

SEVEN STRAIGHT WINS

Lakers stretch streak

Vernon Lakers defeated hometown Shuswap Blazers 6-4 Sunday night in B.C. Junior Hockey League action to stretch their current win streak to seven consecutive games.

The victory doesn't improve Lakers'

position in the BCJHL Interior Division standings, but moves them a step closer to the leaders. Following Lakers' win Sunday, they trail second place Kelowna Packers by two points. Packers, 13-7 winners over Sum-

merland Buckaroos Sunday, trail division leading Penticton Knights by two points. Packers are 17-3 while Knights are 18-2 and Lakers are now 16-7.

Saturday night, Lakers turned in a sterling performance at the Vernon Civic Arena as they spanked the bad boys of Merritt 8-3 before one of their largest crowds of the season.

Sunday night, the local junior squad dominated their hosts in Salmon Arm, allowing the hometown Blazers two late goals to make the score seem closer than play indicated. Lakers' strategy has been simply to check the opposition into the ice.

"We're trying to keep the momentum going by checking hard," explained Vernon Head Coach Don Moores, "A lot of guys aren't scoring, but they're helping us a lot with their checking."

Troy Pohl led Lakers' offensive thrust with two goals, his 19th and 20th of the season, while twin brother Trevor chipped in a single. Doug Spooner, Rick Rozecki, and team scoring leader Dennis Holland also contributed single goals.

Darcy Allison, Rob Clarke, Jeff Vilac and Todd Sawtell counted for Blazers, who had humbled visiting Langley Eagles 12-5 the previous night.

Saturday, against Warriors, Greg Guest and Stacey Hartnell scored two goals each for Lakers who trailed 2-1 at the end of the first period, but opened up a 5-2 lead after 40 minutes. Holland, Troy Pohl, Al Young, and Shannon Pohl added singles.

Vernon minor hockey product Troy Mick scored once and set up goals by Steve Kloepzig and Mark Greyes for Warriors, who continue to hold down fourth place in the Interior Division.

Vernon goaltender Darryl Dickens was sharp in net for Lakers, Saturday night, making 28 saves while Lucien Carignan had to make 39 saves in the Warriors' nets.

Lakers have an opportunity to stretch their win streak to eight games and temporarily move into second place with Kelowna when they entertain the floundering Summerland Buckaroos Tuesday night.

The weaker teams in the league have not been easy targets for the inconsistent Lakers this season, but Moores feels his team has learned a lesson about underestimating the weak sister teams.

"That's been our problem this season," suggested Moores. "We've had enough lessons with weaker teams now that have showed us. We're going to play each game with the same intensity now."

In other BCJHL action Sunday night, Nanaimo Clippers posted a 6-3 decision over Sidney Capitals.



LAKERS' forward Doug Spooner, 25, pins Merritt Warriors' defenceman Keith Chase, against the boards during action at Civic Arena, Saturday night. Chase, a Vernon minor hockey product, along with Warriors were routed 8-3 by the hard-checking Lakers. Coupled with Sunday's 6-4 win in Salmon Arm, Lakers have now won seven consecutive games.

(Daily News Photo)