



VERNON LAKERS' forward Greg Guest (12) prepares to centre a pass from behind the net while Penticton defenceman Greg Guidinger tries to force him off. Lakers upset Knights 8-4 at Civic Arena Sunday night to hand Penticton their second loss in 18 starts this

season. Lakers scored an emotional victory as well as receiving the two points and received some confidence prior to their three-game road trip to the Coastal Division.

(Daily News photo)

Lakers upset powerful Knights

Vernon Lakers scored a great emotional victory Sunday nights at the Civic Arena by handing Penticton Knights a 8-4 setback in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.

Knights, now 16-2, still lead the tough Interior Division but are just two points up on Kelowna Packers, who are 15-3. Lakers are in third place with a 10-7 record. With Sunday's win, Head Coach Don Moores hopes the inconsistent woes his club has been experiencing are now behind them.

"We've been working hard to get out of this (emotional) slump," Moores explained. "We never got a break in Merritt but we got a few breaks tonight that we haven't been getting."

Saturday night in Merritt, Lakers outshot and outplayed the hometown Warriors by a wide margin, but came up on the short end of a 4-2

score. Sunday, the Vernon squad battled to a 1-0 first-period lead and never looked back as they led Knights 6-3 after two frames. In the process, Lakers outshot Penticton 48-30.

"We're learning the hard way but we know now that if we work hard we'll get someplace," suggested Moores.

Darryl Dickens provided solid goaltending for Lakers while Jamie Loewen and Warren Sharples split the duty for Knights.

Every member of Lakers did their part in achieving the win which represented their best team effort of the season. The local team also set a club record for goals against Knights in a single period when they stung the visitors for five in the second stanza. Knights were hampered by mediocre goaltending which Lakers capitalized on several times.

Shawn Lofroth, the speedy sophomore with Lakers, turned in his best performance of the season scoring twice and assisting on another. Lofroth was returned to blueline duty for the game and may be a permanent resident of the defensive unit now according to Moores.

"We've been using Shawn on forward and it just hasn't been working so it's nice to have him back on defence," the Lakers' coach said.

The Pohl family, Shannon, Trevor and Troy, also played a major part in the club's victory, Shannon, the eldest of the three and captain of the Vernon squad, scored twice while his younger brothers each had one.

Other Vernon goals came from Doug Spooner and Stacey Hartnell.

Lee Davidson scored twice for Knights while single goals were scored by Aaron Scott and Bill Thomas.

Lakers were in control through most of the contest using good speed combined with tenacious fore and backchecking to achieve the timely win. The Vernon club got a helping hand in the second period when Knights received a rash of penalties, including a spearing infraction that left them short-handed for five minutes. Lakers, however, didn't manage a goal during that period of time.

The local club leaves this week for a three-game sweep through the Lower Mainland section of the Coastal Division with games in Richmond, Langley and Abbotsford. Sunday's victory gives them the extra confidence they need to sweep three and close the gap on the leaders in the Interior Division.

Elsewhere in the BCJHL Sunday night, Merritt Warriors got a pair of goals from Vernon minor hockey product Troy Mick, his 10th and 11th in eight games with Warriors, as they defeated visiting Nanaimo Clippers 10-6. In the only other game, Richmond Sockeyes blanked Signey Capitals 6-0.

Saturday night, besides Warriors 4-2 win over Vernon, Penticton edged Summerland 7-5, Kelowna blasted Delta 8-3, Nanaimo edged Shuswap 6-5, and Sidney shaded Abbotsford 3-2.

Vernon acquires veteran defenceman

In a move to beef up Vernon Lakers' defensive unit, President Carl Enemark recently announced the team has purchased the rights to 19-year-old Campbell Blair, from Summerland Buckaroos.

Blair, 19, is a three-year veteran with Buckaroos. The left-handed shooter has accumulated 24 points already this season while patrolling the blueline with Bucks.

"He handles the puck very well and he's strong," said Vern Dye, Lakers' general manager.

Buckaroos, who have fallen on financial hard times this season, have offered some of their players in a garage-sale style effort to bolster their club.

"We need a little depth at defence and anytime you can get a good solid defenceman you do it," suggested Enemark, who paid an undisclosed sum for the blueliner.

Meanwhile, Lakers also announced that a trade between themselves and Nanaimo Clippers is currently under negotiation. Involved are two players from Clippers including goaltender Drew Smith and a centreman. In exchange, Lakers will forfeit another undisclosed amount of cash and defenceman Kevin Horn.

"We're trying to put together the best team possible," added Enemark who has owned and operated the local BCJHL franchise for the past three seasons.

Blair will be in uniform tonight when the club hits the ice for practice at 9:15 p.m.

Lakers also have forward Frank Dutoff back in camp. Dutoff, a speedster who has been working on oil rigs in Northern Alberta since last spring, is anxious to get back into the game and Lakers' coaching staff is looking forward to having him in the lineup.

The presence of the new players means some others are going to be cut to make room on the roster.

"There'll be a couple of moves tonight," suggested Dye.