Lakers trounce weary Knights 10-2

Vernon Daily News | sports

Editor — DON KENDALL

Panthers on losing end

The Vernon Panthers will be playing for pride tonight at the Okanagan-Mainline Senior Boys' "AA" Basketball Championships but they won't be playing for berth into the provincial playoffs.

The Panthers dropped a narrow 73-70 decision to Salmon Arm boys Friday night in the Okanagan Valley semi-final round.

Don Hanson paced the VSS hoop squad with 17 points while Sheldon Brown added 15 points and Craig Furlong had 14. Dean Franks also hit double figures with 12 points.

The Panthers led throughout much of the game and enjoyed a 36-31 advantage at half time before the roof caved in during the late stages of the game.

"We were leading throughout the game but they turned it around in the last quarter," said Coach Rene Dolcetti.

The Panthers face KSS of Kelowna for third and fifth place tonight.

Meanwhile, in Rutland, the Vernon Seaton Lady Sonics were trounced 88-22 by KLO of Kelowna in Okanagan Valley Senior Girls Championship action Friday night.

The Sonics play Summerland today for third place and a possible berth to the provincials.

Wood beats Krebbs' four

Vernon's Dale Krebbs put himself in an unenviable position by losing a 6-4 decision to Mike Wood of Victoria in the opening round of the B.C. Junior Men's Curling Championship in Kamloops.

The loss means that Krebbs and his Vernon foursome will have to win all their games from here on if they expect to represent the province at the National Junior Men's Curling Championships.

"We've got to win three in a row so we're on our last leg," explained Ron Houston who is coaching the Vernon rink.

In other action Friday Darryl Anderson of Kimberly defeated Burnaby's Pierre Desrochers 7-5, then defeated Wood by an identical 7-5 score.

Men's Hoop showdown begins on Thursday

Golden Crown Restaurant will take on Squires Four Pub in the Fosters Lager Basketball League final, next Thursday, at the Priest Valley Gymnasium.

Golden Crown downed the Kokanee Masters 81-75 and Squires Four dumped National Hotel 84-74 in semi-final action this week.

Wilf Haak led the Golden Crown attack with 24 points while Jack Robin for Squires Four with 23 points apiece. Lorne Hansen added 17 points for the winners.

Mark Boppre, with 27 points, and Gary Charles, with 23, countered for National Hotel.

Squires Four jumped to a 15-2 lead and was in front 47-25 at half-time before the Hotelmen rallied in the second half to narrow the gap.

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Sensing that the battle-weary Penticton Knights might be tired, the Vernon Lakers responded with wave upon wave of hard-hitting, close-checking hockey that resulted in a convincing 10-2 victory Friday night at the Vernon Civic Arena.

The victory gives the Lakers a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division Championship and was their best playoff showing yet in front of a capacity crowd of more than 2,000 hockey fans.

Each of the club's three lines hit the score sheet with a pair of familiar names putting the most numbers on the board during the night. Veteran winger Mark Greyeyes scored three times and set up three other goals while league scoring champion Dallas Drake scored once and added four assists.

"I felt really good tonight going into this game and so did the whole team," explained Greyeyes who had 91 points during the regular season campaign. "We were loose and joking around but we were really up for it.

"We knew they were going to be tired and beat up after that Kelowna series so we wanted to hit them a lot and take their energy away," he added.

Rugged determination and hard work paid off for the local club who were severely handicapped by referee Rob McInnes of Summerland during the first period. MacInnes tilted the game in various directions during the night and often slowed it to a crawl with an overabundance of unnecessary calls.

In the first period he levied the Lakers with 33 minutes in penalties, including a five-minute major to defenceman Darcy Martini who accidentally got his stick too high during an otherwise clean check in the corner. The Knights were fingered for just two minor penalties which meant that the Lakers spent almost half the period short-handed.

"It wasn't a good way to start but that was the key when we killed all those penalties and then Dallas' short-handed goal was a big boost," suggested Head Coach Ernie Gare.

Drake banged in Greyeyes' rebound late in the opening frame to give the club a 2-0 lead after rugged Duane Dennis had opened the scoring earlier by finishing off a perfect three-way passing clinic aided by Greyeyes and Adrian Markin.

Greyeyes upped the lead to 3-0 with a power-play marker early in the second period as it was Penticton who received McInnes' rath in the middle frame. Greg Parnell, and Greyeyes, with his second, increased the lead to 5-0 before the Knights got on the board.

Greyeyes completed his second period hat trick while defenceman Phil Soukoroff added a single to give the Lakers a 7-1 second period lead.

Parnell, with his second, Ian Alger, and Shawn Hendry added third period markers while Shane Green scored a power-play goal for the Knights with just seconds remaining. Cliff Furnseth provided the visitors with their earlier tally.

Glen Fry turned in an outstanding performance blocking 22 shots and allowing just one goal before he and an entire line from each team were ejected late in the third frame following a brawl.

Jamie Loewen pulled himself after the 10th goal was scored but returned when replacement Todd Jones was ejected after the brawl. The two combined to face 57 shots.

"Their defence can't handle the pressure of our forechecking," explained Gare. "They went with four defencemen and so it was just a matter of time before we started filling the net."

The two teams will face-off again tonight in game two in the Penticton Memorial Arena. Gare's strategy will be the same in game two as it was in game one.

"We're going to keep throwing it (the puck) in and going in on them wave after wave," he said. "This is what we've been waiting for all year long and the guys are really ready to play their best now."

Game three will take place Tuesday night in Vernon.



GLEN FRY robbed Penticton ace Lance Momotani (10) on this play from close-in Friday night as the Vernon Lakers trounced the visitors 10-2. The win gives the Lakers a 1-0 lead in their best-of-seven series for the BCJHL Interior Division Championship. Game two of the series takes place tonight in the Penticton Memorial Arena where the Lakers hope to apply the same strategy and hopefully reap similar results.

(Daily News Photo)

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MARCH 1983

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