monton major score as the Eskimos

by 21 points to the Hamilton Tiger-



MARK GREYEYES (14) ducks a high check by Nanaimo Clippers' defenceman Ross Laidlaw (20) during second period action Saturday night at the Vernon Civic Arena. In spite of their tremendous physical size, the Clippers proved no match for the Lakers who trounced the visitors 10-4 to move into a two-way tie for first place in the BCJHL Interior Division. (Daily News Photo)

# Lakers use speed to defeat Clippers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The Nanaimo Clippers are without a doubt the biggest hockey club in the B.C. Junior Hockey League, but the hometown Vernon Lakers used their speed and finesse to score an impressive 10-4 victory over the Coastal Division squad, Saturday night at the Vernon Civic Arena.

The win, coupled with a tie between Summerland Buckaroos and Kelowna Packers Saturday night, leaves the Lakers tied with Kelowna for first place in the BCJHL Interior Division. Vernon, with a 17-6 record, has two games in hand.

Once again, Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare praised the early lead as a prime motivational factor in achieving their win Saturday night.

"We always seem to play better when we have a lead," suggested Gare. "I told the kids to skate hard and move the puck well — we also forechecked well but the early lead came in handy."

The Lakers jumped in front of Nanaimo 4-0 in the first period but a power-play goal by the Clippers late in the frame allowed the visitors to escape with a 4-1 deficit after 20 minutes.

A second power-play tally early in the second period, followed by their third goal at 7:13 of the second stanza, pulled the Clippers to within a single goal but it was as close as they would come all evening.

A pair of goals just 14 seconds apart gave the Lakers a comfortable lead once again while a power-play marker late in the period gave them a 7-3 lead after 40 minutes.

Two more goals to open the third period, and another power-play goal to close the scoring, offset a single marker by Nanaimo.

Several players scored goals in bunches for the Lakers including Mike Barkley and Jamie Steer who collected three goals apiece. Dallas Drake scored twice and set up three more goals while Ian Alger and Mark Greyeyes completed the scoring with singles.

Alger also had three assists giving his line, with Barkley and Drake, 13 scoring points and six goals on the night.

Vernon outshot Nanaimo 46-24. Barry Risz performed well between the pipes for the Lakers.

"We seemed to score in spurts, especially in the second period," confirmed Gare.

Grant McDonald, Pat Hodgins, Brett Mayor, and Jason Knox each scored once for the Clippers who had fewer opportunities but equalled the Lakers in power-play production for the night. This was mainly due to the insertion of the immense Rob Steele in front of the Vernon net during these occassions. Any attempt to move the 230-pound Steele from the goal area was futile.

"I told them not to get themselves tied up with him (Steele) because they couldn't move him anyway," said assistant coach Ed Johnstone.

"There's not much you can do with him," added Gare. "You can't move a guy who weighs 230 pounds so we just let him stay there."

The rough, physical aspect of the game eventually took its toll on the Lakers. The loss of defenceman Darcy Martini, early in the game, didn't help matters either.

"We started to run low on defencemen," suggested Gare.

Already short on blueliners before the game began, Gare lost Martini, then watched Chad Biafore pick up a 10-minute misconduct midway through the game, during a crucial period. Wes Wlliott's ankle began to bother him late in the game and when Shawn Hendry dropped to the ice in the second period things began to look grim.

Eventually, Gare dropped one of his forwards back from time to time to rest his weary blueline corps.

In BCJHL action Sunday night, Salmon Arm Tigers scored four goals in the third period to hand the Clippers a 6-3 loss.

Brad Neumeir led the Tigers with three goals in the final period while Andy Faulkner, Cecil Vaugn and Graham Bewley scored once each.

The clippers, who were tied 1-1 after 20 minutes and led 3-2 after the second period, got goals from Darren Biggs, Wally Bezdell, and Greg Allen.

## SCORING STATISTICS

Starting Tuesday, the Daily News will feature team-by-team National Hockey League scoring statistics on a weekly basis.

The statistics will appear in the Scoreboard section . . . every Tuesday.

# Pohl ends slump, but Hawks lose two

Trevor Pohl appears to have ended his slump, but the Portland Winter Hawks are still struggling.

The Winter Hawks dropped a weekend doubleheader to the New Westminster Bruins in Western Hockey League action. The Bruins edged the Hawks 6-5, Saturday in Portland, and earned an 8-4 victory, Sunday in New Westminster.

Pohl, now playing on the Hawks' top line with Vernon minor hockey graduates Dennis Holland and Troy Mick, collected five points in the two weekend outings. The rugged winger picked up a hat trick in Portland and assisted on a pair of goals by Holland, in New Westminster.

Mick picked up five assists, including three on home ice, against the Bruins.