LAKERS 8, KNIGHTS 6

Victory proves costly with top scorer down

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The Vernon Lakers earned an 8-6 victory over the visiting Penticton Knights in their last regular season game Saturday night, but suffered a great personal loss in the process.


MIKE BARKLEY

With only minutes remaining in the game Mike Barkley, the top goal-scorer on the local club, took a punishing check along the boards in his own end. He suffered a seperated shoulder and left the game. Although the exact nature of the injury is as yet undetermined, it is certain that he will be out of the club's lineup for a period of time. How much time is also uncertain at this point.

"He took the hit to get the puck out of our end," explained Head Coach Ernie Gare. "We'll be walking on eggshells until we know for sure how bad it is."

The Lakers had dominated the early portion of the game and enjoyed a 7-3 lead late in the second period before the Knights scored a pair of quick goals late in the middle frame and added an early marker in the third to pull to within a goal. They were pressing hard for the equalizer when the incident occurred.

The score stayed at 7-6 until the 12:45 mark of the third period when rugged forward Duane Dennis provided the club with an insurance marker in a game that meant nothing but which was played with intensity from start to finish.

In an earlier move to protect the club's best interest, Gare had benched star centre Dallas Drake after the slick puckster ran up three points to increase his overall lead and insure him of a BCJHL scoring title. Naturally the thought of losing Barkley never crossed anyone's mind, not even Barkley himself.

"It wasn't a dirty hit or anything," he explained. "I guess it was just one of those things."

Meanwhile, team doctor John Wheeldon gave a preliminary assessment of the injury and offered some encouragement with his prognosis.

"He has a shoulder injury but it doesn't appear to be too serious," he said. "Unfortunately he'll probably be out for a while."

With the league playoffs scheduled to open Tuesday night the timing of the injury doesn't bode well with anyone but the Lakers' opposition.

Barkley managed to score twice to lead the club Saturday. Other goals came from Drake, Greg Parnell, Dane Jackson, Jamie Steer, Ian Alger, and Dennis. The pair of tallies were Barkley's 49th and 50th of the season and he becomes only the third member of the Vernon Lakers to score 50 or more goals in a regular season. He joins company with 1987 scoring champ Kevin Scott and veteran forward Greg Kowal in this department.

Steer's goal was his 47th while Drake fell just one goal short of 40 with his single. Parnell had a good night with three assists to go along with his goal.

The Lakers outshot the Knights by a 65-31 margin with Barry Rysz and Jamie Loewen tending their respective nets.

Brad Smiley scored twice for the Knight who were outshot 45-18 in the first two periods. Ivan Moore, Lance Momotani, Lance West and Kevin Caputo also scored for the visitors.

Knights will face the Kelowna Packers in their Interior Division semi-final series while the Lakers meet Merritt Centennials. That series opens in Vernon Tuesday and travels back to Merritt Wednesday night.



CHAD BIAFORE (10) and Adrian Markin give a Penticton Knights' forward some rough treatment along the boards in the Vernon end zone Saturday night at the Vernon Civic Arena. The Lakers beat the Knights 8-6 but the victory proved costly to the local club as they lost the services of top goal-scorer Mike Barkley. Barkley suffered a sperated shoulder late in the third period when he took a hit against the boards while clearing the puck out of his own zone.
(Daily News Photo)

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Junior girls win Valley a third time

Vernon Secondary School Junior Girls Panthers captured the Okanagan Valley Championships for the third