CALGARY IS THE NEXT STOP

Lakers sweep provincial series

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GRANDE PRAIRIE (Special) — The Vernon Lakers took command of two periods — the first and third, en route to a 7-2 victory over the Grande Prairie North Stars Saturday night. Vernon scored four times in the first period, then added three more tallies in the third frame to sandwich a two-goal effort by the hometown North Stars in the second stanza.

The win gave the Lakers, 14-1 in playoff action this season, a two-game sweep of their best-of-three Mowat Cup series with the North Stars, the Peace-Cariboo Junior Hockey League champions. Vernon left Grande Prairie Sunday morning for Calgary where they will meet the Calgary Canucks, winners of the Alberta Junior Hockey League.

Jamie Steer, who collected 119 points for the local club in regular season play scored a pair of goals and added three assists to lead the Vernon club who had trounced the North Stars 6-1 in game one of the brief series. The The PCJHL champs have never won a post-season game against their BCJHL counterparts.

Grande Pariarie elected to concentrate the bulk of their defensive efforts once again against Vernon star centre Dallas Drake and while they managed to hold the BCJHL scoring champ to just a goal and an assist in game two of the series, it took the heat off players like Steer who were more than willing to take over the offensive responsibilities for the Lakers.

After running up a 4-0 first period lead which included Drake's power-play goal and both of Steer's tallies, Vernon allowed the North Stars a pair of unanswered goals in the second period. Both were the result of defensive lapses by Vernon and by closing the gap to 4-2 after 40 minutes, the Grande Prairie club had renewed hope for the third stanza.

However, in the third frame the Lakers took complete control of the situation again and didn't allow the home-town North Stars to get any closer. Superb goaltending by Glen Fry once again helped the Vernon squad over some rough parts of the game. Fry ended up with 26 saves on the night and was called on to come up with some of the most outstanding work of the playoff season as the courageous, but underpowered North Stars never gave up once during the 60-minute contest.

"I thought these guys were as good as any team we've faced," said Fry following the game. "This league is underrated if you ask me."

After a lengthy layoff the Vernon squad looked much sharper than they had in game one of the series but they still didn't appear to be playing up to their capabilities — a fact which obviously hasn't escaped the watchful eye of Head Coach Ernie Gare either.

"We maybe didn't play up to our potential up here but that had a lot to do with the layoff," suggested Gare who sports a remarksable 95-32-2 coaching record in his two seasons with the Vernon club.

"It was certainly no cakewalk and we did play well defensively but Glen (Fry) played absolutely outstanding," added the Vernon coach. "He made some unbelievable saves."

Dane Jackson opened the first period with a goal at 1:45 with defenceman Wes Elliott doing all the groundwork before setting up the play that resulted in the goal. Elliott showed tremendous balance a he fended off several attempts by the North Stars to bring him down as he rushed up the ice and set up Jackson in the slot for the club's first goal.

Drake gave Vernon a 2-0 lead at 5:40 of the opening frame converting a passing play from Steer and Mark Greyeyes on the power-play. Steer closed the first period scoring with a pair of goals with Elliott drawing another assist and blueliner Chad Biafore cashing in on both tallies.

The Lakers encountered some penalty difficulties in the second period, going through the first five minutes of the stanza short-handed but they managed to successfully hold off the North Stars during this period of time. After that brief but anxious bout the club carried the play for the next 10 minutes but couldn't get anything by Grande Prairie goaltender Joe Degirilamo. At 13:06 of the frame North Stars' Dwayne Skaley broke in alone on Fry and finally put the hometown team on the scoreboard.

With some additional pressure on the Lakers, North Stars' Travis MacMillan was able to come up with a goal similar to Skaley to draw his team to within two goals of the Lakers after 40 minutes.

However, as was the case in game one of the series, the Lakers completely dominated the play in the third period. Five-year veteran Ian Alger scored a big goal for the local club at 5:36 of the third stanza to give the Lakers a three-goal lead once again. At 13:47 Greyeyes increased the lead to 6-2 while centre Greg Parnell, who had taken a punishing bodycheck earlier in the game, closed out the scoring at 16:52.

