

Lakers impress

Jason Marshall and the rest of the Vernon Lakers showed Penticton Knights they mean business Tuesday night. The defending B.C. Junior Hockey League champs beat the Knights 6-1 at the Civic Arena. Turn to page 11 for more on the game.

News Capsules



Lakers humble Knights

LANGLOT BACKSTOPS LOCAL JUNIORS TO 6-1 VICTORY

By AL PATERSON
Daily News Sports

The Vernon Lakers can play it any way the opposition wants. Just ask the Penticton Knights.

The Knights tried to outskate the Lakers and failed so they tried to play a physical game Tuesday night at the Vernon Civic Arena and that didn't work either. The end result was a 6-1 B.C. Junior Hockey League victory for Vernon. The win gives Vernon a record of two wins and one loss on the season.

"It wasn't our style," admitted Laker Head Coach Ernie Gare. "We can give 'em hell if they want to play it that way but ours is a team of skaters."

One of the fleetest of the Lakers is 20-year old rookie sensation Tony Szabo. Szabo got the Lakers untracked in the first period with the Lakers enjoying a two-man advantage, unloading a 30-foot slapshot to the low stickside.

Szabo's goal, at 14:18 of the first period, broke the ice. The Lakers scored just a minute later, on the same powerplay, when Dave Oliver swooped around the Penticton net, unchallenged, and stuffed it past goaltender Wade Parker.

Oliver turned in a fine effort all night. His second goal, at the 9:51 mark of the middle period, turned out to be the turning point of the gae in Gare's opinion.

"That second goal by Oliver, the one where he one-handed it, that was the turning point," said Gare. "We led 2-0 before that one. If they socre it's 2-1 and a new game. But that goal gave us a 3-0 lead."

Curtis York spoiled Brian Langlot's shutout bid at the 13:09 mark but the Lakers bounced back less than half a minute later on a good play by rookie Doug Lawrence. Lawrence was Johnny-on-the-spot to cash in on a rebound off a point shot taken by rearguard Shawn Hendry.

Lawrence's goal made it 4-1 and that's the way the period ended.

In the third period, Szabo appeared to click on a backhand from a scramble in front of the Penticton net. However, the goal was officially given to Cam Cylven who should have drawn as an assist on the play instead.

The final goal of the contest was also a backhander, this time with Rob Atkinson finding the target.

Wade Parker was extremely busy in goal for the Knights, stopping 54 shots while Brian Langlot stopped 24 shots. It was the second straight occassion in which Langlot has allowed the opposition just one goal.

"Langlot's hot so I'm going to stay with him," said Gare. "I told both (goalies) incamp that if they worked hard and one of them bot hot, I was going to go with him until he cooled off.

"But Randy McGrew isn't number two," Gare added. "He's only played one game and it's hard to tell — it's too early in the season for that — they can both play, but Langlot is hot right now and he'll start our next game."

Langlot should have a pretty good idea what to expect from the opposition Friday night when the Lakers play host to the Merritt Centennials. He checked Merritt on one goal last time the teams met, a 5-1 Vernon victory.

In singling out players for special praise following the win over Penticton, Gare named Dave Oliver, Szabo, Langlot and Corey Carlson.

"Oliver played very well, Szabo was there all night, Corey Carlson turned in a strong performance in the middle and Langlot was steady," said Gare. "Playing goal in a game like that tonight is tough. It's tough when you don't get much work but I thought he maintained his concentration well throughout."

In other BCJHL action Tuesday night Vernon native Tom Arkell scored the winner as the Nanaimo Clippers edged the Cowichan Valley Whalers 5-4. Arkell scored on a power play with seven minutes remaining to give the Clippers the win.

Jamie Price, Pat Hodgins, Ken Cookman and Tod Finner also scored for the Clippers while Mike Davidson, Todd Demchuk, Dale Walsh and Clayton Fahey replied for Cowichan Valley.



CAM SYLVEN, left, scored once for the Vernon Lakers Tuesday night while Brian Langlot, above, made 24 saves en route to a 6-1 victory over the visiting Penticton Knights.

(Daily News Photos)