LEAD SEMI-FINAL SERIES 2-0

Struggling Lakers edge Merritt

The Merritt Centennials turned the tables on the Vernon Lakers but the score remained the same. The Lakers edged the hometown Centennials 5-4 Wednesday night to take a 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven BCJHL Interior Division semi-final.

For the second game in as many nights, the Vernon club put forth a subpar performance but came out on top of their division rivals. This time, however, the stellar goaltending of Lakers' Glen Fry was the necessary ingredient in the victory.

"Fry came up with some big saves, especially in the second period and late in the third," explained Vernon coach Ernie Gare.

The Centennials, outshot by a 40-28 margin Tuesday night, peppered Fry with 40 shots Wednesday night, including 21 in the second frame alone as the local club continued to have penalty problems.

"They tried to get us off our game and get us to take bad penalties," said Gare, adding that the plan worked well. "We kind of let them get to us and we did take some bad penalties."

Early in the third stanza, leading by a goal and playing with two men short, the Lakers allowed the equalizing goal to be scored to tie the game 4-4.

However, at 12:45 of the third, defenceman Phil Soukoroff scored the eventual winner as the Lakers took advantage of a power-play situation.

After Soukoroff's goal the club went into a defensive shell and somehow managed to hang onto their slim lead until time ran out.

"We just played to protect our lead late in the third period," said Gare.

Vernon managed just 26 shots at Merritt goaltender Gord Besse but for a change the numbers were with the local club instead of against them.

"We didn't actually play very well, in fact we haven't played well in either game and we still won but that leaves me a little concerned," Gare confessed.

Captain Mike Paller, performing well in the early going of these playoffs, scored a pair of goals and showed good leadership in absence of big guns such as Dallas Drake and Mike Barkley.

Defenceman Darcy Martini scored once and assisted on a goal by Ian Alger while Soukoroff's goal completed the Vernon scoring.

Bill Birks, with his third goal of the series, Frank Biller, Chris Kaban, and Paul Krause replied for the Centennials in a losing cause.

Game three of the series take splace Friday night at the Vernon Civic Arena while game four will be played in Merritt Saturday night. Game five, if necessary, will be in Vernon Sunday night.

According to Gare, star centre Dallas Drake, who won the BCJHL scoring championship with 126 points, is a doubtful starter for Friday night while 50-goal scorer Mike Barkley will not be around at all for this particular series. Trevor Pohl, injured Tuesday night in game one of the series, suffered a chipped bone in his shoulder and will be sidelined for an indefinite period.

Meanwhile, in other BCJHL playoff action Wednesday night, the Kelowna Packers and the Richmond Sockeyes both took 2-0 leads in their respective series while Delta Flyer tied their series with Nanaimo by beating the Clippers.

In Penticton, the Knights opened up a 2-0 lead in the second period but the Packers responded with four unanswered goals. Scott Hargreaves, Tom Cross, Len Jorgensen and Doug Gardiner, with the winner, scored for Kelowna.

Penticton scorers were Brad Smiley and Ivan Moore, both with power-play goals.

In Victoria, Rob Clarke scored three goals to power the Sockeyes to an 8-1 win against Juan De Fuca Whalers. Rick Rozecki and Keith Fair had two goals each for the Flyers while Sasha Pogar added a single. Ian Doak replied for the Whalers.

And, in Nanaimo, Peter Holmes scored three goals for the Flyers in a 5-3 win.



GLEN FRY made 36 saves and was the major reason for the Vernon Lakers' 5-4 victory against the Merritt Centennials Wednesday night in Merritt. Vernon now leads the best-of-seven BCJHL Interior Division semi-final series 2-0 with game three scheduled for Friday night in Vernon. (Daily News Photo)

Dreams of medal melt into the ice

CALGARY (CP) — For the second time in less than a week, Canada's dreams of gold and glory melted on the cold ice of the Olympic Saddledome.

At the same rink where Brian Orser slipped ever so slightly on a triple flip last Saturday night to lose the gold medal in the men's figure skating competition, the Canadian hockey team did a flip of its own Wednesday night.

Looking nothing like the team that won the Izvestia tournament last December, Canada was overwhelmed and outclassed as it lost 5-0 to the Soviet Union.

Dave King, coach of the Canadian team, was at a loss to explain the Soviet turnaround.

"I don't know what he (Soviet coach Viktor Tikhonov) has done," a subdued King said after the game. "I just see a couple of individuals playing that much better ...."

Soviet officials have been saying all along the Olympics were the most important tournament and it appears no one — with the possible exception of the Swedes or Finns — will stop them from taking their seventh Olympic title since the 1956 Games.

Canada was looking for its first Olympic gold medal in hockey since 1952. It will now have to wait at least another four years when the Games move to Albertville, France.

There's only a minute chance the host team could win a silver — Canada would have to win its two remaining games against West Germany and Czechoslovakia by large margins, while Russia would have to lose to Finland.

The Soviets lead the hockey tournament with six points, followed by Finland with five. The gold medal will probably be decided when the two teams meet Sunday in the final game of the tournament. Sweden is third with four points, West Germany two, Canada one and Czechoslovakia none with two games to play.

There was more bad news for Canada at the Games when Karen Percy, seeking her third Alpine skiing medal, fell during the first run of the women's giant slalom. Her last chance for a third medal comes Friday when she skis in the slalom.

SYSTEM FAILED

At the Saddledome, Canada's system of frustrating the deadly accurate Soviet shooters worked for exactly one period.

Sergei Yashin and Viacheslav Bykov scored to give the Soviets a 2-0 second-period lead and goals in the third period from Alexander Mogilny, Vladimir Krutov and Sergei Makarov put the game away.

Vreni Schneider of Switzerland won the Alpine skiing gold medal in a total time of 2:06.49, while Christine Kinshofer Guetlein of West Germany took the silver and Maria Walliser of Switzerland — with her second medal of the Games — won the bronze.

With four days of competition to go, the Soviet Union had 22 medals, East Germany 17, Switzerland 10, Austria eight and Finland six. Three countries had five medals and three, including Canada, had four.

One of the highlights remaining to be

Rich getting richer in Parkside curling

The rich just keep getting richer

fifth, and eighth ends en route to her

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

B.C. Junior

Kelowna 4 Penticton 2

(Kelowna leads best-of-seven-quarter-final 2-0)

Richmond 8 Juan de Fuca 1

(Richmond leads quarter-final 2-0)

Delta 5 Nanaimo 3

(Best-of-seven quarter-final tied 1-1

Vernon 5 Merritt 4

(Vernon leads best-of-seven quarter-final 2-0)

Canadian University