

Lakers explode in third period

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers faced the wrath of angry Head Coach Don Moores between the second and third periods of their B.C. Junior Hockey League game with Shuswap Blazers, Friday night, at the Civic Arena.

The message got through.

Lakers outscored Blazers 10-1 in the final 20 minutes to earn a 12-3 victory over Blazers, who occupy last place in the BCJHL Interior Division.

The win moved Lakers to within a point of first place . . . presently held by Penticton Knights. Knights and Lakers square off at Civic Arena tonight, at 8 p.m., in a battle for first place.

The local squad stumbled through a listless second period, enjoying a clear advantage in play over their opponents, but doing little in the way of offence. In the third period it was a completely different story.

"We were playing individual hockey in the second period that's why it was so scambly," suggested Moores, who wore a contented grin at game's end. "We weren't bearing down and putting the puck in the net."

"We don't seem to have the killer instinct when we play teams in this building. We got that going in the third period though . . . we decided to stop fooling around with the puck and start putting it in the net."

Lakers began a constant barrage at the Blazers' net from the opening face-off in the final frame scoring almost at will as the game progressed into the late minutes. At one point, Steve Humphrey, Dennis Holland and Troy Pohl each scored within 54 seconds. They had two goals each on the night, all of them in the third period.

Single goals came off the sticks of Trevor Pohl, Wes Gentles, Greg Guest, Stacey Hartnell, Allan Young, and Campbell Blair.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the rink, rookie goaltender Blu Smith gave Moores and his coaching staff at least 21 solid reasons why they should seriously consider not only keeping him around for the season, but perhaps letting him start more games.

Smith made a good number of outstanding saves, especially in the late going when the goal scoring flurry left

the team's defensive squad wide-open to three-on-two and three-on-one rushes.

The lanky Vernon native stopped 21 of 24 shots directed his way during the night . . . many at close range.

Terrance Head, Kent Maltais, and Rob Clarke replied for Shuswap who trailed 2-1 after one period, but evened the game 2-2 after 40 minutes.

Blazers' goaltenders Ryan Dennis and Richard King faced 56 shots in total.

Moores wants a more complete effort from his troops and he wants them to move the puck more quickly tonight than they have in the recent past.

"We have to be prepared to move the puck quickly against Penticton or we'll get burned," Moores said. "You can look for Penticton to come in here looking for first place because it will be on the line."

Knights arrived home from their exhibition tour of Czechoslovakia Friday evening and are expected to be in a snarly mood.

While Lakers extended their unbeaten streak to nine, another streak was ending in Kelowna. Delta Flyers defeated Kelowna Packers 6-2, Friday in Kelowna, to halt the Packers' win streak at 12.

In another game Friday, Nanaimo Clippers doubled Langley Eagles 8-4.

Clippers 8 Eagles 4

Nanaimo captain Jamie Cayford scored into an empty net at 19:25 of the third period to put away the home-ice win.

The second-place Clippers, who went ahead 4-1 in the second period after a scoreless opening frame, got two goals from Bill Hardy.

Flyers 6 Packers 2

Marc McLeary and Lance Momotani tallied two goals each for Delta, whose win was made sweeter because the team snapped the Packers' 12-game winning in front of a Kelowna crowd.

Shawn Harrison and Pat Mangold counted for Kelowna, which trailed 2-1 after the first period and 4-1 after two.

Delta goalie Jason Palmer played an excellent game, stopping 38 shots while Kelowna's Frank Romeo made 15 saves.

Kelowna is 17-4, while Delta is 9-10.