VERNON LAKERS

Lakers out

It was a squeaker, but the 3-2 win by Calgary Canucks was enough to eliminate the Vernon Lakers from going on in the quest for the Centennial Cup. Canucks won the Western Canada semi-final four games to none bringing the Lakers' best season ever to an end. The team honors its players Wednesday. Look in the Daily News Thursday for photos and a story from the wind-up banquet and awards night. For more on Sunday's series-ending game, turn to page 7.

LAKERS OUSTED IN FOUR GAMES

Canucks sweep playoff series

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Chalk up another one to Murphy's Law.

Murphy suggested that anything that can go wrong probably will go wrong and that was basically the story of the Vernon Lakers Sunday night.

In the first period, the Lakers received a five-minute high-sticking major, then had a goal disallowed, then gave up a gift goal to the visiting Calgary Canucks . . . enough bad luck for a whole game never mind one period.

In the end, it was the first period gift that made the difference as the Canucks went on to defeat the Lakers 3-2 and sweep their best-of-seven Centennial Cup western semi-final series 4-0.

Saturday night the Canucks hammered out an identical 3-2 victory, overcoming a 2-0 deficit with a power-play goal, a short-handed tally, and finally an even-strength marker in the third period to earn the win.

Sunday, Mark Jiranek scored at 10:14 of the third period to win it for the Alberta Junior Hockey League champs, who now advance to meet the Notre Dame Hounds in the western final series.

Jiranek's goal came just a minute and nine seconds after Vernon defenceman Darcy Martini had blown one of his patented slapshots from the point past Calgary goaltender Buddy Brazier to draw even with the visitors.

Martini had lots of time to wind up to the rafters and choose his target carefully before scoring the Lakers' second goal.

Jiranek's goal came during a goalmouth scramble as the Canucks bulldozed their way through the Vernon defence and hacked away until the light came on.

In the first period, Dave Loewen put Calgary up 1-0 when he and Mike Bertamini combined to trap Vernon Lakers' goaltender Glen Fry out of the net. Fry came out to play the puck, but Bertamini blocked the clearing attempt and found Loewen open with an empty net to shoot at.

Vernon tied the game at 5:24 of the second period when Dane Jackson scored a short-handed goal — the second of the series for the Lakers.

However, before the period was barely half over, Colin Baustad put Calgary on top once again.

The second period, like the first, was a frustrating one for the Lakers but in a different way. The local club outplayed the visitors by a wide margin and outshot them 21-7, but only managed to get one shot past Brazier.

The Lakers continued to outplay Calgary through the third frame but again managed only to match the visitors goal-for-goal on the scoreboard.

"Their style of game fits this rink but we just had a lot of luck going for us," explained the Calgary goaltender who would have to qualify as the series most valuable player.

Brazer faced 47 shots on the night while Fry was only slightly less busy for Vernon facing 33 drives.



DANE JACKSON DARCY MARTINI

"I thought we had the better defence but the goaltending proved to be the difference," said Calgary Coach Don Phelps. "We stole it (game) tonight (Sunday) but we still won four in a row.

"From one standpoint it was a cheap goal but sometimes you have to have the bounce once in a while and we really had it," referring to the first period gift goal.

Meanwhile, Vernon Head Coach Ernie Gare tried to be as philosophical about defeat as he possibly could though it was a bitter pill to swallow after the team's tremendous success rate until this series.

"It just wasn't in the cards," said Gare who compiled a 14-5 won-loss playoff record this season. "We outshot them and outplayed them and our guys never quit — everyone who was here could see that."

In Saturday's game, Greg Parnell and Ian Alger each scored once for Vernon, which outshot Calgary 43-37. Jiranek, Bertamini, and Dean Larson replied for the Canucks.



JAMIE STEER poke-checks Calgary forward Dave Loewen during first period action Sunday night at the Civic Arena. Loewen scored the first goal for the Canucks who defeated Vernon 3-2 for the second consecutive night and won the series 4-0.
(Daily News Photo)

'GRAZIER WAS GREAT'

Calgary goaltender made the difference

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

As his junior hockey career nears its conclusion, goaltender Buddy Grazier is finally getting some respect.

Grazier, more than anyone else, is responsible for leading the Calgary Canucks past the Vernon Lakers in the Centennial Cup playdowns. Vernon outshot Calgary in all four games. But, Grazier blocked a total of 148 shots while posting a 2.75 goals against aaverage.

