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sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

Drake nets three in lopsided victory

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Daily News Sports

To the casual observer it might well have looked as though someone was tilting the ice in favor of the Vernon Lakers Friday night. The Lakers outshot the visiting Merritt Centennials by an astounding 66-18 margin en route to a 9-4 homeice victory.

The local club entertains the Penticton Knights in the last regular season game tonight at the Vernon Civic Arena. The Knights clinched third place Friday night with a 4-1 victory against the Kelowna Packers. The Centennials will finish forth in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division and will face the Lakers in the first round of the playoffs.

Although the Lakers dominated the Centennials completely, the score was hardly indicative of the play, thanks mostly to the goaltending of Merritt's Gord Besse.

"Their goaltender played exceptionally well," suggested Vernon assistant coach Eddie Johnstone. "Without him we might have gotten 18 (goals) tonight."

Head Coach Ernie Gare was reasonably satisfied with the score anyway, noting that the last remaining games of the regular season mean very little to his club.

"We set the tone for the game in the first period," he said. "We had a lot of intensity but we kind of let up in the third period."

Vernon outshot Merritt 22-4 in the first stanza and 25-4 in the second frame while holding period leads of 4-1 and 7-2. True to Gare's observation, the shots in the third period were a much more respectable 19-10 in Vernon's favor and the two clubs scored two goals apiece.

Dallas Drake, searching for a BC-JHL scoring title, scored three times to pace the Vernon Club and added an assist. He now has 123 points on the season and a three-point lead over Delta's Peter Holmes. Both players have one game remaining.

Jamie Steer, second in team scoring, added a pair of goals and set up one other while single goals came off the sticks of Mark Greyeyes, Chad Biafore, Mike Paller, and Phil Soukoroff. Ian Alger and Greg Parnell each contributed three assists.

Merritt captain Richard Brew scored three goals in a losing cause for the Centennials while Cal McGowan added a single. The Centennials were without the services of team scoring leader Frank Biller.

In Penticton, the Packers took a 1-0 lead in the first period but the Knights tied the game in the second, then went on to win the third.

Lance Momotani, Cliff Furnseth, Brad Smiley, and Curt Brennan scored for Penticton while DeWayne Gallant scored for Kelowna.

In other BCJHL action Friday night the Nanaimo Clipper defeated the Juan De Fuca Whalers by an 8-5 margin while the Salmon Arm Tigers trounced the hapless Summerland Buckaroos 12-2.



DALLAS DRAKE, the star centre of the Vernon Lakers, scored three goals and added an assist to power Vernon past Merritt 9-4 Friday night. Drake leads Peter Holmes of Delta by three points with one game remaining and it looks like he may have the BCJHL scoring title sewn up.

(Daily News Photo)