VERNON 9, CHILLIWACK 7

Veteran scorer pulls through



FUN UNDER THE LIGHTS

Silver Star instructor Rod Dagneau flies through the powder, under the lights, on the mountain's Milk Run. Silver Star is open for night skiing from Tuesday to Saturday. (Don Weixl Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Despite what coach Ernie Gare described as a lack of motivation, the Vernon Lakers, paced by a four-goal performance by Mark Greyeyes, defeated visiting Chilliwack Eagles 9-7 Friday night at the Vernon Civic Arena.



MARK GREYEYES

The victory was the Lakers' 10th in a row and leaves them with a 22-point cushion over the Kelowna Packers for first place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division — a fact which contributed in a large way to the somewhat uninspired performance of the club in etching out their 38th win of the season.

"We played like a team that has a 22-point lead and has already clinched a division title," suggested Gare who watched his charges overcome a 3-2 first period deficit. "It was a loosely played game at both ends of the rink."

In all fairness, Gare was only half-right in his summation of the game. While the Vernon forwards peppered Eagles' goaltender Glen Pencer with 53 shots, Pencer's teammates, particularly his defensive units, did well to keep the score as low as it was.

At the other end of the rink, Glen Fry faced just half that many shots during the night but with an almost total absence of help from his defensive corps, gave up many more goals than he would have liked. The lanky net-minder, who leads the BCJHL in goaltending, was visibly upset at his teammates after the game.

On a more positive note, Greyeye's performance at least gave Gare and his coaching staff something new to smile about. His four goals gives him 33 for the season and eight in his last three games.

"If he (Greyeyes) starts coming on that's really going to help us come playoff time," suggested Gare.

Greyeyes, meanwhile, heaped praise on linemates Mike Barkley and centre Dallas Drake for his success.

"I owe a lot to those guys," said Greyeyes. "It's about time I started scoring — it feels good."

The trio accounted for six of the club's goals and accumulated 14 scoring points between them. Greyeyes had an assist to go along with his four goals while Barkley had a goal and three helpers. Drake, celebrating his 19th birthday Friday, scored once and added four assists. He trails team scoring leader Jamie Steer by just one point.

Steer scored once and set up one goal while other Vernon goals came off the sticks of Duane Dennis and Greg Parnell.

For Greyeyes, his recent success has also been attributable to a change in philosophy and a return to basics.

"I'm fighting more to get into the open spots and I'm concentrating a lot more," he explained. "I was down earlier in the year because I wasn't talking to any scouts but now I don't think about it anymore so I can concentrate on the game."

Bruce Kenworth and Mike Dutton each scored twice in a losing cause for the Eagles who trailed 6-4 after two periods but were always in the game as far as the scoreboard read.

Singles came from Bart McAstocker, Ray Savard and Jim Butterworth.

Although the game was wide open, especially in the Vernon end zones, Gare said it would be a different matter tonight when the club hosts the Penticton Knights at 8 p.m.

Lakers and Knights will likely square off in the Interior Division semi-final round this year in the playoffs but before then they must face each other three more times in regular season contests. The Knights scored a win over Vernon at the Civic Arena on Nov. 28 but haven't come close since then.

Meanwhile, in other BCJHL action Friday night, Nanaimo Clippers edged the visiting Kelowna Packers 7-6 in overtime while Penticton trounced Summerland 8-3.

In Nanaimo, L.D. McNabb scored at 4:56 of overtime to lift the Clippers to their win.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Winter Carnival run scheduled for Sunday

North Stars are no good offers Dino

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota North Stars haven't scored a goal in three games and star forward Dino Ciccarelli, just back from a 10-game suspension, thinks he knows why.

"The North Stars simply aren't that good," said Ciccarelli, the team's all-