FACE-OFF AGAINST DELTA TONIGHT

Abbotsford no match for Lakers


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The Abbotsford Falcons may have gotten lucky against Vernon recently at the Civic Arena but they were no match for the Lakers' highly polished road show Friday night in Abbotsford.

Forwards Dane Jackson and Mike Barkley each scored two goals and the Lakers enjoyed a five-goal second period outburst as they silenced the Falcons 7-3 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.

The victory puts some daylight between the Lakers and the Coastal Division-leading Delta Flyers for first place overall in the BCJHL. Vernon's record improved to 30-9 including a league-leading 16-4 road record. The Flyers, meanwhile, were 6-3 losers Friday night at the hands of the Nanaimo Clippers.

The Lakers got off to a rather innocuous start, taking a modest 1-0 lead to the dressing room after one period. However, a second period flurry produced five goals for the local club and helped them to a commanding 6-1 lead after 40 minutes.

"Dallas (Drake) got us going in the second period with a quick goal and then we started putting the puck in the net after that," explained Gare. "We actually had some really good chances in the first period but we couldn't seem to score."

Meanwhile, Gare was impressed once again with the individual play of Jackson and Barkley. Jackson's style of late has been to bulldoze his way through the opposition which he continued to do Friday night.

"Jackson got a couple of real nice goals by driving for the net and he and Barkley really sparked us," said Gare.

Besides Drake's single goal, team scoring leader Jamie Steer also notched a goal as did hard-working forward Ian Alger.

Darren Morson, Doug McDonald and Mauor Padula counted for the Falcons.

The Lakers outshot Abbotsford by a margin of 42-34 with Glen Fry going the distance in net.

Tonight the club will have their work cut out for them as they face-off against the Delta Flyers and an opportunity to put some more distance between themselves in the battle to finish first overall in the BCJHL.

The Flyers were unstoppable in th first half of the season but have been mediocre of late while the Lakers have maintained their style of play and overtook them for the overall lead last week.

"They (Flyers) will be a much tougher team for us," suggested Gare. "We know they have a tough defence and one good line so we'll put a checking line on them."

However, with home-ice advantage the Flyers will also have the final line change.

Sunday night the Lakers conclude their three-game road trip with a stop in Richmond to meet the much-improved Sockeyes.

In other BCJHL action Friday night Merritt Centennials got three goals from Frank Biller and two each from Chris Kaban and Doneau Meanard as they trounced the hometown Penticton Knights 8-1.

Cal McGowan also scored for the Centennials while Dowell Franz had the lone Penticton goal.

Six teams enter tourney