"Gaoltending won the series for us," said Canucks' Head Coach Don Phelps. "After the first two games in Calgary, I felt we could win the series with our defence . . . I thought we had seven good defencemen and they only had three. But, Buddy turned out to be the difference."

Grazier, a native of Prince George, spent a lot of time looking for a team to play with in the past four years.

He played two seasons with the Fort St. John Huskies of the Peace Cariboo Junior League after unsuccessful tryouts with Langley, Nanaimo, Merritt, and Abbotsford of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

"I always had good training camps, but for one reason or another, I was always the odd man out," Grazier said. After his first season with the Huskies, he earned a job with Merritt. "But I couldn't get my release from Fort St. John so I went back up there," he said.

Grazier spent the 1986-87 season with Mt. Royal College, in Calgary. "But, I couldn't make it there this year so I went to the Canucks," he said. And they're glad he did.

The 20-year-old netminder kicked out 45 shots, Sunday, but feels his best game of the season was Saturday when he blocked 41 shots and surrendered just two goals.

"I was really sharp Saturday," he said. "I felt like I could stop every shot."

Vernon fans who watched Grazier stop the Lakers' snipers time after time, from point blank range, will find it difficult to believe that he could be any sharper. But, Calgary assistant coach Peter Steele said his netminder was even better against the Red Deer Rustlers in the Alberta Junior 'A' Hockey League playoffs.

"He played well here, but Buddy was better against Red Deer," Steele said. "He single-handedly won two games for us."

The Lakers did everything, without success, to distract Grazier. For most of the series, he was screened or harassed in his crease area. And he laid motionless on the ice for two minutes after being decked by centre Greg Parnell late in the first period. But, he bounced back and refused to be intimidated.

During the final three minutes, when Vernon applied almost constant pressure, Grazier kicked out five shots, including a blast by BCJHL scoring champion Dallas Drake, from the edge of the crease.

Lakers' Head Coach Ernie Gare felt Grazier was the prime reason his club lost the series. "Before the series, the scouting report told us that their weakness was goaltending," Gare said. "But the opposite turned out to be true. He was great . . . he was the difference."

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Editor — DON KENDALL

Seaton third at meet

A team of junior track athletes from W.L. Seaton School placed third in their competition while the Vernon school's senior boys' track team placed sixth overall at the 40th Annual Vancouver Relays.

The annual high school track meet attracted a field of more than 500 athletes, representing 40 schools, from throughout B.C.

The Seaton junior squad compiled 56 and one half points to take third spot. The winning team, Sentinel, of Vancouver, accumulated 99 points. Second place went to New Westminster Secondary School with 75 points.

Meanwhile, the Seaton senior boys picked up 29 points — good enough for sixth place overall. First place in the senior boys' competition went to Queen Elizabeth Secondary School of Surrey with 66 points. Burnaby Central was second with 63 points.

Anchoring the junior team's achievement were the 4x100 junior and bantam relay teams, which placed third in their respective competitions.

The junior team, consisting of Annette VandeMortal, Leah Courchene, Christy McQuillan, and Nancy Galanis, had a time of 59.7 seconds.

The bantams, including Verlane Becher, Concentta McKinney, Nicole Pattie, and Cheryl Courchene covered the distance in a time of 58.6 seconds.

On an individual basis, Courchene was second in the junior girls' 100m event with a time of 13.9 seconds. VandeMortal was fourth in the same event with a time of 14.5 seconds.

In the junior boys' long jump, Kevin Yakimovitch was third with a jump of 5.22m while Jason Majortoff was fifth with a jump of 5.05m.

In the junior shot put, Lee Blondeau was sixth with a throw of 9.69m. Nancy Galanis was sixth in the junior high jump event with a jump of 1.31m.

The senior boys' 4x800m relay team placed third in their event to anchor the senior squad. The four, including Jason Sutherland, David Johnstone, Brendan Robertson, and Ian Johnstone had a time of 10 minutes, 1.2 seconds.

David Jonstone was strong individually with two third place medals including a showing in the 5,000m event and the senior boys' pole vault.

In the open pole vault, Darcy Quiring was second with a height of 3.05m while Jason Meger, clearing 2.80m, was third. Brendan Robertson was sixth clearing a height of 2.22m.

