THREE GOALS IN OVERTIME

# Canucks take 2-0 lead in series



VERNON LAKERS' defenceman Shawn Hendry forces a Calgary Canucks' forward towards the boards during junior 'A' hockey playoff action, Wednesday, in Calgary. Hendry scored in the third period to pull the Lakers into a 4-4 tie, but the Canucks came back with three goals in overtime.
(Daily News Photo)

CALGARY (Special) — The Calgary Canucks scored three times, including an empty net goal, during a 10-minute overtime period to defeat the Vernon Lakers 7-4 in game two of their best-of-seven Western Canada Junior A semi-final series, Wednesday.

The win gives the Alberta Junior Hockey League champs a 2-0 lead in the series with the remaining games to be played in Vernon, beginning Saturday night.

The Lakers, champions of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, battled back from Calgary leads all night to earn a 4-4 tie at the end of regulation time. Shawn Hendry scored the lone goal of the third period to lift Vernon into the tie and force overtime, but the Lakers faded quickly in extra time while the Canucks seemed to get stronger.

Veteran Mike Bertamini scored what proved to be the winner at 4:16 of the overtime period. Dean Larson then beat Glen Fry with a hard wrist-shot at 7:46 to give Calgary an insurance marker. Brock Mura added insult to injury with an empty-net goal at 9:43.

The Canucks opened the scoring with a pair of first period goals, one by Bertamini at 5:01 and another by Rob Sallis at the 8:16 point when Betamini's innocent-looking attempt to keep the puck inside the Vernon blueline was deflected past Fry.

Undaunted, the Lakers kept fighting and at 17:44 Kevin Harder beat goaltender Buddy Brazier after Greg Parnell's centering pass left him all alone at the side of the net. Harder was one of two Junior B players called up from the Columbia Valley Rockies, Monday.

Though Vernon was outshot almost two-to-one in the opening period, the shots on goal were hardly indicative of the play. The Lakers outplayed the host club as they did for most of the night but couldn't quite finish up around the net or get a lucky bounce of the puck. Canucks, on the other hand, seemed to get their share of lucky breaks.

In the second period, the Lakers pressed Calgary from the opening and managed to draw even once again at 7:49 when Chad Biafore bolted in from the top of the circle to put a rebound by Brazier.

The Lakers then killed off three consecutive minor penalties, including a double minor to Hendry assessed by referee George McCorry of Edmonton. However, immediately after they had successfully killed the three penalties, Chad Onichenko was credited with a goal that put Calgary ahead 3-2.

Mark Greyeyes tied the score at 3-3 when he put a blast past Brazier while his teammates had the Canucks confused during a goalmouth scramble.

However, Calgary closed the period with a goal at 19:55. Dave Loewen was credited with a soft goal after Glen Fry came out of the net to clear the puck only to have it roll under his stick and through his legs into the net.

Vernon outshot the Canucks 39-37 including the overtime period.

Calgary Coach Don Phelps said that he had expected the Lakers to be much tougher than they were in the first game and in spite of the score, he was correct.

"I expected them to be tougher and they were," said the Calgary coach. "They actually played better than us most of the time.

"We struggled in the third period but we got stronger in overtime. But they took the skate away from us during the game. I'll give them that."

Meanwhile, Vernon Coach Ernie Gare, disappointed with the loss after outplaying his opposition most of the night, tried to put the loss into his own perspective.

"We played well enough to win but we didn't capitalize on our chances," he said. "We took it to them right away in overtime but we just didn't get any breaks around the net."

Down by two games heading back home, the Lakers need a win desperately on Saturday night at the Civic Arena. Phelps isn't too worried about the first game back in Vernon since his two wins at home offers him a chance to breath easier in Vernon.

"These two wins give us the luxury of feeling them out back there," he explained. "I've got a hunch that there's going to be a lot of bumping and grinding in that small rink in Vernon."

Though the Lakers previously enjoyed playing on a large ice-surface, Gare admits that the club will be glad to get back to the more friendly and familiar confines of the Civic Arena.

"I thought we played very well for not playing in this rink before this series," he said.

# Vernon hosts remaining games

The Western Canada junior 'A' hockey semi-finals shift to Vernon this weekend.

The Calgary Canucks took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series by defeating the Vernon Lakers 7-3 and 7-4 in overtime, in Calgary. All remaining games will be played in the Vernon Civic Arena.

Game three is scheduled Saturday, at 8 p.m., and the fourth game is slated for Sunday, at 7 p.m. Tickets for both games are available today, until 6 p.m., at the arena ticket office. Any remaining tickets, including standing room, will be on sale Saturday, at 11 a.m.

The remaining games, if necessary, will be played Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 7:30 p.m.

The winner of the series meets the Notre Dame Hounds or the Winnipeg South Blues in the Western Canada final series.

The Hounds, from Wilcox, Sask., outshot the Blues 39-17 to skate away with a 6-4 victory in the opening game, Wednesday night.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

# Ryan clinches top spot