

DICKENS BACK ON TRACK

Lakers hammer Capitals

The appearance of Sidney Capitals at Vernon Civic Arena, Sunday night, may have been just what the doctor ordered to lift the ailing spirits of Vernon Lakers.

Lakers jumped to a 6-0 lead by the midway mark of the game and cruised to an 11-4 victory over visiting Capitals in B.C. Junior Hockey League action. The win leaves Lakers in third place in the BCJHL Interior Division while Sidney is in fourth place in the Coastal Division.

Vernon Head Coach Don Moores was satisfied with his team's play at both ends of the rink Sunday and was quick to point out the turn-around in performance by starting goaltender Darryl Dickens.

"Darryl showed a lot of character by bouncing back from Friday night," suggested Moores.

Dickens, who made just 15 saves Friday in a 7-5 loss to visiting Summerland Buckaroos, was fingered by Moores as the prime cause of the loss following that game.

Meanwhile, with 11 goals on 51 shots for the night, Lakers' offence was running on all four barrels as well, which didn't go unnoticed by the Vernon coach.

"It's nice to see the goals go in because it's frustrating to get so many chances and not score," said Moores.

Lakers were paced by the line of Dennis Holland, Troy Pohl and Troy Backogorge. The three combined for 13 points, including five goals.

Pohl got back in the scoring groove with a three-goal performance and also helped set up the first goal by Holland. Holland had two goals and added four assists while Backogorge, a new comer with the local squad, contributed three assists.

Murray Baron added a pair of goals and moved up to the forward line late in the game in an attempt to complete his hat-trick.

Campbell Blair, Shannon Pohl, who also added three assists, Doug Spooner and Stacey Hartnell scored single goals for Lakers who held period leads of 2-0 and 7-2.

Lakers' power-play, which is the best in the league percentage-wise, clicked for five goals during the night. This also sparked a positive comment from Moores who has had little chance to commend his troops lately.

"It's a very positive thing," he said. "It's great to see our power-play working so well."

Rob Montgomery scored twice in a losing cause for Capitals while Graham Beweley and Rob Coults added singles. Caps' first goal was a gift from a Vernon defenceman who redirected the puck into the net while attempting to clear the front of the goal.

Capitals' second goal came on a power-play situation when Lakers' defence was caught up ice.

Despite the prolific power-play, Lakers' penalty killing was once again suspect as they allowed Caps three of their four tallies during man-advantage situations.

Elsewhere in the BCJHL Sunday night, Penticton Knights defeated Merritt Warriors 7-2.

Kevin Melrose scored two goals to lead Knights while Scott Rawson, Dave Shields, Erin Scott, Chris Anderson, and John DePourcq added singles.

Knights led 4-2 after the first and 6-2 after two periods.

Merritt's goals were scored by Mark Greyeyes and Allan Wall.

Lakers don't see action again until Saturday when they travel to Merritt. The next home game is Sunday when Summerland Buckaroos are in town once again. Between now and then, however, the BCJHL All-star game takes place in Nanaimo, Wednesday night.

Lakers are currently undergoing a metamorphosis in personnel. Centre Frank Dutoff was cut from the squad on the weekend while several others will feel the axe soon as new players are brought into the club. Defenceman Paddy Hodgeson, of Hobbema, Alta., will suit up for the club's next game while former Laker Dan Baker, who has spent the past year and a half with New Westminster Bruins, will also make his way to town this week.



VERNON LAKERS' forward Stacey Hartnell, 17, moves to the outside to get by a Sidney Capitals' defender during action at the Civic Arena, Sunday night. Hartnell scored once and set up another to help Lakers to an easy 11-4 romp over the visitors. All

BCJHL clubs take a rest this week as the annual all-star game between the Interior and Coastal Division teams takes place Wednesday, in Nanaimo.

(Daily News photo)

CURLING PLAYDOWNS

Two local teams remain in contention