



VERNON LAKERS' netminder Daryl Dickens lifted his right leg, while laying on his back, to make this save during Vernon's B.C. Junior Hockey League home opener, Thursday night. Looking on in disbelief is Kelowna Packers' forward Dennis Schwartz.

Dickens, acquired this week from Abbotsford, was outstanding as Lakers defeated Kelowna 6-4 to take over sole possession of second place in the league's Interior Division.

(Daily News Photo)

Goaltender sharp in debut with Lakers

Vernon Lakers got off on the right foot with a 6-4 victory over visiting Kelowna Packers in their first home game on the 1985-86 B.C. Junior Hockey League schedule Thursday night at Civic Arena.

Packers, meanwhile, left town wondering what went wrong with their game plan.

Lakers and Packers are currently sharing second place in the BCJHL Interior Division with 4-2 records, both two points back of Penticton Knights, who are undefeated in five starts.

Vernon goaltender Daryl Dickens, who arrived in town Wednesday and suited up for his first game Thursday, will likely see a lot of action between the pipes for the local club if his style of play matches his performance against Packers. Dickens kicked out 13 Kelowna shots in the first period and made 28 saves in all during the game to backstop Lakers to their victory.

Lakers managed just four shots in the first period but tested the young Packer 28 times during the night.

"We should have been ahead 3-0 in the first period but he (Dickens) stood us on our heads," offered Packers' Head Coach Wayne Naka.

Dickens toiled with Revelstoke Rangers last season, earning a reputation as a consistent performer in net. Lakers' Head Coach Don Moores feels

that with similar consistency this season he can put a highly competitive team on any ice surface.

"Daryl played very well," suggested Moores in something of an understatement. "I think his consistency is going to help us."

While Dickens was backstopping Lakers, a couple of other players were taking care of business up front.

Dennis Holland, the 16-year old Vernon minor hockey product, along with newcomer Doug Spooner, each put on individual displays of scoring talent. The pair scored twice each while Holland set up goals by Shannon Pohl and Sean Lofroth for a four-point outing. Spooner and Holland each have 14 points in their first six games ... seven goals and seven assists apiece.

Everyone did their fair share in earning the victory though some stood out more than others, in particular brothers Troy, Trevor and Shannon Pohl, and winger Wes Gentles. Defensively, stocky Jim Scott threw more hits than any other three players combined.

Major junior hockey veteran Ward Carlson, Darren Schwartz, Joel Savage, and Rick Viens each scored once for Packers who trailed 5-2 at the end of two periods, following a scoreless first frame.

Lakers, didn't escape the game unscathed, having lost defenceman Murray Baron in the third period when a hard check into the south end boards resulted in the big blueliner going to Vernon Jubilee Hospital with a concussion.

Though there were enough reasons to feel optimistic about the result, Lakers uncovered a number of serious flaws which will require immediate attention and restitution. Chief among these are the give-aways ... especially in their own end. Luckily, as Moores was quick to point out, they got off easy in spite of them.

"It's early in the season and fortunately we didn't get burned on the give-aways," he said.

While Packers have some tough sledding ahead with back-to-back games against Penticton, Lakers have an opportunity to move into sole possession of second place in the Interior Saturday night when they host Salmon Arm Blazers. Packers will be in town for a rematch Oct. 12.

Elsewhere in the BCJHL Thursday night, Merritt Warriors scored two shorthanded goals en route to a 6-3 win over Salmon Arm.

In another game, Summerland Buckaroos defeated Sidney Capitals 10-6.

In Merritt, Kevin Cheveldave scored when Merritt was shorthanded in the second period to tie the game at 2-2 going into the final 20 minutes. And Rob Revel scored in the third period to ice

the game for Merritt at 6-3.

Mark Greyeyes led the Warriors with a pair of goals, while Brad Smiley and Kevin Thorlickson rounded out scoring. Kevin Taillefer, Kevin Scott and Kevin Nohr replied for Shuswap, which was outshot 48-32.

In Sidney, Curtis York scored three goals to lead Summerland. Randy Olson added a pair for the winners, and singles came from Blair Campbell, Craig Bedard, Rod Trenholm, Gord Paulsen and Dave Tomlinson.

Gerry Burton, Greg Davies, Darrin Lee, Todd Decker, Kevin Arnold and Rob Montgomery tallied for Sidney.

The teams were tied at 1-1 after the first period but Sidney opened up an 8-3 lead after 40 minutes.

Nine teams in curling loop

Curling is expected to be on a more competitive plain than ever before in the history of the Vernon Men's Super League with nine rinks vying for prize money and the prestigious league title this year.

While some of the more familiar faces have departed, others have taken their place and there are still a good number of veteran curlers in the popular local super league. The league expanded this season to the original nine-team format from the eight teams that made up the loop last year.

Each team in the league plays the other eight rinks twice for a 16-game regular season. Each regular season game winner received a fixed amount of cash for each victory while the playoffs will be comprised of the first four place teams with prize money split among the two top rinks.

Following are the rinks involved along with their sponsors:

MOUNTAIN PACIFIC AIR: Skipped by Doug Smith. Smith played third last season for Randy Brown and has taken over the Keith Altvasser rink as Altvasser has taken a year off curling to travel. Curling with Smith will be Gary Marsh, third, Dale Rintoul, second, and Rob Brockley, lead.

KUBLAI KHAN RESTAURANTS: Skipped by Tom Buchy. This is the local junior men's team which is allocated a spot in the Super League every year. Junior teams are consistently strong in the Vernon area and Buchy is favored to place high in the standings.

