

Lakers win

B.C. Junior Hockey League champs Vernon Lakers came out strong in the first Mowat Cup game, blasting Grande Prairie 6-1 to take the lead in the best of three series. Vernon can wrap up the series tonight with a win in the northern Alberta city. For more details on Friday's game, *turn to page 13.*

VERNON TAKES SERIES LEAD

Lakers explode in third period

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GRANDE PRAIRIE (Special) — The Vernon Lakers erupted for five unanswered third period goals to break a 1-1 deadlock and earn a convincing 6-1 victory over the Grande Prairie North Stars, Friday night.

The win puts Vernon just one win away from a rendezvous with the Alberta Junior Hockey League champion Calgary Canucks. The second game of the best-of-three provincial final series, with the Peace Cariboo League champs, takes place tonight, with the third game Sunday, if necessary.

The PCJHL winners threw a scare into the Lakers in the first period. They held a slight margin in play and emerged with a 1-1 draw.

The usually-high-flying Lakers appeared unable to find their playoff legs for the first 20 minutes. In addition, they received the lion's share of penalties from BCJHL referee Dave McClelland of Kelowna, which didn't help matters.

In the second game, the Lakers, who hadn't played in 13 days, began to exercise control over their opponents. By the end of 40 minutes they were carrying the play, but still couldn't get their second goal past North Stars' netminder Joe DeGirolamo.

In all fairness to the Lakers, Grande Prairie's number one goalie had a heaping helping of luck on his side. The Lakers continually set up glorious scoring opportunities only to have the puck roll off their sticks, rather than getting a decent shot on net.

The two teams battled through a scoreless second period.

By the third period it was obvious that DeGirolamo's luck had run out. The Lakers scored early, and often, in the final 20 minutes.

Jamie Steer tipped in a rebound off Ian Alger's shot to give the Lakers the lead and the club never looked back.

Alger, who scored the club's first period goal on a powerplay, lapsed into his typical grinding style of play to help the club exert its domination in the third period.

Less than a minute had elapsed after Steer's goal when Duane Dennis scored his first of two, third period markers to give the Lakers a 3-1 lead. Greg Parnell added another goal 33 seconds later turning the tight game into a route.

Dennis added the fifth goal when his long slapshot, from just inside the blue line beat DeGirolamo between the legs.

Steer, who had started the ball rolling early in the final stanza, closed the scoring with his second of the night at 14:33. He converted a picture-perfect passing play by defenceman Chad Biafore, who used his great speed to make an end-to-end rush and beat the defence wide before centering to Steer, who trailed in the slot.

Trent Tankewicz, with a powerplay marker, scored the lone Grande Prairie goal seven minutes into the first period.

While the Lakers were finding their legs, Vernon goaltender Glen Fry provided the club with outstanding service between the pipes. His incredible glove save off centre Joe Dragon, in the dying seconds of the second period, prevented the host team from entering the third period with the lead.

Fry made 36 saves while DeGirolamo faced 41 shots.

The game provided a lot of tense moments for Vernon Coach Ernie Gare, though the quiet mentor showed



JAMIE STEER



IAN ALGER

few outward signs of stress at any time during the night. Afterwards he was jubilant in his own understated way.

"The two-week layoff was evident in the first period, but you could see us coming in the second period," he said. "We just didn't have any luck around the net, that's all.

"We got a little frustrated in the first period because of the penalties, but we settled the guys down and got them to stick to their game plan."

Eventually the frustration reversed its trend and the North Stars began to show signs of hot tempers. Late in the game, Alger and Wade Wallan went a round of fisticuffs, with no clear winner, but a lot of punches landed by both players.

The frustration carried over after the game as North Stars' Coach Ken Head avoided interviews by the media.

Tonight's game will broadcast live, at 7:30 p.m., on CJIB Radio.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Vernon unbeaten on opening day

The Vernon United Carpet Pee Wee 'B' Hockey Team was undefeated after opening day play in its annual tournament, at the Civic Arena. Vernon edged Edmonton 6-5 and battled to a 4-4 deadlock with Chilliwack, Friday. In other games, Chilliwack nipped North Delta 4-3, Cowichan blasted Coquitlam 7-1, Kamloops whipped Langley 6-1, Edmonton trimmed North Delta 6-4, Langley trounced Coquitlam 6-1, and Kamloops fought to a 4-4 tie with Cowichan. The championshipp game is scheduled Sunday, at 2:45 p.m.

Rockies victorious

The Columbia Valley Rockies of the Kootenay International Hockey League won a pair of games, Friday, at the Western Canadian Junior 'B' Championships in Saskatoon. The Rockies defeated Saskatoon 3-1 and Edmonton 9-4. Columbia Valley is the junior 'B' affiliate of the Vernon Lakers.

T-Birds in Manila

The University of B.C. Thunderbirds have been selected to play in a major men's basketball tournament April 27 to May 6 in Manila. Vernon's J.D. Jackson was the leading scorers

Chiefs thumped

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — The Kamloops Blazers scored 10 powerplay goals Friday night en route to a 15-3 drubbing of the Spokane Chiefs in the opening game of the Western Hockey League's Western Division final series.

The second game in the best-of-nine series is here tonight.

Kamloops led 6-1 at the end of the first period and 11-2 at the end of the second.

Greg Hawgood led the attack with four goals. Randy Keller, Tony Horacek and Curt Lehner had two goals each. Garth Premak, Mark

Ryan foursome represents Canada

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (CP) — Edmonton's Pat Ryan has already played his way into the Canadian curling records.

He'll try to add yet another honor to his 1988 achievements when he tackles the best international curlers at the men's world championship which starts Monday.

The 32-year-old management accountant set new Canadian curling standards during the Labatt Brier at Chicoutimi, Que., last month with an untarnished 12-0 mark. Ryan's team was the first to go undefeated at the Canadian championship since the playoff format was introduced in 1980.

The Alberta rink begins play in the 10-team, round-robin world championship against France. Also competing in the twice-a-day preliminary round are West Germany, Finland, Scotland, the United States, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

After the round robin, the top four teams qualify for medals play next Saturday, with the winners of those two games meeting for the President's Cup on Sunday.

EUROPEANS WATCHING

Ryan, whose wife Penny was a gold medallist at the Calgary Olympics playing lead for Linda Moore, knows the European teams have already taken notice.