STAR CENTRE INJURED

Costly win for Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

It was a good news, bad news game for the Vernon Lakers Tuesday night at the Vernon Civic Arena. The good news was that they doubled the visiting Penticton Knights 8-4.

However, the bad news was that the club lost centre Dallas Drake to an injury in the second period and the slick playmaker could be out for several weeks or more.

On the other hand, the victory Tuesday night gave the Vernon club a 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven BCJHL Interior Division Championship series. A fourth straight win tonight in Penticton would allow the club a 10-day layoff before the next playoff series is scheduled to begin.

Drake had been virtually a one-man show for the Lakers up until his injury, scoring once and setting up three other goals all in the first period as the local squad battled back from an early 3-1 deficit. A rash of early penalties put the Lakers behind the eight-ball as the Knights scored a pair of power-play goals a minute apart to go ahead by two.

Drake set up defenceman Phil Soukoroff twice, also Jamie Steer, then scored himself to put the Lakers ahead for good before the first period had ended.

The second period was one of the closest checking 20-minute spans in the series so far. But, it was a questionable check along the boards late in the frame that put Drake out for the night.

Referee Buster Rutsatz of Kamloops didn't make a call on the play even though the obvious infraction occurred in plain view. Naturally Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare wasn't pleased and it eventually cost the club a bench-minor when Gare voiced his disapproval to Rutsatz.

"You're not too happy when your leading scorer gets mugged along the boards," said Gare who has had to contend with a rash of playoff injuries to key players.

Chad Biafore scored the only goal of the second frame to up the Vernon lead to 5-3.

In the third period Steer put his game into gear, scoring his second goal of the night and setting up Ian Alger for another. Captain Mike Paller's late goal added insult to injury to the outmatched, contemptable Knights.

"I got a fluky one the first time and I think that's what I needed," suggested Steer who scored only his second and third goals of the playoffs after notching 51 in the regular season. "I was frustrated but I'm a little happier now."

Lance West, Lance Momotani, Shane Green and Dave McColm scored singles for the Knights who were outshot 39-23 on the night.

Glen Fry settled into a steady performance after being beaten three times early in the game and made the save of the series early in the third period off Momotani who cut across the front of the net.

