

Lakers in top spot after dumping Knights

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor

Penticton Knights didn't receive the type of homecoming they had hoped for when they returned to the Okanagan, from Europe, over the weekend.

Vernon lakers extended their unbeaten streak to 10 games with a 3-2 win over Penticton in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Saturday, before 850 fans at the Civic Arena.

Lakers (18-7-1) now lead the Interior Division with 37 points, one more than Penticton (18-3) and Kelowna Packers (18-4).

Knights returned home Friday night from a tour of Czechoslovakia which included a five-game win streak. And while Penticton appeared to be suffering from jet lag, Lakers were flying from one end of the rink to the other.

Lakers' Coach Don Moores said his club followed its game plan to perfection. "We wanted to put pressure on Penticton's defence because we felt they would have trouble adjusting from the larger European ice surfaces to our arena," Moores said. "Our forecheckers went in deep and their defence coughed the puck up a lot."

Vernon took a 1-0 lead midway through the first period when defenceman Campbell Blair blasted a

high wrist shot, from the top of the face-off circle, during a powerplay. Knights' netminder Warren Sharples blocked the initial shot by point man Murray Baron, but the long rebound went on to Blair's stick.

Dennis Holland's 23rd goal of the season, at 3:23 of the second period, put the local club in front 2-0. Holland picked up his own rebound, deked, and put in a backhand shot.

Doug Spooner rounded out Vernon's scoring, with less than two minutes remaining in the second period, when he stole the puck off a Penticton defender and was left alone with Sharples.

Sharples and his best friends, the goal posts, were the only things which prevented Vernon from blowing Penticton out of the rink in the first 40 minutes. Sharples finished the night with 43 saves, including 17 in the first period. He robbed Al Young twice, Blair, and Holland from point blank range. And Lakers rattled three shots off the posts.

At the other end, Lakers' netminder Daryl Dickens had a quiet night until the final two minutes. Dickens lost his bid for a shutout at 18:30 when Greg Cyr scored on a slapshot with Vernon's Greg Guest in the penalty box.

Then, 51 seconds later, with Sharples on the bench in favor of an extra at-

tacker, Chris Anderson deflected a long shot to narrow the gap to 3-2.

Just six seconds later, Dickens had to be sharp when Lee Davidson won the face-off at centre ice, split the Vernon defence, and fired a wrist shot from the top of the slot.

Dickens made a total of 19 saves.

Moores said, "We dominated the game and should have won by three or four goals, but I'll take a 3-2 victory. In fact, I'll take any win over Penticton."

The teams split 16 minor penalties while Penticton took four of six misconducts.

Lakers' General Manager Vern Dye confirmed after the game that his club could have protested if Penticton had won. Knights had Todd Torrens in the line-up, who is allegedly the property of Richmond Sockeyes.

"Richmond still has his (Torrence) playing card," Dye said. "Penticton can't play him until they have his card and Richmond told us they aren't going to give it to them."

There have been a series of complaints made to the league and B.C. Amateur Hockey Association about the use of ineligible players by Knights. Dye said he expects a ruling from the BCAHA this week.

"They (Penticton) don't seem to have any regard for the rules," Moores said. "Why should they be allowed to do what they want to?"

Lakers return to the ice Friday night when they host Abbotsford.

In other BCJHL action over the weekend, Vernon native Troy Mick scored three goals to lead Merritt Warriors to a 5-2 win over Delta Flyers, Sunday, in Merritt.

Elsewhere, Langley Eagles blanked Abbotsford Falcons 8-0, Falcons dumped Nanaimo Clippers 8-5, Delta downed Shuswap Blazers 10-4, and Kelowna crushed Merritt 11-2.

Eagles 8 Falcons 0

The Eagles also got two goals from Doug Macdonald and singles from Richard Dusevic, Elliot Kagna and Ron Moree as they led 3-0 after the first period and 6-0 after 40 minutes.

The win was only the fourth for Langley in 25 starts and leaves them six points behind fourth-place Sidney Capitals in the Coast Division standings.

Falcons 8 Clippers 5

Sheldon Sabad scored five goals as the Falcons claimed their second victory of the season. Trevor Tigar got the other three goals for the Falcons.

The Clippers, who had a 45-43 edge in shots, got goals by David Young, Sean Stotts, Jamie Cayford, Brian DeLeeuw and Kent Lewis.

Packers 11 Warriors 2

Kelowna built up a 7-1 lead in the first period and coasted past the visitors. Rick Viens scored three goals for the winners and Shaun Harrison added a pair.

Kelowna singles came from Carey Fisher, Kip Noble, Kevin Harder, Kerry Russell and Pat Mangold, as the Packers outshot the Warriors 40-23.

Merritt's goals were by Mike Catchpole and Rob Revell.

Play resumes Tuesday with Shuswap at Kelowna and Delta at Nanaimo.

Pistol shooter receives award

During a recent investiture at Government House in Ottawa, Ont., a sport pistol shooter from Ottawa, the wife of a former Vernon resident, was awarded the Order of Canada medal.

Linda Thom, wife of Donald Thom, the son of Vernon resident Lillian Thom, was awarded the honor by Canada's Gov.-General Jeanne Sauve.

Those present were told Thom had emerged from a seven-year retirement from sport pistol shooting in 1982, with the goal of making Canada's Olympic Team.

Not only did she succeed in making the team, but she became the first woman in the world to win an Olympic gold medal in pistol shooting, the first Canadian woman to win a gold medal in the Summer Olympics since 1928, and the first Canadian to win a gold medal in the Summer Olympics since 1968.

Lillian Thom, who was among those present for the investiture, spent a month in Canada's capital city.

In November, the Order of Canada medal holder travelled to Fort Benning, Ga., where she competed with shooters from 14 countries in North and South America.

She tied with California resident Ruby Fox; then in a shoot-off, Linda beat Fox. She was awarded the gold medal and Fox had to settle in the 1984 Summer Olympics, Fox the the silver medal then, too.

Linda's husband Donald received his early education in Vernon schools.



ORDER OF CANADA recipient and 1984 Summer Olympic gold medalist, Linda Thom, left, hugs her mother-in-law, Lillian Thom, of Vernon.