

Packers thump Lakers

It was one of those nights when nothing went right for Vernon Lakers.

Shawn Harrison scored four goals to lead Kelowna Packers to a 12-5 victory over Vernon in B.C. Junior Hockey League action, Thursday night, in Kelowna.

The victory moves Packers into a tie for first place in the BCJHL's Interior Division with Penticton Knights.

"We didn't come to play hockey and Kelowna did," said Lakers' Head Coach Don Moores. "We had a lot of players who weren't mentally prepared to play hockey."

Harrison credited hard work and "a generalized commitment to my wingers" after scoring four and assisting on one, while Linemate Pat Mangold had five assists.

Packers, who led 4-1 and 6-2 by periods and outshot Lakers 37-30, got three goals from Rick Viens. Carey

Fisher contributed a pair and singles came from Kevin Taillefer, Joel Savage, and Gary Ruff.

Stacy Hartnell, Shawn Lafroth, Troy Pohl, Doug Spooner, and newcomer Mark McLeary replied for Lakers.

Moores said Kelowna's forechecking caused his team a lot of problems. "We knew Packers would be forechecking and our defencemen would have to move the puck quickly," he said. "We didn't do that. Our defence held the puck too long and we had trouble getting out of our end."

Kelowna Coach Wayne Naka agreed his club's forechecking made the difference. "We worked on forechecking all week," Naka said. "We got on their bodies and it really worked for us."

On a night when his club surrendered 12 goals, Moores could find few brightspots. However, he praised Troy BackoGeorge and McLeary, who joined

the club this week from Western Hockey League teams.

"Mark was the best player on the ice for us," Moores said. "And BackoGeorge played well too."

A ruling this week by the BCJHL that restored points to Penticton and Kelowna, leaves the co-leaders 11 points ahead of third-place Vernon. Knights and Packers had previously had eight points taken away for the use of ineligible players. That ruling has been overturned pending a meeting next week in Nanaimo.

Lakers return to the ice tonight when they host Summerland Buckaroos. On Sunday night, Sidney Capitals visit the Civic Arena.

Defenceman Chris Saunders, who suffered a concussion Thursday, is considered a doubtful starter for both

weekend games.

In the only other BCJHL game Thursday, Randy Olson's goal with 4:59 left was the winner as Summerland Buckaroos edged Nanaimo Clippers 8-7.

At Summerland, Olson's second goal of the game at 15:01 of the final period made it 8-6, before Nanaimo's Grant McDonald netted his third of the night in the final minute.

Summerland, which led 4-2 and 5-4 at the intermissions, got two-goal performances from Olson, Jackson Perry and Karl Goebel, and singles from Andy Pokupec and Ed Tuckerwood.

The Clippers, with a 42-40 edge in shots, got McDonald's three plus one apiece from Bill Hardy, Todd Jennings, Darren Biggs and Brian DeLeeuw.

Lakers acquire Richmond goalie

Vernon Lakers have acquired goaltender Scott King from Richmond Sockeyes of the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Coastal division.

Lakers' Head Coach Don Moores announced today his club paid an undisclosed amount of cash for the 18-year old netminder.

"We feel confident King will be a real asset to our club," Moores said. "We expect him to join us in time for Sunday's game."

King, who has a 4.13 goals against average this season, had apparently become disenchanted in Richmond because he was alternating with the team's other netminder, Ray Woodley.

Daryl Dickens, who has handled the bulk of Vernon's netminding duties this season, will remain with the team. Back-up Blu Smith is expected to complete the season with the Vernon Juvenile and Midget Rep Teams.

