VERNON 6, SALMON ARM 3

Lakers unbeatable on the road

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SALMON ARM — There is no place like the road for the Vernon Lakers.

The Lakers extended their record-setting winning streak on the road to 15 games with a 6-3 victory over the Salmon Arm Tigers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Thursday night.

With six weeks remaining in the regular season, Vernon has already clinched a playoff berth and now leads the second place Kelowna Packers by 20 points.

"That was the best game our defence has played all season," said Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare. "Our guys were meeting them at the blue line."

Not only were the Vernon defencemen meeting the Tigers, they were also knocking them down. Veteran Wes Elliott (20), Adrian Markin (11), and Shawn Hendry (9) combined for 40 hits. On at least six occasions, Elliott and Hendry sent opposing forwards sprawling to the ice after crunching bodychecks.

"If we play like that, it is going to be tough for anybody to beat us," Gare said.

Jamie Steer and Mike Barkley led the Vernon attack with two goals each while Dane Jackson and Greg Parnell, into an empty net, added singles.

Cecil Vaughan, Jim Eliason, and Rod Ewacha replied for the Tigers, who trailed 2-0 at the end of the first period and 4-1 after 40 minutes.

Although the shots on goal were close, the score flattered the Tigers and only the outstanding goaltending of Darwin Webber kept the game from becoming a blowout. Webber kicked out 36 shots, including numerous blasts from point blank range.

Webber's number one victim was Steer, who leads the Interior Division scoring race. The speedy winger was in alone on the Salmon Arm netminder at least five times.

"With a little luck I would have had four or five goals," Steer said. "I was trying to go low to his stick side and he was stopping everything I shot at him. He (Webber) has been great in three of the four games we've faced him this year."

Barkley scored a pair of powerplay goals, on great passes from Greg Olson and Dallas Drake, to give the Lakers a 2-0 lead. Steer, with another powerplay tally, and Jackson, on a breakaway, staked Vernon to a 4-0 lead in the second period.

Cecil Vaughn ruined Glen Fry's shutout bid late in the second period when he intercepted an errant pass in the Vernon end and blasted a shot from the top of the slot area.

With the clubs playing four men aside, Steer made the score 5-1 at the 14-second mark of the final period.

Eliason scored at 13:41 and Ewacha blinked the red light at 19:07 to make the score respectable before Parnell steered the puck into an empty net with Webber on the bench in favor of a sixth attacker.

Fry finished the night with 29 stops.

The busiest man in the Salmon Arm Arena was referee Darren Zupp, who called 20 minor penalties in the first period. Zupp assessed the Tigers 20 of 36 minor penalties, two of five majors, and two of five game misconducts.

The Lakers put their road streak on the line again tonight when they travel to Kelowna, to face the Packers. On Saturday, at 8 p.m., Vernon entertains the Abbotsford Falcons.

Prior to Saturday's game, there will be a ceremony in recognition of the Vernon Civic Arena's 50th birthday. The honored guests will include hockey and lacrosse stars from the past five decades. And the first 350 fans will receive free coffee and donuts.



VERNON LAKERS' winger Duane Dennis flies through the air, with the greatest of ease, with a little help from Salmon Arm's Kevin Clayton. Dennis and his teammates extended their winning streak on the road to 15 games with a 6-3 victory over the Tigers, Thursday night, in Salmon Arm. The Lakers return to the ice tonight, in Kelowna.

(Daily News Photo)

SPORTS BRIEFS

VSS girls in playdowns

Vernon Secondary's grade 8 girls defeated Clarence Fulton 31-24 in a B.C. Winter Games qualifying basketball game, Thursday night, VSS will now represent Vernon in the Okanagan Zone playdowns, Saturday, at W.L. Seaton Secondary School. Beckie Mueller and Erin Brown scored eight points each for VSS. On Saturday, Rutland meets Kamloops at 10:15 a.m., Vernon tangles with Kelowna at 11:30 a.m., and the winner of the first game faces Penticton at 12:45 p.m. The winners of the second and third games clash in the zone final at 2 p.m. The B.C. Winter Games are scheduled March 3-6, in Dawson Creek.