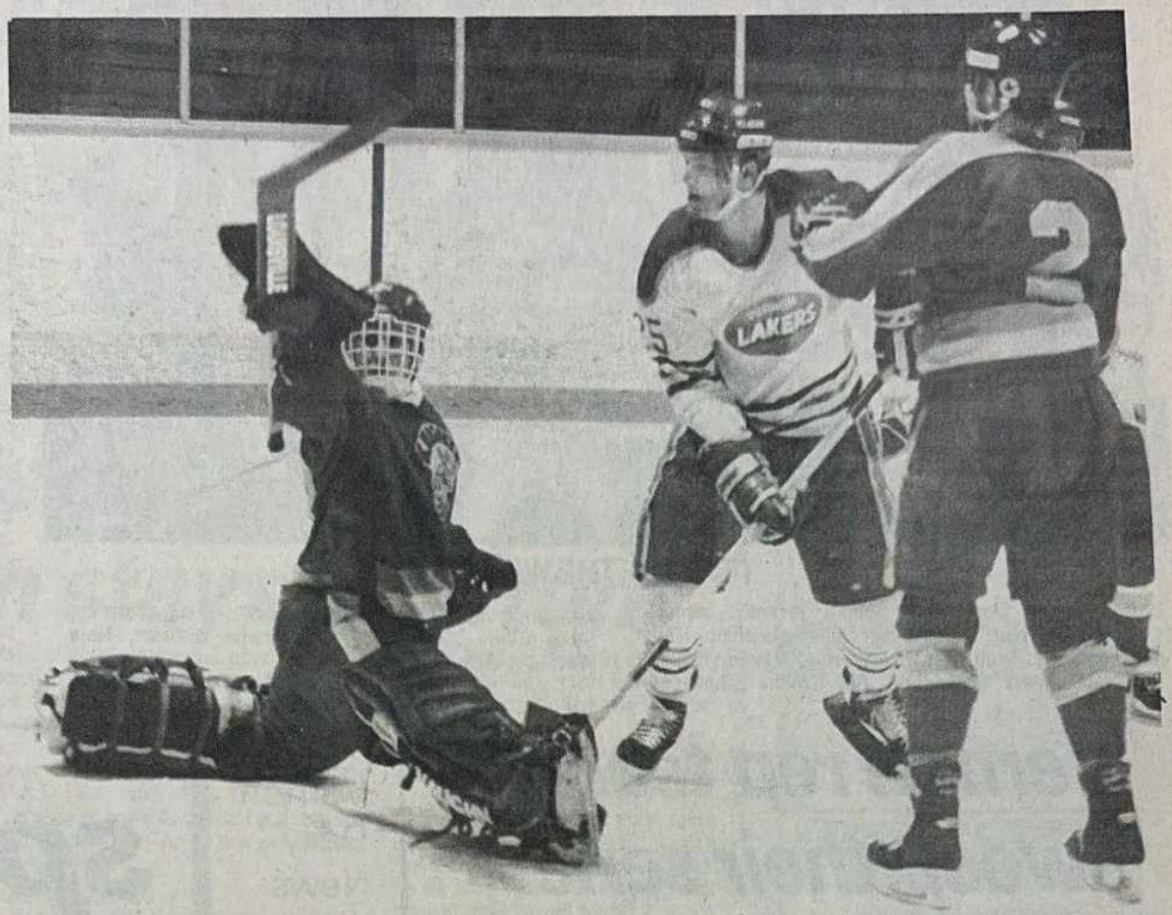
The Lakers, particularly several defencemen, were bent on taking bad penalties in the first period. In fact, between them, three blueliners accounted for 14 minutes in minors in the first frame leaving the remaining members of the defence to work that much harder killing penalties.

"We got off our game plan and we'd sure rather play them (Knights) five-on-five," said Gare. "A couple of our guys got a little carried away."

Drake actually tried to stay in the game after his injury but eventually gave way to the pain in his knee. He suffered a similar injury early in the season and knew there was something wrong immediately after the bad play.

"It hurt quite a bit so I just stayed down," said Drake. "I was thinking that I might be out for another three weeks and I wasn't too happy."

Mike Barkley who has missed every playoff game to date with a shoulder injury, took a few shifts after Drake was injured and will probably see some spot duty again tonight in Penticton.



DANE JACKSON (25) watches the puck glance off the stick of Penticton goaltender Jamie Loewen during second period action Tuesday night at the Vernon Civic Arena. The Lakers victimized Loewen for eight goals in an 8-4 victory over the Knights and a 3-0 lead in their playoff series. The two teams meet again tonight in Penticton. (Daily News Photo)

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

MARCH 1983

Registration for Vernon and District Youth Soccer Association's 1983 season has topped 800 youngsters. Teamlists will be compiled and coaching arrangements for teams made and announced in coming weeks.

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Editor—DON KENDALL

SPORTS BRIEFS

Former Laker named top goaltender again

Former Vernon Lakers' netminder Scott King, who now plays with the University of Maine, has been named as the Hockey East Goalie of the Year for the second straight season. King, in his second year at Maine, led the Hockey East in wins, goals against average, and save percentage. His 2.97 goals against average established a new conference record. King starred with the Lakers during the 1985-86 season.

Trail Ride

The Vernon Western Horsemen's Club is hosting a Trail Ride March 13. Participants are requested to bring a lunch and come prepared to leave from Frank Grothoff's place at 11 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

circuit last season, heads a star-studded golf field for the $360,000 US Mallorca Open, the start of the richest-ever PGA European Tour. Woosnam, the Welshman who won more than $450,000 on the tour in 1987, is among eight tournament winners from last season set to tee off Thursday at the 7,181-yard, par-72

B.C. Junior

Richmond 6 Delta 3

(First game best-of-seven semifinal)

U.S. College

Hockey East

Maine 6 Providence 5

(First game two-game total