Canadian Tire Trojans 52-0 in a Senior Bantam foot-

(Daily News photo)

Lakers gain revenge with victory in Merritt

Vernon Lakers played trick or treat Halloween night in Merritt, tricking the hometown Centennials with a complete turnaround of their 7-5 loss Friday night and treating themselves to a 10-5 victory in the process.

The victory gives Lakers a share of second place with the Cents in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division, each club having 10 wins. Vernon has a game in hand on the pesky Centennials, however.



DANE JACKSON

Shunted with a home ice loss to the Centennials Friday night, Head Coach Ernie Gare and his staff read the riot act to their charges on the trip to Merritt Saturday afternoon and the result was a turnaround of epic proportion on the ice.

"We had a good talk on the way up on the bus," explained assistant coach George Fargher. "We were skating a lot more and that was the whole story.

"We didn't take any bad penalties at all and they (Centennials) ended up getting a bit frustrated," Fargher added.

Dane Jackson and Dallas Drake led the way for Lakers, scoring twice each as the Vernon club jumped to a 5-0 lead after the first period and led 9-2 after 40 minutes.

Other Vernon goal-getters were Ian Alger, Phil Soukoroff, Mark Greyeyes, Adrian Markin, Wes Elliot and Greg Parnell.

Scoring for Merritt were Pat Corrado, with two, Cal McGowan, Terry Pohl and Chris Kaban with singles..

Lakers outshot their hosts by a narrow 44-43 margin.

Fargher suggested that the club's home record has to improve if they are to take advantage of a lengthy homestand this month.

"We have the majority of our games at home this month so we hope to open a bit of breathing space," Fargher said.

"We're also a little concerned that we aren't playing as well at home as we do on the road. We're playing our best hockey on the road."

The club has a two-day layoff before hosting the slumping Salmon Arm Tigers, Tuesday night. The Tigers were recently stripped of four victories by BCJHL executive for using too many imported players. However, since that time the club has run into a number of difficulties which have compounded their problems.

Nevertheless, the Tigers won two of their last three games and overtook Summerland Buckaroos to vacate the Interior Division basement once again.

In other BCJHL action Saturday night, Kelowna Packers scored their second victory over Penticton Knights in as many nights, shutting out the Peach City crew 3-0 Saturday to go with their 3-2 win in Penticton, Friday night.

Kelowna goals came from Todd Pratz, DeWayne Gallant and Scott Hargreaves. Denis Casey recorded the shutout for Packers, making 22 saves.

Elsewhere, the Abbotsford Falcons made short work of the Chilliwack Eagles with a 16-5 victory and the Richmond Sockeyes pounded the visiting Tigers 10-2.

In Sunday's action, Kelowna handed Merritt its second straight loss with an 8-1 victory over Centennials that moved them into first place in the division, a single point ahead of both Vernon and Merritt.

Scott Hargreaves scored three goals for Packers with singles from Dan Bustin, Bruce Bianchini, Mark Merritt, Jamie Kurki, and Doug Gardiner.

Frank Biller got Merritt's lone goal.

Canadian skaters earn three titles

CALGARY (CP) — Billed as a preview of what to expect at the Winter Olympics next February, Canadian star Brian Orser won the men's singles title Saturday at the Skate Canada figure skating meet.

And if indeed it was a preview, then the contest for Olympic gold will be a battle royale with American star Brian Boitano.

"It was almost as if I was defending my world title," Orser said. "I was pleased with the way I handled myself."

Both skaters executed seven triple jumps and brought standing ovations from the 12,000 spectators at the Saddledome.

When the marks were finally tabulated, Orser, who took the world championship away from Boitano in Cincinnati last March, had won another close battle.

It gave Canada three of the four titles in the annual Skate Canada.

Christine Hough of Waterloo, Ont., and Doug Ladret of Vancouver won the pairs event. Tracy Wilson of Port Moody, B.C., and Rob McCall of Dartmouth, N.S., triumphed in ice dance.

American star Debi Thomas won a close women's singles contest over Liz Manley of Gloucester, Ont.

Both Orser and Boitano wore military-style suits — Orser's was grey and Boitano's maroon — and skated to military-laced themes in their 4½-minute free-skating programs.

Boitano preceded Orser with a flawless performance that forced the judges to award him 5.8s and 5.9s of a possible 6.0.

IN SAME RANGE

Orser, of Penetanguishene, Ont., was in the same range, but there were more 5.9s. Five judges gave Orser top marks and two gave Boitano their highest marks.

Orser, who won all three phases of the event, including compulsory figures and the short program, claimed he did "75 per cent of what I'm capable of doing.

"This is a stepping stone to where my program will be in the Olympics."

Except for one minor error on one of his triples, Boitano said he'd be happy to skate as well at the Olympics.

Thomas skated well and edged out a win when Manley made several minor errors, the most serious of which was touching a hand to the ice at the end of a jump. Four judges awarded Thomas top marks and three chose Manley.