

Hard work pays off

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers played the most complete game of the young season in handing visiting Delta Flyers a 4-1 defeat Friday night at Vernon Civic arena.

Lakers, now 7-3 and holding third place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division, got command performances from their specialty teams, and combined tenacious fore and back-checking with hard work, discipline, and the excellent goaltending of Darryl Dickens in an outstanding victory.

Dickens, who made 24 saves during the course of the evening, stopped a clear break away in the second period and stood his ground against Flyers' Jim Butterworth during a penalty shot in the third stanza.

"All I was concerned with was not giving him (Butterworth) anything and outguessing his move," explained Dickens of the save on the penalty shot. Butterworth made a head fake on Dickens and tried to rifle a shot into the top stick-side corner but the Vernon goaltender came up with a big save.

In spite of the several occasions in which Dickens was directly challenged it wasn't a particularly tough night between the pipes since Lakers' forward unit kept the play in Flyers' end through most of the contest. However, a goal at any time could have put the Delta squad right back into the game and Dickens was aware of that.

"It wasn't that busy but I figured one goal and they could have been right back in the game," he said.

Vernon Head Coach Don Moores was satisfied with the victory and the method in which it was achieved. However, he felt his club might have produced more on the power-play since they enjoyed at least a one-man advantage throughout most of the second frame.

"We controlled the puck well but our defence weren't passing the puck fast enough so we didn't capitalize on as many chances as we could have," explained Moores.

However, Lakers went three-for-three on the power-play in the first period to forge a 3-1 lead they never relinquished thereafter. The local club went ahead 4-1 with the only goal of the second period and the two clubs battled each other into the ice during a scoreless third frame.

"We've been working only a period here and there up until now but tonight we put together a complete game," suggested the Vernon coach.

Though Moores chastized his defensive unit for not moving the puck well enough on the power-play, Lakers' blueline unit accounted for three of the club's four goals. Defenceman Murray Baron scored the final goal of the game when he rifled Dennis Holland's pass into the net from the deep slot area.

Chris Saunders, regaining his form on the blueline with every shift now, set up the club's second goal when he let a slapshot go along the ice in the first period. Al Young got his stick on Saunders' drive and deflected it into the net.

Also in the first stanza, Shawn Lofroth, who parlayed back and forth between the blueline and the forward line all night, set up Troy Pohl for the club's first marker. Stacy Hartnel scored the third goal to put Vernon ahead 3-0 in the first period. Hartnel's goal was set up by Greg Guest and Holland who had three assists on the night.

Flyers' veteran forward Rod Ware accounted for the only Delta goal just 11 seconds after the third Vernon marker, when the teams were at even strength.

While Lakers' power-play unit was enjoying one of their most prolific nights ever, the penalty-killing unit was equally tough in not allowing a single goal in six attempts by Flyers.

The game was interrupted briefly in the second frame when a multiple bout of fisticuffs erupted. After the struggle, which featured a number of toe-to-toe square-offs, Lakers lost leathery-tough forwards Troy and Trevor Pohl along with forward Steve Humphrey and defenceman Tony Toth. Flyers lost three players and goaltender Janson Palmer.

Palmer had played an outstanding game in the Delta nets and though it was feared the game might become a Vernon blowout with his loss, replacement Chris Dickson proved every bit as tough to beat as Parker had been.

The two Delta goaltenders combined to make 45 saves on the night.



AL YOUNG . . . winning goal

In other BCJHL action Friday night Richmond defenceman Ron Popoff scored four goals as the Coastal Division leading Sockeyes defeated Langley Eagles 9-5 while elsewhere it was Nanaimo over Abbotsford 12-8 and Shuswap doubled Sidney Capitals 6-3.

Todd Jennings scored three goals to lead Nanaimo which went ahead 7-1 in the first period and led 10-4 after two.

Shuswap got two goals from Tony Bobbit and Murray Yewchuk as they won at home. Terry Bostad and Todd Sawtell added singles for the Blazers. Capitals, outshot 56-38, got goals by Kevin Arnold, Graham Bentley and Bruce Pritchard.

Lakers' next home game is Oct. 25 when Troy Mick and Merritt Warriors will be in town.

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Editor—DON KENDALL

Rookie quarterback gives Eskimos life

WINNIPEG (CP) — Rookie Damon Allen showed Friday night the Edmonton Eskimos have not just one but two of the best young quarterbacks in the Canadian Football League.

With ailing 25-year-old sensation Matt Dunigan on the bench, Allen, only 22, ran for three touchdowns against the league's best defence as the Eskimos romped to an easy 37-18 victory.

It was Allen's second straight impressive performance and moved the Eskimos into a tie with B.C. Lions for second place in the Western Division, only two points back of the Bombers.

Allen, who scored one touchdown in last week's 39-1 rout of Montreal Concordes, ran for TDs of nine, five and one yard against Winnipeg.

"I knew I could always play in this league, it was just a matter of time," said Allen, the brother of Los Angeles Raiders' running back Marcus Allen.

"Basically, I don't look to run all the time," he said. "When things break down I just try to find other ways to get the job done. If I can't throw the football, I try to find another way."

MISSED PASSES

But Bombers' veteran quarterback John Hufnagel, replacing injured No. 1 man Tom Clements, couldn't find another way to get the Winnipeg offense going.

Hufnagel threw five interceptions — three to linebacker Danny Bass — and was sacked four times by the Eskimo defence. Three of his interceptions led to 17 Edmonton points.

"Everyone knows that John is a straight drop-back quarterback, he's not going to tuck the ball under his arm and run," said Bombers' interim head coach Fred Glick.

"One of his biggest advantages is that he's been able to find the open receiver," Glick said of Hufnagel. "Tonight it was their middle linebacker."

The other Edmonton touchdown came on an 87-yard interception return by cornerback Gary Thompson. Kicker Tom Dixon booted three field goals and four converts.

Jeff Boyd scored Winnipeg's only offensive touchdown on a six-yard pass from Hufnagel while Pat Cantner scored after recovering a blocked Dixon punt and running 17 yards to the end zone.

Trevor Kennerd booted a field goal, two converts and a single.

LOST FOUR

Winnipeg has lost only four games this season, but each time they've struggled against young, inexperienced quarterbacks who rely on their speed more than savvy.

"Yeah, I think if you're going to play the Blue Bombers all you've got to do is get a rookie quarterback and give him the ball," Glick said. "Boy, we have trouble with those young guys running around."

The loss broke a 16-game winning streak at Winnipeg Stadium for the Bombers, who hadn't lost here since October 1983. Edmonton, meanwhile, extended its winning streak to seven games.

"It's going to go right down the wire now," Glick said. "We went from having the ball in our court to being able to control our own destiny to now we've got to hope other people win."

"I guess the best we can hope for is to have the (semifinal) playoff game here."

Friday's result leaves the Western Division playoff picture up in the air. B.C. and the Eskimos play in Edmonton next week in a game that will help determine the playoff scenario.

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

OCTOBER, 1980

Vernon resident Debbie Sigale-Pitman will compete in the first annual Meeting of the Waters marathon to be held Sunday in Kamloops. It will be the third marathon for the local runner who says she expects between 1,500 to 2,000 other runners to start the race.

ASK AL

Cox shoulders much of blame

It's going to be one of the longest winters of Bobby Cox's life.

Much of the blame for the Toronto Blue Jays failure to make it to the World Series must rest on Cox's shoulders. The veteran manager has



by
Al Paterson