

Lakers outlast Eagles 12-9

By JIM JUDD

Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers defeated Langley Eagles 12-9 Friday night at Civic arena in B.C. Junior Hockey League action but lack of discipline and a lacklustre attitude nearly cost the team a game it could ill afford to lose.

The victory gives Lakers a record of 14-7 and third place in the Interior Division of BCJHL while Eagles, with a dismal 3-18 record, are in the cellar of the Coastal Division.

In other BCJHL action Friday night Summerland Buckaroos defeated Shuswap Blazers 9-5 and Nanaimo Clippers beat Abbotsford Flyers 7-5.

Lakers, who were guilty of taking a number of bad penalties throughout the contest, received their worst early in the second period when defenceman Campbell Blair, fingered for slashing in the neutral zone, received a five minute minor. Under ordinary circumstances, Lakers' penalty-killing unit could handle such a situation, especially against a team sporting a 3-17 win-loss record and playing in their own arena.

However, Eagles scored four consecutive goals during their five-minute advantage, erasing a 4-1 first-period lead held by Vernon. From then on it became any man's game though neither team expressed any special interest in winning.

Four goals by Lakers, late in the third period enabled them to salvage the win but Head Coach Don Moores was quick to express his concern with his team's lethargy.

"Our penalty killing has been effective until tonight," he suggested. "At least three of those goals were weak ones I thought. It showed us what we were doing all night though...standing around."

"If we come to play tomorrow (tonight) like we did tonight we'll get our butts kicked," added Moores. "We're going to have to do a lot of soul searching." (Lakers face the stubborn but tough Merritt Warriors tonight in League play.)

Vernon had one good period, opening up a 4-1 lead in the first frame. The fourth goal, by Frank Dutoff, was the stuff that team inspirations are made

of. Rugged forward Shannon Pohl, forechecking deep in Eagles' end, knocked his check off the puck and centered to Dutoff who was streaking into the slot area and one-timed the puck into the net.

Ending the period on such a high note might have led other teams to completely annihilate their opposition, especially the weakest team from a decidedly weaker division in the league. However, Lakers felt a more complacent attitude was the order of the night.

Centre Doug Spooner ended the night with three goals including an empty net tally late in the third period. Dutoff, Troy Pohl and defenceman Murray Baron had two apiece while singles went to Dennis Holland, Shawn Lofroth, and Al Young who also scored one on his own goaltender in the third period, helping Langley to come from behind an 8-6 deficit to take a 9-8 lead.

Richard Sloan and Rob Kujala scored twice each for Eagles while Elliot Kagna, Doug MacDonald, Wayne Stripp, Rich Dusevich and Rich Bafaro had singles.

Lacklustre play filtered down through Lakers' goaltending duo of Darryl Dickens and Blu Smith as well. The two combined to block just 21 of 30 shots while Eagles' Ken Weiss made 53 saves.

Lakers, who will be a much different club tonight according to Moores, face-off against Merritt Warriors at 8 p.m. at Civic arena.

In Summerland Friday night, Andy Pokupec and Dave Tomlinson scored two goals each for Buckaroos in their win over Shuswap.

Kurt Finn, Ed Tuckwood, Ray Fontaine, Jackson Penny and Gord Paulsen added singles for the winners while Rick Cox, Rob Clarke, Darcy Allison, Todd Sawtell and Kevin Taillefer replied for Blazers.

In Nanaimo, Kent Lewis scored four goals in 10 minutes as Clippers downed Abbotsford. Craig Frankfort, Bill Hardy, and Darren Biggs also counted for Nanaimo which trailed 3-1 after the first and second period.

Dave Kawinsky, Mike Paller, Frank Udovicic, Trevor Tiger and Doneau Menard scored for Falcons.



EDUCATED BUMS of Grand Forks, top photo, were A event winners in the Bowl-A-Spiel held recently at Lincoln Lanes in Vernon. Team members are, left to right: Darryl Konklin, Ken Schneider, Jeff Seminoff, and Darcy Skerritt. Above photo are B event winners, from left: Ron Morneau, Carol

Morneau, Chris Bergman, and Al Wiffen. Below are the C event winners, from left: Harold Buccis, Eileen Buccis, Ira Arnold and Len Chahley. Bottom photo are the D event winners, from left: Peter Feschuk, Donna Cochrane, Verna Hoffman, and Lionel Hoffman. (Daily News photos)

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Editor — DON KENDALL

Area hoop star

Chiefs to look at Mick

Spokane Chiefs, of the Western Hockey League, plan to take a serious look at Vernon minor hockey graduate Troy Mick.

Mick, 16, will join the Flyers in about two weeks for evaluation and practice. The slick forward has played with Vernon Lakers and Merritt Warriors, of the B.C. Junior Hockey League, this season. Since joining the Warriors 10 games ago, Mick has scored 11 goals.

His WHL rights are owned by Spokane and according to Merritt Coach Chuck Tapp, Chiefs are very interested in him.

"Flyers feel Troy is a good hockey player," Tapp said. "Since he has joined our club, he has had an opportunity to show what he can do."

Mick is scheduled to go to Spokane on Dec. 1 and practice with the club for about five days before returning to Merritt.

"He may not play any games with the Chiefs, but they'll certainly take a good look at him in practice," Tapp said.