SUN VALLEY SPORTS: Greg McCune, skip. McCune is also in his first season in the Vernon Super League

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Editor—DON KENDALL

Cougars fold for one year

Vernon will not have an intermediate "A" hockey team this year.

Vernon Cougars' president and general manager Gary Swanson announced today his club is taking a year's leave of absence. Swanson emphasized that the team is not folding and he still plans to apply for a franchise in the Western International Hockey League for the 1986-87 season.

"Our society will remain active," Swanson said. "We plan to stage a couple of fund raising activities to clear up any bills we still owe. And we have advised the city that we will be requesting ice rental for next year."

Cougars were a perennial powerhouse in the North Okanagan Hockey League until that loop folded three years ago. Since then, Vernon has played exhibition games and tournaments to qualify for Coy Cup provincial playdowns.

Swanson, who has been involved with the club for eight years, said he gave it a lot of thought before taking the leave of absence. But, the lack of games and players gave him little choice.

"Since the NOHL folded, it has been getting tougher and tougher to get games," Swanson said. "We had to try to juggle our ice time to fit the schedules of other teams."

"It has been tougher than ever before to get players interested this season. We've only been getting 10-12 guys at practice."

For the past six years, Vernon was among the strongest intermediate teams in the province, but never won the B.C. title. Cougars' nemesis were the Quesnel Kangaroos who knocked them out of Coy Cup playdowns four times.

Swanson said, "I've spent too much time and money to just let the team die. We'll be meeting in the next couple of months to plan next season. I hope to get some new people involved at the ownership and management level."

The loss of the team will have a direct impact on Vernon's economy,

according to Swanson. "The City will lose a lot of revenue from our ice rentals," he said. "And the teams that we have brought into town during the past few seasons have left a lot of money in this community. We estimate the visiting teams spent between \$75,000 and \$100,000 while in Vernon."

Vernon Outdoors

Hiking Canoeing Cycling Orienteering

By BOB PLATT

There was nothing dramatic about the outing on Silver Hills last Sunday, it was just a wholesome walk up an old logging road to the hilltop. Sunshine and balmy air bathed the land and golden foliage was a joy to behold.

TRAVISING HELPED

The seven kilometre long and seven hundred metre climb was made easier by a zig-zag road, wide enough for walking abreast. A pecking order was soon established, in the van were the more agile people and they were followed by less fleet-of-foot people. For some, the grade called for the routine of counting the steps, this practice often serves to overcome the feeling of lassitude and steels the sinews. Thus a steady pace is kept up and the halts are less frequent. John Hillaby, the noted walker, uses a similar device — he calls it his motion picture camera.

After an hour on the track, the valley lay far below, 500 metres in fact, and now the ground was levelling out appreciably. The worst is over, they said, and they were encouraged to make it to the top.

The road had been built to serve the mills up there long ago and at times it followed the contour ... welcomed by tired hikers ... then it went into a switch back and the grade was resumed. The old story of it being only half an hour to the peak was again stated and then they were there.

POST PRANDIAL STUPOUR

Lolling on the edge of the precipice, the earlier site for handgilder take-offs, the sun made everyone drowsy after their lunch. It was a very pleasant place to be, the panoramic views of mountain ranges rising out of hazy valleys were balm for the soul. All were content to remain a while; conversation waxed and waned, diverse subjects submitted for discussion. It's not often one is granted such a fine day, free of wind, on the heights. It's been stated that climbing 1000 metres is equivalent to going north 650 kilometres.

BE UPSTANDING

Finally the leader sensed a stirring amidst the group and got everyone on their feet, to start on the return journey. Now the toes took the strain, the foot extended, whilst the knees also had pressure put on them by the body weight. As always, the walk downwards bore little resemblance to the morning's effort and people marvelled at the steepness of the grade they had taken in their stride so ably hours before.

Gradually the bottomland came closer and by mid-afternoon the hike was over. Another successful day; conditions perfect and Silver Hills will feature in the club schedule in the years to come. Thanks are accorded the owners who granted access to the uplands.

HIKE SUNDAY

Bardolph Lake, north of Lavington, is selected for the hike Sunday. The outing is rated as moderate and worth four hours of your time. Meet Florence Richardson (542-3163) at city hall parking lot at 9 a.m.

RAMBLERS

They will be on East Vernon Hill, Tuesday, in the care of Jess Nichols (545-9083) and Florence Richardson. They meet at the recycling cabin, at Polson Place Mall, at 10 a.m.

The leaders said they will not be put off by any change in the weather this time; last Tuesday was a non-event, much to their sorrow.

Rugby given the boot

VICTORIA (CP) — The game of rugby won't be part of the British Columbia Summer Games for an indefinite period, games chairman Ron Butlin has announced.

The action follows an investigation into the conduct of the James Bay Athletic Association junior team that was sent home from the games in Nanaimo in August when two players broke the 11 p.m. curfew and the team used ineligible players.

In a letter to Butlin, Mike O'Connor, president of the B.C. Rugby Union, said the B.C. body is asking for the resignations of James Bay coaches Mel Davison and Dan Hemmingway, who will not be allowed to take part in the B.C. Games for a period of two years.

O'Connor also said the James Bay organization will be suspended from participation in the B.C. Summer Games for one year and the suspension of two players — Robert Robson and James Henley — until Nov. 1 will be endorsed by the union.