

Goaltending, officiating blamed for Lakers' loss

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

There were a number of good solid reasons why Vernon Lakers dropped a 7-5 decision to visiting Summerland Buckaroos Friday night at Civic arena but Head Coach Don Moores singles out his goaltending and the officiating, in that order, as the prime factors.

The victory leaves Buckaroos just seven points back of Lakers as the two clubs hold down third and fourth spots in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division. It was Summerland's third consecutive victory over Lakers with the visitors now claiming seven of a possible eight points during the last four meetings between the two clubs.

"Our goaltending was brutal," exclaimed Moores who was visibly upset with the outcome of the game. "There's nothing more to say . . . there were at least six goals that shouldn't have gone in."

Lakers' goaltender, Darryl Dickens, faced just 22 shots in all during the evening, stopping 15 of those.

In the same breath, Moores cut a strip off the officiating in the fight and penalty-filled affair which he felt could have and should have been handled in a better fashion.

"He (referee) controlled the game in the third period and it caused us a lot of frustration and it makes us look like a goon show."

To be honest, Lakers' attitude needs a severe tune-up. While Buckaroos continue to play with calm, cool, collectiveness and maintain a rigid form of discipline, the Vernon squad were anything but Friday night.

The game was up for grabs the entire evening, but Lakers showed a decided lack of both determination and inspiration, either of which would have helped provide a victory rather than a defeat.

Towards the end of the game, trailing by two goals and in the hole due to a double minor infraction levied against them, the local club tried to take out their frustration in a manner which they seem to feel is more befitting of them these days. The idea seems to be

that if they can't beat the opposition on the ice they'll attempt to beat them in the alley.

To be fair to Dickens, the Vernon goaltender was left alone with red jerseys in front of him on numerous occasions during the night. The game winner, and two others during the night, came on power-play situations while the Bucks' seventh goal, putting the icing on the cake, was an outright give-away in Lakers' zone.

Vernon, meanwhile, pelted Summerland goaltender Tyler Findlater with 55 shots during the night, though the Bucks' goalie wasn't really tested too heavily on any of them.

"This game was ours but the puck wouldn't go in the net," added Moores. "We've been having a lot of hard luck around the net but one of these times we're going to break loose."

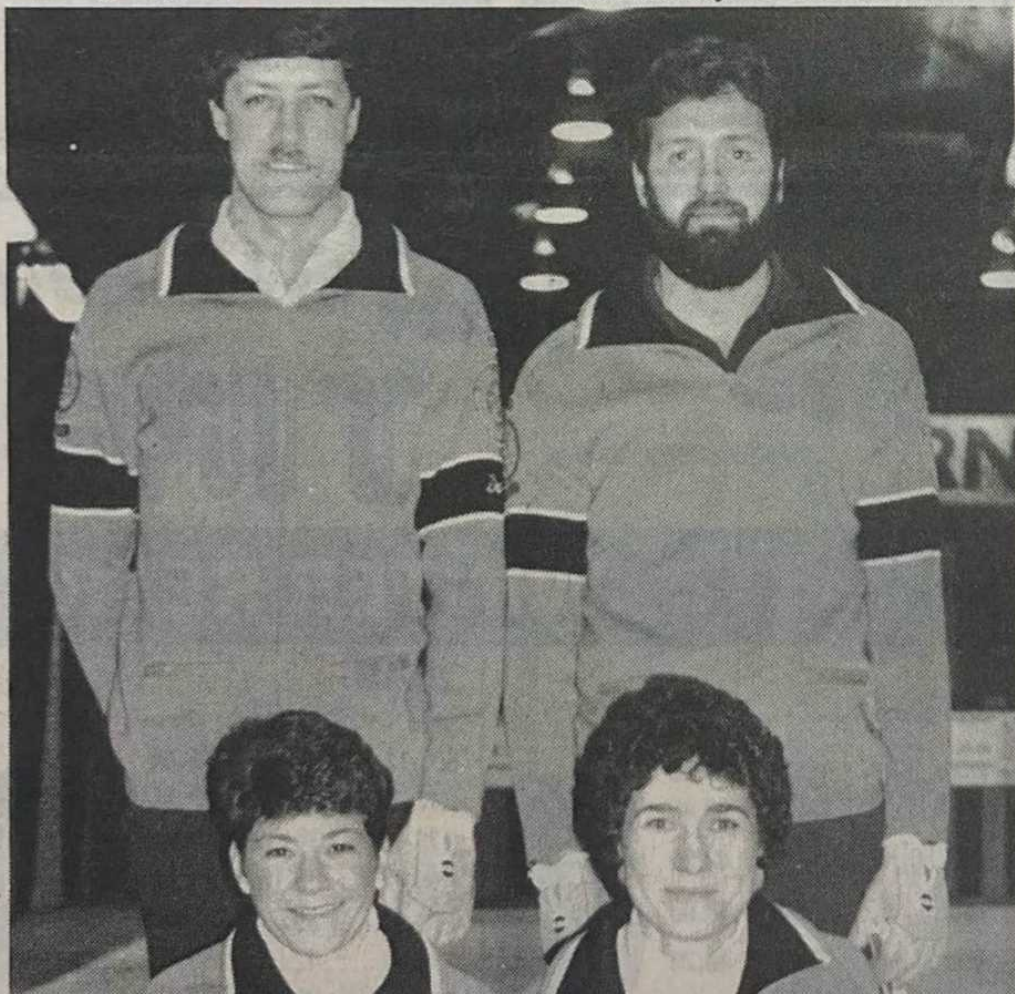
Andy Pokupec scored twice and set up two others for Summerland while single goals were scored by Jackson Penny, Craig Bedard, Ed Tuckwood, Randy Olson and Dave Tomlinson.

