, and Salmon Arm three.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, defenceman Chad Biafore led the Vernon onslaught with four goals while Shawn Hendry added three.

Ian Alger blinked the red light twice while Jamie Steer, Dallas Drake, Phil Soukoroff, Mike Paller, and Greg Parnell added one apiece.

Steer, Drake, and Soukoroff also collected three assists.

Terrence Head and Brad Neumeir replied for the Tigers, who have now lost four consecutive outings.

Salmon Arm netminders Jeff Skolski and Buddy Meloche combined to make 37 saves while Glen Fry blocked 31 shots for Vernon. Fry has allowed only eight goals, in four games, since joining the Lakers earlier this month.

Vernon General Manager Mel Lis said his club dominated every aspect of the game. "We have more scoring power and better skaters than Salmon Arm," Lis said. "We're getting production from all three lines and our defencemen."

Vernon is idle until Friday night when they host the Centennials. On Saturday night, the Lakers make a return visit to Merritt.

Meanwhile, Kelowna must be relieved its latest road trip has ended after dropping all three games, including a 5-4 decision to Chilliwack, Sunday.

In other games Saturday, the Juan de Fuca Whalers ended the Delta Flyers bid for a league record with a 6-5 win in overtime, Penticton blasted the lowly Buckaroos 15-3, the Nanaimo Clippers doubled the Eagles 6-3, and the Abbotsford Falcons downed the Packers 9-6.

Delta had tied a league record for consecutive victories, with 14, but saw its hopes of breaking the mark shattered by the Whalers.