VERNON 7, KELOWNA 2

Lakers pull away from Pack

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The Vernon Lakers broke open a close game by outscoring the hometown Kelowna Packers 5-1 in the third period en route to a 7-2 victory Saturday night in the Orchard City.

The win leaves Vernon with 46 points and a whopping 10-point lead over the Packers in the search for first place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division.

The win was Vernon's 11th straight on the road this season and improves its overall record to 23-8. They will close out 1987 with a three-game swing through the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island section of the Coastal Division.

"It's nice to have a little more breathing space and it was a big win for us because it was a four-point game," said Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare who sports a 56-25-2 lifetime record with the Lakers over a season and a half.

The two teams battled to a 1-1 tie after one period and remained deadlocked at one goal apiece until the dying seconds of the second frame when Greg Parnell's power-play goal gave the local club a 2-1 lead heading into the final 20 minutes.

The Lakers increased their lead to 5-1 in the third period before Kelowna got its second goal, but Vernon closed the scoring with a pair of goals.

The third period surge by Vernon was especially impressive since they were playing their third game, in as many nights, with two of those on the road. However, Gare still found the opportunity to chastise his players for a lacklustre performance in the second frame.

"I was upset at the way we played in the second period," he said. "We were standing around a lot but in the third period we started moving the puck a lot better."

One of the unsung heroes for Vernon was goaltender Glen Fry, who allowed Kelowna a goal less than his stingy average so far this season. Fry was outstanding in comparison to his teammates in the second period as he helped them kill four consecutive Kelowna power-plays and made 22 saves on the night.

"They (Kelowna) don't seem as strong as they were earlier in the season," he suggested. "I thought they would have had more intensity."

Mark Greyeyes scored twice, including the eventual game-winner early in the third period. Singles were also scored by Parnell, Mike Barkley, Dane Jackson, Duane Dennis and Jamie Steer, who also added an assist.

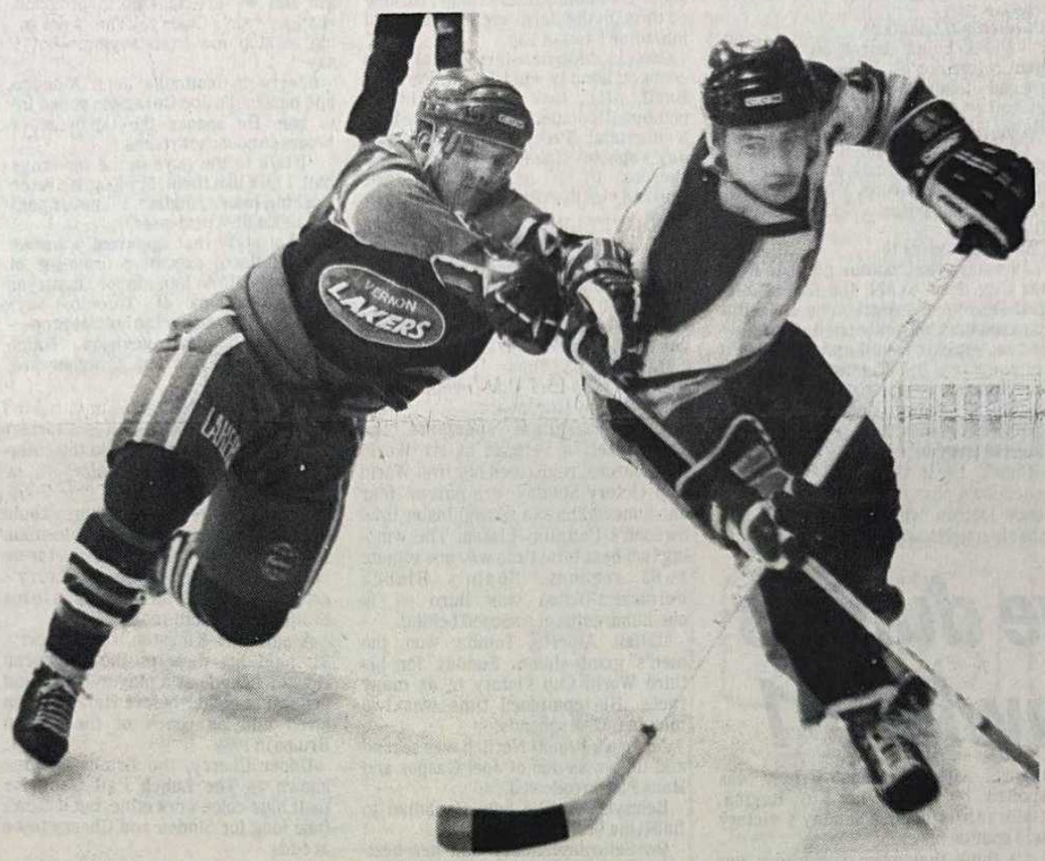
Dallas Drake and Darcy Martini contributed three assists each.

