PALLER SCORES THREE

Lakers hammer Knights

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon captain Mike Paller took a rare turn at displaying his offensive skills Saturday night as the Lakers trounced visiting Penticton Knights 8-3.

Paller scored the only three goals of the first period to enjoy a natural hat trick and his team never looked back as they took period leads of 3-0 and 5-1 en route to their 39th victory of the season and their 11th straight win. They led both the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division and the overall standings by an insurmountable margin.

For Paller, one of the steadiest and most dedicated players in the game, the goals were his 18th, 19th and 20th of the season and he becomes the eighth member of the local club to reach that plateau this year.

In the second and third periods, Lakers' slick centre Dallas Drake took over the show, using his favorite wingers Mike Barkley and Mark Greyeyes to pick apart the Knights' defence for the duration of the game.

Drake scored once and set up three other goals for four more points, giving him nine in his last two games. The points vaulted Drake past teammate Jamie Steer for the team scoring lead.

Barkley scored twice and assisted on two others while Greyeyes had a goal and an assist. Ian Alger, who collected a goal and an assist, completed the Vernon scoring.

Predictably, the Knights under new head aoch Chuck Tapp, dissolved into intimidation tactics once the game was out of their reach. By the time the contest concluded, a half dozen players from each team had been ejected. The numberous incidents are obviously just a reminder of what will likely transpire in the opening round of the playoffs this month, but it didn't bother Vernon Coach Ernie Gare in the slightest.

"We're going to be smarter than them," he said. "They can't socre from the penalty box. We're just going to play with discipline and they can do whatever they want — we can't worry about them."

Meanwhile, Gare had some choice words for his team captain and for the entire club which played one of its most all-out and convincing performances on home ice this season.

"They (Paller, Alger) started it for us," said Gare. "They set the tone and it was nice to see Mike get a couple of goals.

"It was a 100 per cent team effort for a full 60 minutes. There was a lot of intensity."

If not for the outstanding goaltending of Knights' Jamie Loewen, in fact, the score would have favored the Lakers by a much healthier margin. Vernon outshot Penticton 58-28, including a 26-6 margin in the opening frame.

Though tested far less often than his counterpart, Vernon goaltender Glen Fry was outstanding and showed tremendous concentration and determination. He was much more pleased with the overall team effort than he was on Friday night against Chilliwack Eagles.

"We played a much better game defensively," suggested the soft-spoken giant. "Our defence played good and the forwards were coming back too."

Lance Momatani scored twice in a futile cause for the Knights who were basically outmatched in every aspect of the game by the Lakers.

With four games remaining in the BCJHL season, the Lakers will face the Knights twice more, including once in Penticton. Tuesday night, they host the hapless Summerland Buckaroos offering their big guns an opportunity to improve their personal records.

In BCJHL action Sunday night, Chilliwack defeated Merritt Centennials 6-4 and Penticton pummelled Summerland 13-2.

Ray Savard scored four times and Mike Dutton had a pair for the Eagles while Frank Biller, with two goals, Cal McGowan and Richard Brew replied for Merritt.

Brad Heschuk, Morris Karpuk, Shayne Green and Cliff Furnseth all scored twice for Penticton while Darren Paulson and Howie Finch scored third period goals for Summerland. The Knights lead 5-0 and 10-0 and outshot the Bucks 56-35.



JAMIE STEER battles with Knights' defenceman Todd Hilditch during second period action at the Vernon Civic Arena, Saturday night. The Knights managed to keep Steer off the scoresheet, but the Lakers still had no difficulty trouncing the visitors 8-3 in B.C. Junior Hockey League play. (Daily News Photo)

Furlong sparks Panthers

The Vernon Panthers scored 28 points in the fourth quarter to defeat the Salmon Arm Golds 85-79 in Okanagan-Mainline Senior Boys' AA Basketball League play, Friday night.

Forward Craig Furlong put on an incredible shooting display for the Panthers. The rugged forward scored 37 points, including six, three-pointers.

Sheldon Brown added 18 points and Terry McKaig dropped in 13 for the Panthers, who improved their league record to 4-2.

Salmon Arm held quarter leads of 26-15, 43-38, and 58-57 before the Panthers got rolling.

Vernon Coach Rene Dolcetti said he was pleased with the victory, but not pleased with his club's inconsistency. "We're very sloppy at times," Dolcetti said. "I hope we can snap out of it . . . in the near future."

Vernon plays a pair of league games, at home, next weekend. The Panthers entertain the North Kamloops Saints, Friday night, and the Kamloops Red Devils, Saturday.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

FEBRUARY 1983

About 2,000 fans packed the Vernon Civic Arena to watch Montreal Canadiens Oldtimers defeat Vernon Cougars 11-7. However, the score wasn't important! The key thing is hockey fans both young and old, got an opportunity to see some legends. Among the Canadiens Oldtimers was Gilles Marottte, Pierre Plante and Ab McDonald. Referees were Rocket Richard and Red Storey.