Lakers make big turn around following home opening loss

The Vernon Lakers went from one extreme to the other in a span of 24 hours.

Friday night the local club turned in a pitiful display on defence and ended up losing a 9-8 overtime decision to the Salmon Arm Tigers. But a much-improved team boarded the bus for Merritt Saturday night and skated to a 9-1 B.C. Junior Hockey League triumph.

"We played much better as a whole team behind the blueline," said Laker Head Coach Ernie Gare. "Against Salmon Arm, our goaltender (Randy McGrew) was extremely nervous and our goaltending wasn't settled down.

"We came back with Brian Langlot against Merritt and he played very well for us," added Gare. "But, like I say, we played better as a team behind our own blueline."

The win leaves Vernon with a 1-1 record and a share of second place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division.

When they got the puck to the other end of the rink, Tony Szabo proved he knows what to do with it.

Szabo, a 20-year old from Michigan, popped in two goals against Merritt and coupled with his three goals Saturday, now has five for the regular season.

Jim Inkster potted his first goal as a Laker while Duane Dennis had a goal and an assist. Rookie Scott Salmond scored once and added a pair of helpers.

The score, according to Gare, flattered Merritt. Only Al Rushton could beat Langlot for the Merritt marker.

"Their goalie, Lauren Belland played very well, especially in the first period when we outshot them 21-6 and he held them in the game," said Gare.

Vernon led 1-0 and 4-1 after the first two periods.

Belland had to leave the game in the third period due to a knee injury. His replacement was Jim Jensen of Revelstoke. The saves for both teams were equal at 37.

While Gare's charges rested Sunday, their Head Coach didn't. Gare was in Salmon Arm watching the Tigers whip the Penticton Knights 7-3. The reason for Gare's being in Salmon Arm was to scout the Knights in preparation for Penticton's first visit of the season to Vernon. The Knights will be the visitors Tuesday night for a game that starts at 8 p.m.

The Lakers have found a man to replace Eddie Johnstone as an assistant coach. In fact, he was under their noses all the time.

"Keith Chase is our new assistant coach," said Gare. "He'll do basically the same thing as Eddie did, he'll be our eye-in-the-sky, responsible for providing us with some statistics and he'll have a different perspective of the game from the press box.

"And, Keith will have an on-ice role in practice," added Gare. "He'll be helping George (Fargher) with the defencemen. Chase played for us for a couple of years and he was always a character player. I think he'll be a good influence on the kids. We're very glad to have him."

In other BCJHL action Sunday, Powell River Paper Kings beat visiting Kelowna Packers 7-5 and Salmon Arm Tigers defeated Penticton Knights 7-3.

Russians leading . . . Canada gains

SEOUL (CP) — The Soviet Union continued to top the medal standings while Canada increased its modest total to four, and Americans Carl Lewis and Roger Kingdom achieved rare repeat victories as the Summer Olympics headed into their second and final week.

Olga Bryzgina won the 400-metre run in an Olympic-record 48.65 seconds and Sergei Litvinov led a sweep of the hammer throw as

of Toronto remain in contention in boxing. Howard Grant of Montreal, Brent Kosolofski of Calgary and Tom Glesby of Welland, Ont., are the latest to be eliminated.

In track and field, Lewis, the runnerup to Johnson in the 100 metres, regained a portion of his lost glory by becoming the first man ever to twice win a gold medal in the long jump. He leapt 8.73 metres. Mike Powell, won silver and Larry