Kelowna got goals from Doug Gardiner and Scott Hargreaves while goaltender Dennis Casey made 27 saves.

The Lakers scored three of their goals while at a man advantage while Kelowna scored once on the power play and once short-handed.

In other BCJHL action Saturday night the Salmon Arm Tigers defeated the Merritt Centennials 7-3, the Delta Flyers trimmed the Penticton Knights 7-2, the Abbotsford Falcons trounced the Summerland Buckaroos 12-1, and the Chilliwack Eagles doubled the Juan De Fuca Whalers 6-3.

Sunday Merritt balnked Kelowna 4-0 while Juan De Fuca defeated Chilliwack 5-3.



SPEEDY VERNON defenceman Phil Soukoroff prevents Kelowna Packers' equally speedy defenceman Allan Schuler from going wide on him during second period action between the two clubs Saturday night in Kelowna. Despite playing their third game in three nights, the Lakers blitzed the hometown Packers with five third period goals to record a 7-2 victory. It was the Vernon club's 11th consecutive victory on the road. (Daily News Photo)

Safe hunting season in the North Okanagan

The fall hunting and fishing season in the Vernon area was successful, safe and law abiding said the head of the Vernon Conservation Office.

In the fourth-period from August to November conservation officers checked 1,465 hunters in the field — about 10 per cent less than were checked the previous year. In the same period 770 anglers were checked — more than twice as many as were checked in the same period the year previous.

Chief conservation officer Gord Gosling said that the hunter decline was consistent with a trend observed over the last few years. Explanations for the decrease include the availability of other forms of recreation and declining interest in hunting on the part of younger generations.

The increase in the number of fishermen in the field was attributed to the prolonged mild weather experienced this fall.

Field inspections for this period resulted in 48 charges under the Wildlife Act and 17 charges under the Fisheries Act. In addition, a number of written warnings were issued to hunters and fishermen. The violation rate for 1987 is 5.2 per cent of sportsmen checked, a slight decrease from the 1986 violation rate of 5.4 per cent.

Gosling said that there was good compliance by hunters with the new whitetail and mile deer tags, and in general a low incidence of paching.

Mild weather last winter and again this year have contributed to a deer population in exceptionally good condition.

"I don't have the numbers, but my gut feeling is that hunter success was really good this year for hunters who got out and made an effort," said Gosling.

Conservation officers had a regular number of problems this past year with black bears, typically in July, August and September when garden and orchard harvests tempt the omnivorous bruins out of the hills. There were, however, no problems between men and cougars.

"This is the first year we have not had to respond to a cougar complaint," said Gosling.

While deer stocks are looking better than usual, Gosling said there is continuing concern about kokanee stocks in Okanagan Lake.

"Over the last several years they have shown that there is a decline in kokanee stocks, and nobody really knows why," he said.

The statistic that Gosling is really happy about is the 1987 record for hunter safety. This year there were no fatalities and just one minor incident where a rifle discharged accidently injuring a man's foot. Last year in the Okanagan there was one hunting fatality when a hunter was shot by another hunter near Pachland.

In the coming months conservation officers will concentrate their major field work on regulating ice fishing.

Junior girls win tournament

Vernon Panthers defeated Westsyde 52-45 in the championship game of the annual Westsyde Junior Girls' Basketball Tournament, Saturday, in Kamloops.

Paula Dibski led the Vernon attack with 23 points while Karen Gilbert added eight.

The Panthers led 32-19 at half-time and increased their lead to 16 points before Westsyde narrowed the gap in the final three minutes.

Vernon Coach Tony Wolcott was pleased with his girls' performance. "It was a good game," he said. "It ended up a little closer than it should have, but when we took the big lead, I used my bench and Westsyde stayed with its first string."

In earlier games, the Panthers defeated John Peterson, of Kamloops, 53-18 and Clarence Fulton, of Vernon, 55-28.

Dibski was the top sniper in both games with 22 against Fulton and 16 against Peterson.

Sara Giddings, who scored 10 points against Peterson; Tara Tymkiw, who collected 10 points against Fulton; and Dibski were named to the All-Tournament Team.

First place will be on the line Wednesday when the Panthers (2-0) host Pleasant Valley of Armstrong (2-0) in North Zone League play, at 5:30 p.m.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

DECEMBER 1982

The VSSS Panthers took top honors in the Salmon Arm Gold Invitational Basketball tournament, defeating Charles Tupper of Vancouver, 72-69. Of the six teams which took part in the tournament, only three, including the Panthers, were of "A" basketball quality according to Panther Coach Jack Yamaoka.