And, David Tung was sixth in the open javelin throwing competition with a throw of 37.76m.

Only one other Vernon athlete, Neil Van Beers of Fulton Secondary School, placed in the meet. Van Beers, a distance runner, was second in the junior boys' 3,000m race with a time of nine minutes, 46 seconds. Van Beers also placed third in the 1,500m event with a time of 4:35.0.

McNulty fires 66

CANNES, France (AP) — Mark McNulty won the $367,000 Cannes Open golf tournament Sunday with a final day charge of 6-under-parr 66.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Local bowlers in zone finals

Two Vernon bowling teams have qualified for the B.C. Seniors Games zone playdowns. A team comprised of Tillie Bruce, Jessie and Ed Lozanski, Peggy Bailey, and Karl Thomas won the house rolloffs, Saturday, at Lincoln Lanes. The quintet of Ray and Grace McMullen, Wes and Rosemary Johnson, and Pat Bell was second in the house round. Vernon will host the B.C. Seniors Games, June 14-16.

Grant approved

VICTORIA — The Vernon Golf and Country Club has been awarded a $7,000 grant from the British Columbia Lottery Fund to help purchase an aerifier and lockers, Provincial Secretary Elwood Veitch announced today. Veitch, minister responsiblef for the Fund, said the golf club, the largest in the Vernon area, attracts 4,000 visitors a year. Lyall Hanson, Minister of Labour and Consumer Services and MLA for Okanagan North, joined in making the announcement. "The club has an active Junior Development Program with 148 members who are encouraged to participate in all local events," he said. "I am pleased that the Lottery Fund is able to assist with this worthwhile community endeavour."

Alysheba wins

ARCADIA, Calif. (AP) — Alysheba edged Ferdinand by a nose in the $530,000 San Bernardino Handicap at Santa Anita in the third meeting of the two Kentucky Derby champions.

Argentine-bred Good Taste finished a close third Sunday.

Alysheba has beaten Ferdinand twice. Alysheba also won the $1-million Santa Anita Derby last month. Ferdinand won in the $3-million Breeders' Cup Classic last November at Hollywood Park.

Smith leads attack

TORONTO (CP) — Bev Smith of Salmon Arm, B.C., scored 30 points to lead Canada to a 86-83 victory over China in a pre-Olympic basketball tournament Sunday night in front of 1,600 spectators at York University.

Carol Hamilton of Sudbury, Ont., came off the bench to score 21 points and Andrea Blackwell of Lennoxville, Que., added 11. Six-foot-eight Zheng Haixia scored 30 points for China.

Australia defeated West Germany 74-60 in the bronze-medal game.

Smith was named the tournament's most valuable player.

The Canadian team leaves for Brazil on Thursday for a tournament involving teams from Brazil, Yugoslavia and Italy.

$1 million club

HOUSTON (AP) — Chi Chi Rodriguez became the fourth player to earn $1 million on the Senior Tour when he shot a final-round 69 Sunday and won the Doug Sanders Celebrity Classic golf tournament by two strokes with a 54-hole total of 8-under-par 208.

Following Rodriguez, who eagled the par-5 16th hole, were second-round leader and former NFL quarterback John Brodie and Miller Barber.

HABS HOST BRUINS

The National Hockey League playoffs resume tonight with the Wales Conference semi-final games. At 4:30 p.m., the Montreal Canadiens host the Boston Bruins on CBC (Channel 13). Tonight's other game has the New Jersey Devils meeting the Washington Capitals. The Campbell Conference semi-finals get under way Tuesday.

Dewalt available

VANCOUVER (CP) — Quarterback Roy Dewalt has become a free agent following a B.C. Supreme Court ruling Friday.

The B.C. Lions were ruled to have breached Dewalt's contract because the Canadian Football League team did not pay Dewalt a $50,000 US bonus on Feb. 1, said Dewalt's lawyer Dale Sanderson, and his agent Vic Morriss.

The Lions also owe Dewalt $9,300 for public appearances and are subject to claims for damages over the

Martina wins tourney

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. (AP) — Martina Navratilova used a strong serve-and-volley game to defeat Gabriela Sabatini 6-0, 6-2 in 53 minutes Sunday and win a $300,000 tennis tournament.

McEnroe sharp

TOKYO (AP) — For one day, at least, John McEnroe looked like his old self.

"I played up-and-down in the last year and a half, but it's good to win a