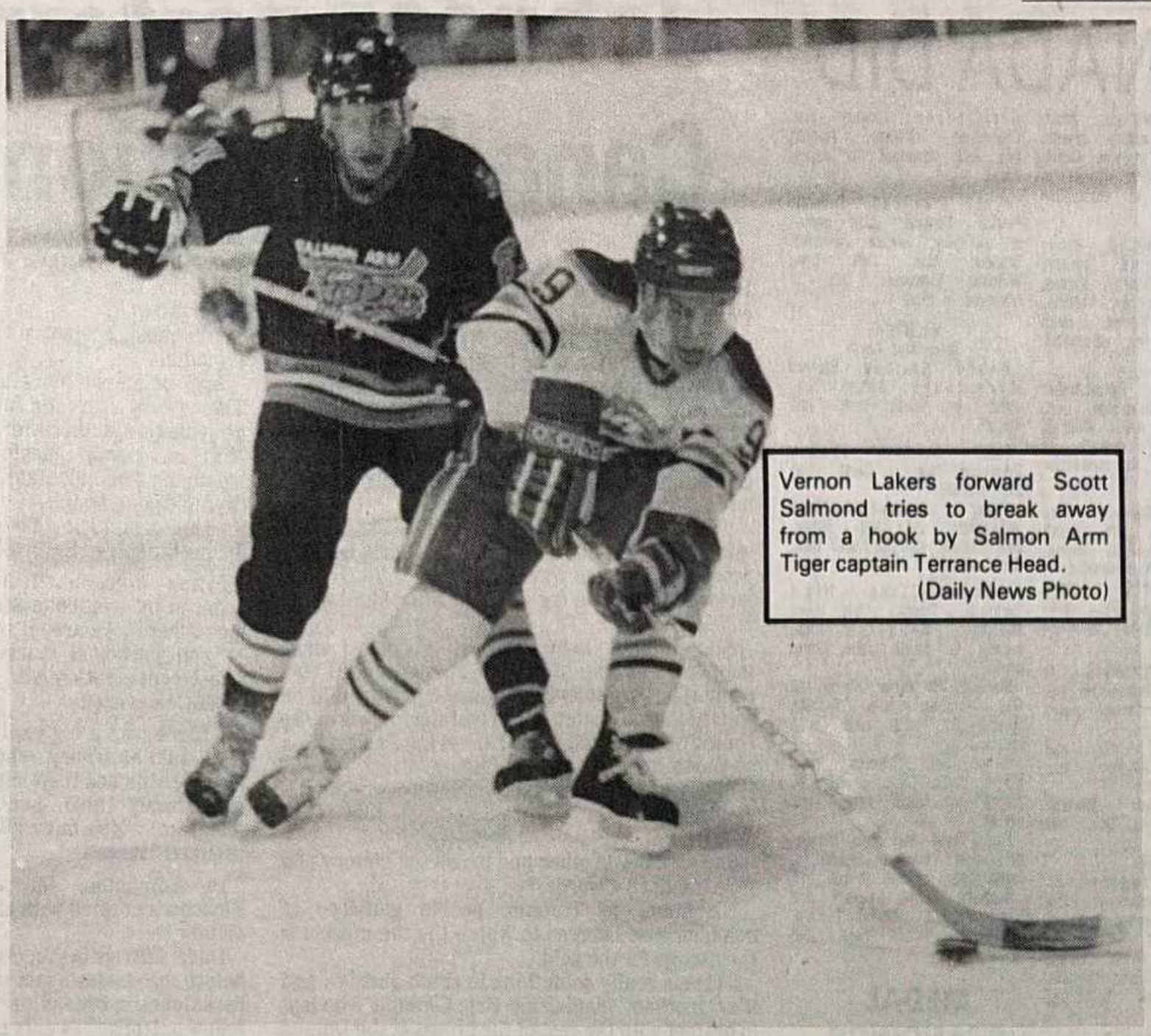


Vernon Lakers forward Scott Salmond tries to break away from a hook by Salmon Arm Tiger captain Terrance Head.
(Daily News Photo)

Overtime goal gives Tigers win over Lakers

By AL PATERSON
Daily News Sports

The last shot won.

The trouble for the Vernon Lakers was that a Salmon Arm Tiger took that final shot. Sean Nolan rifled a slapshot past Brian Langlot on the glove side Friday night at the Civic Arena to give the visiting Tigers a 9-8 overtime victory over the Lakers in the first regular B.C. Junior Hockey League season game for both teams.

The Tigers got the jump on the Lakers with three quick goals on starting Vernon goaltender Randy McGrew. Six seconds into the contest Salmon Arm took the lead on a goal by Rick Crandelmire. By the 5:29 mark of the opening period the Tigers led 3-0 after getting goals from Bob Moon and Greg Shulte. Then it was th Lakers' turn.