Shinny hockey

Women's shinny hockey is scheduled every Friday, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., at the Centennial Outdoor Rink. There is no admission charge. For further information phone 545-6035.

BMX meeting

The Vernon BMX Association will hold its first meeting of the season next Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m., in the Sandman Inn. Topics on the agenda include the Winter Carnival races, track improvements, and rule changes. Anyone interested in bicycle motocross racing is invited to attend. For further information phone 545-2795.

Fun hockey

Classics edged Schooners 5-4 in Labatts Men's Fun Hockey League action, Thursday night, at the Vernon Civic Arena.

Fly tying

Okanagan College and the Kalamalka Fly Fishers Society have scheduled an introduction to fly tying this winter. The course gets under way Jan. 21 and continues for 10 consecutive Thursday evenings. Jim Fisher and other members of the Kalamalka Fly Fishers will be the instructors. The class is limited to 10 people and the cost is $40 per person. To register, or for further information, contact the college at 545-7291.

Masters soccer

The Greater Vernon Parks and Recreation Department has scheduled men's masters drop-in soccer every Sunday, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., at the Priest Valley Gymnasium. Any players, aged 35 and over, are eligible to participate. The game is played with six players on each team, utilizing a soft indoor soccer ball.

Canada splits

REGINA (CP) — Canada's [illegible] volleyball team defeated

Propp skating

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Left winger Brian Propp probably will return to the Philadelphia Flyers lineup next week, says a spokesman for the National Hockey League team.

Propp skated Wednesday for the first time since he sprained his left knee Dec. 22 during a game against the New York Rangers. He reported a little tenderness in his knee after the workout.

Reddick demoted

WINNIPEG (CP) — The Winnipeg Jets' goaltending duo of Pokey and The Bandit has been reduced to just The Bandit.

The Jets, struggling to hold onto third place in the NHL's Smythe Division, sent Eldon (Pokey) Reddick to their American Hockey League Moncton Hawks farm team in New Brunswick Thursday. Steve Penney, the former Montreal Canadien star gained in a 1986 trade, has been recalled from Moncton to play goal along with Daniel (The Bandit) Berthiaume.

Title fight

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Canada's Shawn O'Sullivan, who narrowly missed an Olympic gold medal, goes for his first professional title tonight when he meets Luis Santana for the North American Boxing Federation welterweight crown.

O'Sullivan will take a 17-1 pro record and what he says is a mended right hand into the scheduled 12-round bout, to be televised by ESPN from Bally's Hotel-Casino.

"A win would be a very positive thing for my career," O'Sullivan said. "By winning, I would be comfortable with fighting for a world title within eight to 10 months."

O'Sullivan, who lost a controversial decision to Frank Tate for the 156-pound title in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, is a big favorite against Santana.

Winger recalled

Downhill race scheduled

The eighth annual Labatt's Over-the-Hill Downhill Race is scheduled Feb. 12-14 at Silver Star Mountain.

Since its inception in 1981, the Over-the-Hill has grown to become one of the most popular adult, recreation races in Western Canada.

Silver Star Marketing Director Mike Duggan said skiers enjoy the opportunity to race against a clock, but the emphasis is placed on fun and participation.

"We have unique rules that encourage participation by skiers of all ages (19 and over) and abilities," Duggan said.

The race, held in conjunction with the Vernon Winter Carnival, is limited to 80 teams. Each team must consist of four racers, aged 19 and over. Each team must have at least one female skier and at least one racer 35 years or older. Also, no more than one active racer may compete on a team.

Prizes are presented to the top teams in various age categories.

"Leaping out of a starting gate, in full racing gear and going down a course faster than you ever imagined, is a dream come true for many of the