VERNON TAKES 2-0 LEAD

Markin leads Lakers past Knights



ADRIAN MARKIN (3) played a complete game for the Vernon Lakers, Saturday night, in Penticton. Markin, checking Knights' Todd Hilditch along the boards was promoted from the blueline to a forward on the team's first line and responded to the challenge with a pair of goals and three assists. The Lakers have outscored the Knights 18-5 in the first two games of the Interior Division championship series. Game three takes place Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena. (Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

The Vernon Lakers' scoring depth is obviously too much for the Penticton Knights and there is no better example than Adrian Markin.

Markin, a first-year defenceman, has moved from his point position to the forward line to replace injured Mike Barkley alongside Dallas Drake and Mark Greyeyes. Markin responded with a pair of goals and collected assists on three other tallies as the Lakers hammered the hometown Knights 8-3, Saturday.

The win gives Vernon a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division Championship series. Game three is scheduled for Tuesday night, at the Vernon Civic Arena, beginning at 8 p.m.

Markin helped set up goals by linemates Greyeyes and Darke, who scored one and two goals respectively. Drake also added a pair of assists.

Vernon jumped out front by a comfortable 4-0 margin early in the first period and when the Knights picked up seven extra penalty minutes following a fracas, it looked as though the local club would put the hometown team away early.

However, the Lakers responded with a rash of minor penalties instead and the Knights eventually capitized to make the score 4-1 at the end of one period.

Disaster almost befell Vernon in the second frame as they backed off and allowed the Knights to score two more goals and narrow the gap to 4-3.

However, after calling an early timeout, the Lakers once again picked up the tempo and re-established a comfortable lead with quick goals to close the stanza up 7-3.

The Lakers added two goals in the third period, but neither team seemed overly interested in playing the game with any enthusiasm. The game ended with a surprising twist as Jamie Steer, the least penalized player in the league during the regular season, dropped his stick and gloves and doffed his helmet to go another round with Knights Lance West. It was the second time in as many nights that the two engaged in such an altercation, but this time there was no doubt about the winner as Steer soundly thrashed West in a toe-to-toe battle.

Although he was impressed with Steer's abili'y to look after himself, Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare cautioned the young star about future altercations.

"I told him that there are some guys that I don't want dropping the gloves and he's one of them," Gare explained. "He's more valuable to us as a goal-scorer."

The playoffs have been frustrating for Steer who has scored once, but has 13 assists.

"He seems to be fighting the puck and it's really frustrating him," said Gare.

Though the officiating was once again sub-standard by any junior hockey yardstick, Gare wasn't pleased with the number of bad penalties his club took again.

"I don't mind the guys taking (good) penalties but it's the high-sticks and retaliation penalties that are hurting us. We've killed penalties very well in this series though."

Phil Soukoroff, Ian Alger and Dane Jackson also scored singles for the Lakers, who outshot Penticton by a 43-40 margin. Jackson's goal was a big one as it restored the club's momentum in the second period and broke the Knights' rally.

Todd Hilditch, Lance Momotani and David McColm replied for the Knights.

Lakers impress Philly executive

Two members of the Vernon Lakers may be selected in the first three rounds of the National Hockey League's amateur draft, according to one of the NHL's most respected executives.

Keith Allen, vice-president of the Philadelphia Flyers, said he expects Mike Barkley and Dane Jackson to be drafted this spring.

Allen watched the Lakers hammer the Penticton Knights 10-2, Friday, in the opening game of their BCJHL playoff series.

Allen said he didn't come to Vernon to watch anyone specifically, but admitted he was impressed with Jackson. "There were a lot of good players out there," Allen said. "That big Jackson looked good."

The man credited with building Philadelphia into one of the NHL's most successful franchises also confessed that he was disappointed he didn't get an opportunity to watch Barkley. Barkley has been sidelined since Feb. 20 because of a shoulder injury.

"We've heard a lot of good things about Barkley . . . too bad we couldn't see him play," Allen said.

Barkley and Jackson are categorized as 17-year-old players, therefore, are eligible for only the first three rounds of the NHL draft in May.

NHL clubs have traditionally ignored tier two hockey while concentrating on tier one and college leagues as their main sources of talent. But, that philosophy is changing, according to Allen.

"This is the first BCJHL game I've seen this year . . . and I'm impressed," he said. "This team (Vernon) could compete at the tier one level. They are well-coached and well-disciplined."

The prospect of earning a U.S. college scholarship, after playing one or two seasons in the BCJHL, has made tier two hockey an attractive alternative to the Western Hockey League.

Allen said, "There is more attention being paid to the tier two teams now because players are taking that route to get to college. A lot of these guys are good enough to play tier one, but they go to this league (BCJHL) because they want to go on college."

Hobbema 7 Calgary Spurs 2

B.C. Junior

Semifinal

Vernon 8 Penticton 3

(Vernon leads best-of-seven series 2-0)

Canadian University