TAKE 3-0 SERIES LEAD

Lakers set to sink Sockeyes

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

RICHMOND (Special) — The Vernon Lakers are just one win away from the B.C. Junior Hockey League championship following a skilful 6-2 victory over the Richmond Sockeyes in this Lower Mainland community Tuesday.

The Lakers led through most of the contest and scored three unanswered insurance markers in the third period to take a commanding 3-0 lead in the best of seven series against the coastal division championships.

The fourth game of the title series takes place tonight at the Richmond Arena.

The local club got off to a slow start, taking most of the first period to adjust to the huge Richmond ice surface. However, once they gathered some momentum they rolled over the Sockeyes in much the same fashion as in the first two games of the series.

"We were outplayed tonight," said Richmond coach Orland Kurtenbach. "They deserved that win. They outskated us and when you're outskated it forces you into all kinds of mistakes . . . We had too many individual breakdowns."

Dallas Drake, ever the Vernon icebreaker, put the Lakers on the board first for the third time in as many games. The slick centre stole the puck at the red line and danced his way past the Richmond defence before scoring in Gretzky-like fashion.



MARK GREYEYES
. . . two goals



ORLAND KURTENBACH
. . . in awe

The goal, a short handed effort, was the only scoring of the first period although Vernon held a 16-6 edge in shots.

The Sockeyes tied the game just 38 seconds into the second frame capitalizing on a power play situation. However, it was the only time they would be even during the night and only the second occasion in the series that they weren't trailing on the scoreboard.

The tie was short-lived as Mark Greyeyes, with his first of two on the night, blasted a low slapshot through Mike Doyle's legs less than a minute later.

Jamie Steer added to the lead at 15.51 of the middle frame with a splendid individual effort. Steer put a classic move on a lone Richmond defender to get in alone on Doyle and made no mistake with his quick, hard wrist shot.

Rob Clarke scored the Sockeyes' last goal to close the second period but even then it was apparent that the Lakers had things in hand.

Dane Jackson scored a pair of timely goals back to back early in the third period to give Vernon an insurmountable lead. Greyeyes' second of the game put more icing on the cake late in the contest.

"Our fourth goal was th big one for us," said Jackson, after his big night.

"When our line plugged that fourth goal, it gave us a big boost," he said.

Jackson, like Kurtenbach and Vernon coach Ernie Gare, felt the Vernon team has played better with a lead.

"We still play tough but we can play relaxed," said Jackson.

Kurtenbach, who guided his team to the national championship last year, agreed with Jackson.

"We've been behind the whole series so we can't play relaxed hockey. They have got momentum and things are really going their way," he said.

"When we get ahead, the guys play much more disciplined," said Gare. "I have to give the guys credit for their discipline tonight — they kept their cool and didn't retaliate."

The unsung hero of the contest was Vernon goaltender Glen Fry, who made just 22 saves but almost all were good scoring chances for the Sockeyes. He was named the game's first star.

Although not willing to admit defeat, Kurtenbach is virtually in awe of the potent Vernon officen and their superior positional play.

"Certainly our backs are up against the wall and we have a major task to win that first game," he said. "They've been getting good scoring balance and they've had very few breakdowns."

Game time tonight is 7:30 p.m.



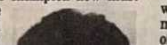
DALLAS DRAKE scored the game opening goal for the third straight time against the Richmond Sockeyes as the Vernon Lakers marched to a 6-2 victory over the Lower Mainland club Tuesday. Lakers could wrap up the BCJHL championship series tonight in Richmond. (Daily News File Photo)

FIFTH PLACE IN FIGURES

Compulsories dim Orser's hopes

BUDAPEST (CP) — Brian Orser's chances of retaining his men's singles world figure skating championship were damaged by a fifth-place showing in compulsory figures today.

The Canadian champion now must win both the short program Thursday and



the top three. Figures had become his launching pad.

Earlier in his career, poor showings in figures kept him off the top of medals podiums around the world.

The only saving grace is that Orser is within touch of Boitano. The gold medal will again come down to a battle of the Brians.

with 4.4 points to win gold. Boitano, projecting he places second to Orser in both the short and long, would lose out and settle for silver at 4.6.

Fadeev could upset both North Americans should he do what he has not done since winning the world championship in 1985 — beat the two in the long program. But that is a

petitors were saying my loop was the best one out there."

Orser is in a similar same position — as it relates to Boitano — as in Cincinnati one year ago. He pulled it off then.

"If I can repeat that again that'll be nice. I've done it before. What I've got to do right now is not concentrate on the end result. I have to concentrate on