Lakers got single goals from Troy and Shannon Pohl, Sean Lofroth, Dennis Holland and newcomer Troy Backogorge. Backogorge, oddly enough, is the son of Summerland coach Andy Backogorge, a former Canadian College hockey coach who has Buckaroos playing sterling hockey these days.

The prettiest goal of the night belonged to Shannon Pohl late in the first period on a splendid individual effort. Pohl, showing hustle and determination that he's left in the dressing room through most of this season to date, walked through Bucks' defence with some nice moves after an end-to-end rush. Pohl pulled Findlater out of position before flipping the puck over the sprawled netminder.

In other BCJHL action Friday night, Kelowna Packers got two goals from Ward Carlson as they defeated visiting Nanaimo Clippers 6-3 while Penticton Knights clobbered visiting Sidney Capitals 10-3. In one other Interior Division matchup, Merrit Warriors defeated Shuswap Blazers 9-4.

Lakers are in action again Sunday night at Civic arena when they host Sidney Capitals. Game time is 7 p.m.



BCAHA helps players

VANCOUVER (CP) — The British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association has appointed an academic adviser to help young hockey players plan their educations.

Harold Nordan, an associate professor of zoology at the University of British Columbia, will provide information on American colleges, Canadian universities and the Western Hockey League, BCAHA president Bruce Allison announced Friday.

"If any young hockey player wishes to discuss this, he may contact Dr. Nordan at 272-2633," Allison said. Nordan can also be reached at his UBC office, 228-3374.

Not all youngsters are aware that if they play in the WHL they become ineligible for American college scholarships, Allison said. Nordan can also provide information on the academic standards required by Canadian and

U.S. schools.

Nordan, who has been associated with UBC hockey for 20 years as a manager and adviser, said Friday night that many high-school-age hockey players don't know what the requirements are to get into college or university, and don't realize the demands American schools put on scholarship athletes.

"It can be pretty devastating," Nordan said. "We (Canadian universities) are not in the business of making cannon-fodder for the NHL. By their own admission, a lot of the American schools are in that business."

Nordan, whose BCAHA advisory position is unpaid, hopes to give youngsters "some sort of guidance as to their future — do they think they really have a chance of making the NHL, and if they don't then what are the alternatives?"