Tony Szabo, Cam Sylven and Corey Carlson, on a backhander at 16:39, pulled the Lakers even. It took the Lakers only six minutes and two seconds to pull level but they gave the lead back to Salmon Arm with a poor clearing attempt that Bob Moon intercepted and whipped home.

Tony Szabo's second goal of the game, an unassisted, shorthanded effort at 19:39, sent the teams to their dressing rooms after the opening 20 minutes tied at four.

The teams settled down in the middle period and it was 6-6 after 40 minutes. Salmon Arm took a 5-4 lead when Wes Elliott, just back with the Lakers after being a late cut by the Portland Winter Hawks of the Western Hockey League, scored on his own net while trying to clear a rebound. Rod Ewacha got credit for the goal because he was the last Salmon Arm player to touch the puck before it went into the net.

Greg Shulte's second goal of the night, a high wrist shot to the glove side of McGrew at 5:34, gave Salmon Arm a two-goal bulge.

Szabo's hat trick marker, a power play goal at 11:23 got Vernon going again and Adrian Markin banked a shot into the Tiger net off defenceman Matt Phillips to tie the game.

Wayne Kirbyson and Drew Kaiser fashioned the Tiger goals in the third period but Vernon battled back from a two-goal deficit on goals by Duane Dennis and Bill Lindsay.

The Lakers had a glorious chance to win the game in regulation time when Duane Dennis went in alone with five seconds left to play. He elected to try and deke Salmon Arm goaltender Guy Basaraba but Basaraba stood his ground and made the save.

In overtime, both teams had chances to score but the turning point came when Vernon defenceman Greg Olson fell while making a turn. That allowed Sean Nolan to streak down the right wing and uncork a bullet that went past Langlot for the game-winning goal.

The Lakers hit the road tonight for Merritt. The next home game for Vernon is Tuesday night when the Penticton Knights make their first visit to the Civic Arena.

In other games Friday, the Nanaimo Clippers beat the Kelowna Packers 3-1 and the Merritt Centennials defeated the Penticton Knights 9-5.

Clippers 3, Packers 1

Dan Gibson scored two goals to lead Nanaimo.

Darcy Pruden scored once for the Clippers and Rick Dundas came up with Kelowna's only goal in a game that didn't break open until the third period.

The teams were tied at 1-1 after the first and second periods.

Nanaimo goalie Damian Holland made 36 saves while Kelowna's Denis Casey stopped 25 shots on goal.

The win gives Nanaimo a 2-1 record while the losing effort was Kelowna's season opener.

Centennials 9, Knights 5

Al Rushton scored three goals for Merritt, Scott Didman had a pair and singles came from Cal McGowan, Gary Taylor and Bill Birks.

Penticton got goals from Trevor Skakun, Darryl Mitchell, Mike Bonde, Brad Fallis and Shayne Green.

Merritt led 5-1 at the end of the first period and 8-3 after two.

Lorne Bellan stopped 32 shots for Merritt while Scott Austin and Wade Parker combined to stop 33 shots.

In BCJHL action tonight, Vernon visits Merritt, Powell River plays host to Nanaimo, Kelowna takes on Cowichan Valley in Duncan and New Westminster is at Chilliwack.

B.C. Lions fall to soggy Stampeders

CALGARY (CP) — The Calgary Stampeders are getting used to playing in the rain; and they're finding success doing it.

Rain has plagued the Stampeders at home often this season and although the heavy, day-long rainfall kept most of the fans away Friday night, Rick Worman showed up to play.

And play he did.

"It was a great feeling," Worman said after directing the Stampeders to touchdowns on their first three possessions en route to a 40-22 CFL win over the slumping B.C. Lions.

The win, Calgary's third straight, pulled them into a tie with B.C., each at 5-7, for third place in the West.

"I got my job back and I wanted to be on top of my game like I could," Worman added while drying himself off in a noisy Calgary dressing room.

The third-year Stampeder has been having problems with consistency and proving to head coach Lary Kuharich that he deserves the starting quarterback job.

With only about 5,000 of the announced attendance of 17,578 on hand because of the rain and four-degree temperatures, Worman earned that in the game's first 14 minutes.

He drove Calgary to three touchdowns in that time for a comfortable 21-1 lead.

"They got off on us," said B.C. coach Larry Donovan. "Boom, boom, boom they put three down the field and all of a sudden we find ourselves in a 21-point deficit. Each time our guy just got beat."

REAL DOUBT

The only real doubt after that was whether the Lions, now on a three-game losing streak, could reduce the difference to less than the 13 points they had won by at home.

They got it down to 15 points twice. But each time the B.C. offence self-destructed through turnovers or penalties.

The Stampeders rallied with 16 fourth-quarter points, ensuring them the edge because of a better points differential if the teams are tied for the final playoff berth at the end of the season.

"It goes to show that if people use their skills and just let themselves play like they're capable, we have some big-play people and when you have that, you put points on the board," Kuharich said.