FIFTH GAME SATURDAY NIGHT

Late Richmond rally foils Lakers

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

There is life after death. The Richmond Sockeyes are the living proof.

Down three games to none and losing by three goals late in the third period of game four, the Sockeyes proved that rumors of their death had been greatly exaggerated.

Four straight goals in four minutes and 28 seconds gave the hometown Sockeyes an almost unbelievable come-from-behind victory against the Vernon Lakers Wednesday night at the Richmond Arena. The win staved off the Sockeyes' elimination from the B.C. Junior Hockey League Championship. They now trail Vernon 3-1 with game five scheduled for Saturday night at the Civic Arena.

Although the game was wide-open from start to finish the Lakers neglected to observe the first law of playoff hockey — never underestimate your opposition.

With a 9-6 lead midway through the third stanza, the local club had all but uncorked the champagne when he gritty Richmond squad served notice that they weren't ready to roll over and die.

"It's hard to explain just what happened but the roof fell in," said Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare. "We just quit hitting in our own end and stood around and watched — we made too many mistakes in our own end."

Meanwhile, at the other end of the spectrum, a jubilant Orland Kurtenbach was only thankful for the chance to keep his playoff hopes alive.

"It was exciting during the last 10 minutes but it was frightening before that," he said. "I'm looking forward to going back to Vernon — we could have been finished tonight (Wednesday) but we proved that they (Lakers) aren't invincible."

By all rights the game should have officially ended early in the first period when Vernon jumped to a 3-0 lead and showed forceful determination in ending the series quickly. A quick goal followed in rapid succession by a power-play tally and then a short-handed effort had the crowd, and both teams, believing that the end was inevitable for Richmond.

However, the local club tried to look cute with their stick-handling during a three-on-three situation and the resulting goal seemed to signal the opening of the floodgates at both ends of the rink.

The hometown squad bulldozed their way into the Vernon zone for a second goal before the Lakers closed the first period with another marker to take a 4-2 lead.

Three goals by each club in the second period set up a 7-5 lead for Vernon heading into the third frame. They added a power-play goal early in the third for a three-goal advantage, then regained that advantage after the Sockeyes notched one of their own.

Then the disaster unfolded. Barry Kress, who scored five goals on the night for the Sockeyes, started the ball rolling with another power-play goal and eventually scored the game-winner as well.

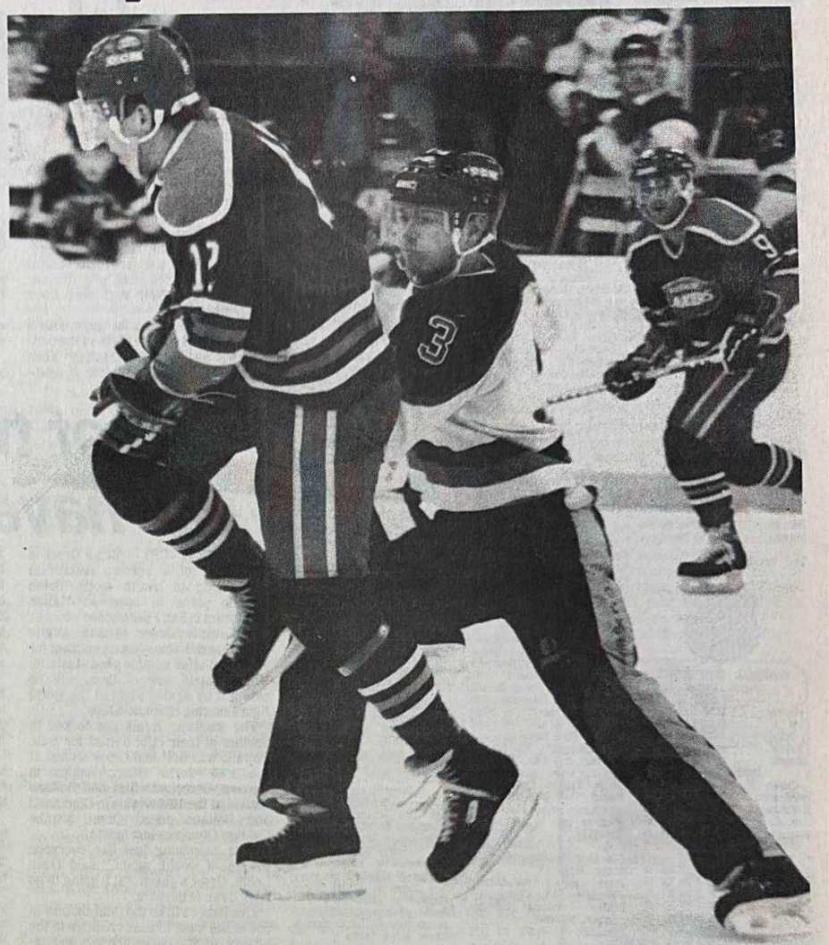
Other Richmond scorers included Rob Clarke, Brian McFarlane, Dan Walton, Wayne Stripp and Keith Fair.

