VERNON 9, KELOWNA 3

Lakers blast Packers

The Vernon Lakers stretched their winning streak to six games with a 9-3 victory over the Kelowna Packers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Saturday, before 900 fans at the Civic Arena.

The Lakers have clinched first place in the Interior Division and currently hold top spot overall in the BCJHL. Their nearest rivals in the Interior, the Merritt Centennials and Kelowna, trail the local squad by 22 points.

"It was one of those nights when our guys were skating," said Lakers' General Manager Mel Lis. "And when we're skating, nobody can stay with us."

Mark Greyeyes scored twice for Vernon while Chad Biafore, Trevor Pohl, Mike Paller, Jamie Steer, Wes Elliott, Mike Barkley, and Dallas Drake added singles.

Steer and Drake, who are battling for the division scoring title with Merritt's Frank Piller, also collected three assists.

Kerry Kit, Bruce Bianchini, and Dewayne Gallant replied for the Packers.

Vernon led 4-1 at the end of the first period and 6-2 after 40 minutes.

Kelowna netminder Tony Hildebrand kicked out 36 shots while Vernon's Glen Fry made 24 saves.

Lis doesn't expect his coaching staff to have difficulty motivating their players during the final month of the regular season. "Our next goal is to finish first overall," Lis said. "It means a lot to our guys . . . and that game next Saturday against Delta (in Vernon) could decide it."

With nine games remaining, the Lakers have 68 points, 11 more than Delta Flyers, who lead the Coastal Division.

"We'd also like to have the best goals against average," Lis said. "Right now, we're neck and neck with Delta."

But, before the Lakers host the Flyers, they are on the road for a pair of games. Vernon visits the Merritt Centennials, Thursday, and the Summerland Buckaroos, Friday.

Centre Greg Parnell, who has been sidelined with a shoulder injury, may see some duty this week. But, Lis said they won't rush the rookie pivot back on to the ice.

"We don't want to hurry Greg," Lis said. "We need him more in the playoffs than we do right now."

In Parnell's absence, Pohl shifted from wing to centre, between Duane Dennis and Steer. And the rugged veteran responded Saturday with three points, including a pair of assists.

In Sunday's lone game, the Packers blasted the Salmon Arm Tigers 9-1.

On Saturday, Merritt hammered Summerland 14-4, the Richmond Sockeyes trounced the Penticton Knights 7-1, the Juan de Fuca Whalers dumped Delta 7-3, and the Chilliwack Eagles beat the Abbotsford Falcons 7-3.

Biller tallied twice for the Centennials.

Vernon Daily News | **sports** Editor — DON KENDALL

Belczyk wins World Cup race

LEUKERBARD, Switzerland (AFP) — Felix Belczyk of Castlegar, B.C., won a World Cup super-giant slalom ski race today with a time of one minute 51.20 seconds.

The victory, his first in World Cup competition, comes on the heels of the 26-year-old's best ever downhill weekend when he finished fifth and fourth in races Saturday and Sunday.

Pirmin Zurbriggen, the Swiss ace who lost his overall World Cup title this season, finished second in 1:51.69 followed by Italian Heinz Holzer in 1:51.85.

World Cup points leader Alberto Tomba of Italy was disqualified after missng a gate.

The race was delayed an hour by fog. When it finally got under way, it was run in unsavory conditions with snow falling throughout the early stages to make visibility difficult for the top seeds.

However, shortly after the lead skiers completed their runs, the sun broke through and the course became increasingly faster for the late starters.

Belczyk, starting 32nd, was one of those able to take advantage of the changing weather for his first victory in four seasons onthe circuit and Canada's first ever men's super-G win.

Zurbriggen, the reigning super-GS world champion, went down the 2,570-metre-long course earlier and turned in a time nearly a second slower than Belczyk's.

Holzer's finish was the best he's had to show in eight seasons on the World Cup circuit.

Markus Wasmeier of West Germany, a co-favorite who won the winter's only other super-GS to date, finished fourth, eight-tenths of a second behind.

Zurbriggen smiled in the finish area after posting the best time as 10th starter. Belczyk dashed his hopes for a second season victory when he sped through the lower part of the hill.

Still, Zurbriggen's fifth runner-up finish of the winter was worth 20 points, melting away half the advantage of overall Cup leader Alberto Tomba of Italy.

Tomba was faster than Zurbriggen on the top of the course but dropped out in the middle, leaving the Italian with an unchanged total of 206 points. Zurbriggen, Tomba's only serious rival and a better all-round skier, is 20 points behind.

Wasmeier leads the super-G standings with 37 points after two of four races this winter, two points ahead of Zurbriggen.

Snowdrifts created an irregular course that hampered many early racers on fast bends near the top. Swiss veteran Peter Mueller was a notable example.

Conditions were similar to the downhills, where little-known late starters were swept into top ranks by an increasingly fast course as fresh snow was packed down.

Michael Mair of Italy won on Saturday, while Daniel Mahrer led a double Swiss victory Sunday.

The super-G is the newest of the four World Cup race disciplines. Gates are set wider to giver downhillers a better chance than in a regular giant slalom.

Monday's race replaced a super-G on the classic Lauberhorn course at Wengen, Switzerland. The men's circuit next moves to Schladming, Austria, for the last downhill before the Winter Olympics.

Juveniles impressive in tourney

Vernon Coca-Cola Juvenile Reps won two of three outings in a four-team tournament, held over the weekend, in Kamloops.

Vernon defeated Kamloops 5-2 and Salmon Arm 7-6 before dropping a 5-3 decision to Prince George.

Prince George, Salmon Arm, and Vernon tied for first place in the round-robin portion of the tourney with 2-1 record, however, the Coke crew didn't qualify for the championship game because of an inferior goals-for and goals-against record.

"I was really proud of our guys," said Vernon Coach Jim Sparrow. "We made the trip with just two lines . . . and we only had one bad period in three games."

Prince George scored four times, in the second period, to take a 4-1 lead against the local squad.

Scott Corsey, Rich Anderson, and Ralph Lett were the marksmen against Prince George.



VERNON LAKERS' captain Mike Paller scored once to help his club trounce the Kelowna Packers 9-3 in B.C. Junior Hockey League play, Saturday night, at the Civic Arena. (Daily News Photo)

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

JANUARY 1983

Wayne Laface, of Vernon, captured the men's zone curling championship. Laface defeated club-mate Greg McCune 6-3 and 11-3 in back-to-back games.

JANUARY 1983

Vernon's Marjorie Cameron placed seventh in the slalom event at the Olympics for the Deaf, in Madonna di Campiglio, Italy. She had previously finished 11th in the giant slalom race.