

Interior All-star Team crushes Coastal Division

By Jim Judd
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NANAIMO (Special) — An eight-goal outburst in the third period by a superior skating Interior Division team helped them bury their Coastal Division counterparts 14-7 in the annual B.C. Junior Hockey League All-star game, played here Wednesday night.

It was the third consecutive win for the Interior All-stars over the Coast and the second straight victory for Penticton Coach Rick Kozuback over Muzz McPherson of the Richmond Sockeyes. Last year in Vernon, Kozuback's Interior squad trimmed its opposition 8-3.

The Interior All-stars contained the pressure tactics of the Coastal squad, which had a superior club in size and weight, then changed the pace of the game to suit their own style. By using their speed and forechecking, they turned the game completely around by the midway point of the match.

The Coast opened the scoring just 30 seconds into the game on a goal by Richmond's Kevin Weremy and generally outplayed the Interior club through the first period.

However, the Vernon Lakers' contingent held its team-mates in the game and allowed them to escape the first period with a 3-3 tie. Shawn Lafroth and Murray Baron, of Lakers, set up a goal by Kelowna's Kevin Taillifer, then Vernon's Doug Spooner tallied a short-handed goal and Dennis Holland, of Lakers, scored his first of two for the night. Holland stole the puck in the offensive zone and undressed Ray Woodley, the starting goaltender from Richmond.

In the second period, the Interior opened some daylight in the score with three straight goals as Kevin Cheveddave of Merritt, Penticton's Aaron Scott, and Kevin Scott of Summerland Buckaroos, scored.

The second period ended 6-4 in favor of the Interior.

The third stanza belonged to the eager Interior Division all-stars, who built amomentum as time ticked off the clock.

Holland got his second, Penticton's Lee Davidson and Merritt's Brad Smiley scored two apiece, while singles came from Randy Olson of Summerland, Penticton's David Shields, and Kelowna's Pat Mangold.



DENNIS HOLLAND



DOUG SPOONER

"I thought our defence played well," said Kozuback in defence of the seven goals surrendered by his club. "Our forwards compensated by working a little extra."

Holland, meanwhile, who showed incredible poise and leadership for a 16-year-old, thought his team's blitzkrieg tactics in the third period made the difference. "We got on them right off the bat and he (Abbotsford goalie Darcy D'Amours) never had a chance to get his confidence," Holland said.

Todd Decker of Delta Flyers had four goals and a pair of assists, but felt his personal performance was overshadowed by his team's loss.

"Nobody likes to lose, even if you contribute that much," he said. "They had a strong club and they really played well."

Todd Jennings of Nanaimo Clippers and Andrew Wolfe of Richmond also scored for the Coast team.

McPherson felt the score was fairly typical of all-star encounters. "People don't play a close checking game in an all-star game," he explained. "The difference was around the net ... we didn't knock anyone down and they jumped on their chances."

Starting in the net for the Interior was former Vernon goalie Frank Romeo, now of Kelowna, who was visibly shaky during his half of the game. However, Romeo attributed his performance to nervousness, not the poor lighting in the arena which caused huge shadows in both ends of the rink.

Romeo, who allowed the first three goals, and Merritt's Lucien Carrigan combined to stop 28 shots while Woodley and D'Amours made 39 saves.