Following the game BCAHA representative Terry Skarbo presented the Mowat Cup to Lakers' captain Mike Paller. Paller's older brother Tim had also been a Mowat Cup Champion in 1986 with the Penticton Knights.



SPEEDY WINGER Mark Greyeyes scored one goal and added two assists to help the Vernon Lakers dump the Grande Prairie North Stars 7-2 in the Mowat Cup final, Saturday night. The Lakers swept the best-of-three series in two games. (Daily News Photo)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Great week for local bowler

Arnold Baron has the honor of being named Bowler of the Week at two local bowling alleys. Baron was recently honored at the Polson Bowling Centre after he rolled a 696 triple, 153 pins over his 181 average. Then, at Lincoln Lanes, he recorded a three-game total of 762, 195 pins over his 189 average. The female Bowlers of the Week were Rose Collins, at Polson, and Linda Jezewsky, at Lincoln Lanes. Collins had a 741 triple, 207 pins over her 178 average. Jezewsky rolled an 801, 225 pins above her 192 average.

Twinbill sweeps

The Village Green Old Stockers, Killer Bees, and Sunshine Honda Devils swept doubleheaders in Kokanee Men's Slowpitch League play, Sunday. The Old Stockers downed Waddys 17-1 and 15-5; the Devils defeated the Toros T-Men 5-4 and 16-6; and the Bees hammered Chevron 45-9 and 31-7.

Umpiring clinic

Anyone interested in umpiring baseball is invited to attend a clinic next Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Polson Park. For further information phone Don Knox at 542-8927.

Drop-in gym

Drop-in gymnasium sessi8ons are now scheduled on Monday and Thursday nights at the Priest Valley Gymnasium. Men's drop-in basketball takes place both nights, at 7 p.m. An open gym is planned Mondays, at 8:30 p.m., and a teen open gym will be held Thursdays, at 8:30 p.m.

Holyfield victorious

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Evander Holyfield, who stopped Carlos DeLeon but couldn't put him down in winning the undisputed cruiserweight title, now must show he can punch as a heavyweight.

Holyfield scored his sixth-straight knockout Saturday night, stopping DeLeon, the World Boxing Council cruiserweight champion, in the eighth round. Afterward, he reaffirmed his plans to campaign as a heavyweight and challenge its champion, Mike Tyson.

"I'm ready for anything," said

Naslund sidelined

HARTFORD (CP) — Left winger Mats Naslund of the Montreal Canadiens has been sidelined with a right knee injury and general manager Serge Savard says it's a big blow to the NHL team.

Naslund, who suffered the injury Saturday, is to be examined in Montreal today by Dr. Eric Lenczner, the team doctor, after the Canadiens return from the series with the Whalers.

Gene Gaudet, the Canadiens therapist who examined Naslund, said the injury may be only a pulled or stretched muscle.

Aquino wins fight

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Lupe Aquino scored three knockdowns over Milton McCrory and captured a 10-round majority decision in a junior middleweight bout Sunday.

Aquino, the former World Boxing Council 154-pound champion, decked McCrory with left hooks in the second and fifth rounds. He was credited with a third knockdown via the standing eight count when he had McCrory trapped against the ropes in the eighth.

Quesnel leads series

QUESNEL, B.C. (CP) — The Quesnel Kangaroos scored four goals in the first period and then cruised to an easy 6-1 victory Sunday over the Regina Lakers in Hardy Cup senior AA hockey action.

The Kangaroos, who dropped a 5-1 decision to the Lakers on Saturday

Lakers return next weekend

The Centennial Cup playoffs resume Tuesday with the Calgary Canucks hosting the Vernon Lakers in the opening game of the best-of-seven B.C.-Alberta series.

The series shifts to Vernon next weekend, but the exact day won't be determined until after the first two games are played in Calgary.

Here are the options:

(1) If either the Lakers or the Canucks win the first two games in the series, the third game will be played Saturday night at the Vernon Civic Arena. All remaining games would also be played in Vernon.

(2) If the teams split the first two games, the third confrontation will take place Thursday night, in Calgary. The series would then shift to Vernon for the fourth game, Sunday. Again, all remaining games would be played at the Civic Arena.

Advance tickets, for the first game in Vernon, will go on sale Thursday, at 11 a.m., at the Civic Arena box office.