Jamie Steer scored a pair for Vernon who outshot the Sockeyes 45-36. Singles came off the sticks of Ian Alger, Mike Paller, Mark Greyeyes, Shawn Hendry, Dallas Drake, Mike Barkley, and Greg Parnell.

A deviation from their usual game format resulted in a windfall of points for Kress and his linemates. In the three previous games the Lakers held the high-scoring line almost off the scoreboard but for some reason they elected not to cover the trio like a blanket Wednesday night.

"We weren't too concerned with matching lines tonight," explained Gare. "We have to play 60 minutes of hockey, that's all. We thought we had the game won before the game was over."

Game time Saturday night is 8 p.m.



DALLAS DRAKE and the Vernon Lakers were flying high but the Richmond Sockeyes, including defenceman Rick Herbert (3) brought them down to earth with a stunning 10-9 come-from-behind victory Wednesday night in game four at the Richmond Arena. The Lakers lead the BCJHL Championship series 3-1 and can continue their postponed celebration Saturday night with a home-ice victory in game five. (Daily News Photo)

Vernon nordic skiers dominate Tips-Up event

Members of the North Okanagan Cross-country Ski Club dominated the third race in the Tips-Up Series which took place last weekend at Larch Hills Ski Area near Salmon Arm.

Six members of the local NOCCSC placed first in their respective categories while four others placed second and a number of other members placed well in their events also.

Among the first place finishers was Lars Taylor who recorded the fastest time of the day for the 10 km Classic Technique race. Taylor, skiing in the Junior Men's category, covered the distance in a time of 30:19.

Grace Ann Webb was first in the Junior Girls division with a time of 17:45 over a distance of 5 km.

Carly Maile was first in the one km event for seven and younger female skiers with a time of 9:45 while Chris Ertmoed was first in the boys' seven and younger category with a time of 8:24 over the one km distance.

In the Pee Wee Boys category, Craig Piggot was first with a time of 5:25 over a one km distance. Cory Ertmoed and Denis Maile, both of NOCCSC were second and fifth, respectively, with times of 6:02 and 7:35.

And, Rod Dagneau was first in the Master Men's division (20-29 years) with a time of 39:26 over 10 km.

In the Master Women's category (20-29 years) Wendy Dawson was second with a time of 49:21 over a distance of five km.

Also finishing second in their events were Doreen Jones and Paul Jones who competed in the Master Women and Master Men's categories. Doreen's time was 23:11 while Paul's time was 45:05 over a distance of 10 km.

Joyce Taylor was third in the Master Women category with a time of 23:18 ovr five km.

The Tips-Up Cup Series winds up with the last event March 26 at Sovereign Lake Ski Area near Vernon. That race will feature a free technique style of skiing.

Also in the near future are events such as the Cachon Canada Cup Series which takes place April 2 and 3. On April 2 the event features classic technique style and racing takes place at the Soverign Lake Area while the racing April 3 takes place at Silver Star Village and will be of a free technique relay variety.