Third period goals help Lakers to win

Revenge was never sweeter.

The Vernon Lakers scored three unanswered third-period goals to double the visiting Portland Winter Hawks 6-3 Saturday night in an exhibition encounter at the Civic Arena.



ERNIE GARE

The victory avenged a 10-6 loss at the hands of the major junior Portland club Thursday night in Osoyoos, a game which featured a number of fights and a good deal of chippy play by both clubs. There was more of the same Saturday night but this time the Lakers were prepared for what they were facing.

"Actually it wasn't as bad as in Osoyoos but they (Winter Hawks) didn't seem to be able to take a hit without a lot of punching and shoving after the whistle," explained Vernon coach Ernie Gare.

"I was happy with the way our guys played and stood up for themselves," he added. "The kids bounced back well — they had their eyes opened in Osoyoos. We really controlled the game in the third period."

The teams battled to a 1-1 deadlock during the first 20 minutes. The Winter Hawks put a quick goal on the scoreboard but played short-handed through most of the period. Vernon put a power-play goal past starting netminder Byron Dafoe late in the frame.

The two teams scored a pair of goals each in the second frame to retire to dressing rooms with a 3-3 tie after 40 minutes.

Bill Lindsay, who scored 50 goals as a 16-year old in the Kootenay International Junior "B" League last year, Jim Inkster, a former Kamloops midget, and Cory Carlson, who played in the United States Junior Hockey League last year, all scored once in the first two periods for Vernon.

Chad Biafore, formerly with the Lakers, Jeff Resler, and Brian Gourlie replied for the Winter Hawks.

Veteran forward Greg Olson put the game-winner on the board late in the third period (15:42). Then Cam Sylen, who played in the Calgary Buffalo Midget Hockey League last season, and Rob Atkinson, a veteran of the Nova Scotia Junior "A" League, added insurance markers.

Brian Langelot and Randy McGrew combined to make 33 saves in the Jeman net. Dafoe made 22 saves and was replaced by Dean Entwert who made 15 more saves for Portland.

While Gare was happy with the way his club played he's now faced with the task of paring at least three more players from the roster in order to make the 21-player limit for the regular season.

"These last cuts will be very important so we want to be sure we're making the right choices," Gare said. "We've still got three local kids and we want to have a good look at them — we'd like one or two of them to go to Invermere (Junior "B") but we want to talk with them first."

The three include defenceman Jim Anderson and Ryan Loxam, along with forward Scott Kowalski. All three turned in solid performances Saturday night which doesn't make the job of making cuts any easier.

"We've got some tough decisions to make to get down to our 21 players," Gare said.

The Lakers open the regular season Friday night at the Civic Arena when they host the Salmon Arm Tigers. Game time is 8 p.m.

Friday afternoon, the club will host a "meet the Lakers" luncheon at the Vernon Lodge Hotel. Guest speaker will be BCJHL President Bruce Allison.