

Lakers edge Buckaroos in overtime



VERNON LAKERS' checking line consisting of Greg Guest (12), Al Young (22) and Shannon Pohl proved to be a thorn in the sides of Summerland Buckaroos, Sunday night, at the Civic Arena. Guest and Young

missed a number of opportunities such as this one while Pohl connected for the club's first goal in a 4-3 overtime victory over the stubborn Buckaroos.

(Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Vernon Lakers played beyond regulation time in a pair of contests over the weekend, earning a 4-3 victory over visiting Summerland Buckaroos Sunday night, at the Civic Arena, while battling hometown Merritt Warriors to a 3-3 overtime draw Saturday night.

The three point weekend doesn't alter Lakers' position in the B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior division standings. The local club continues to hold down third place, trailing both Penticton Knights and Kelowna Packers.

Sunday, Lakers' captain Murray Baron banged home Troy Pohl's rebound at 1:51 of sudden-death overtime to give the Vernon squad its first victory in the last five starts against Buckaroos, who occupy fourth spot in the Interior.

Baron's goal came while Bucks were short-handed ... the result of a roughing call against Ray Fontaine, the giant Summerland defenceman. Although Baron, a defenceman, does see some action up front on power-play situations, his goal Sunday was the biggest of his career so far with Lakers.

"It was a fluke actually," suggests the modest Baron, a BCJHL all-star this season. "Don (Coach Moores) told me just to stand in front of the net and the rebound was there."

"It's about time we beat those guys. It's a big lift for the guys."

Lakers were forced to play catch up hockey in the third period when Bucks pulled ahead 3-2. Craig Bedard tallied on a two-on-one situation when the clubs were playing four aside.

However, Dennis Holland evened the game 3-3 just 16 seconds later when he stole the puck went in alone, and faked out Summerland netminder Tyler Findlater before casually depositing the puck upstairs.

The two clubs ended each period deadlocked.

Shannon Pohl opened the scoring in the first period on a power-play situation with Al Young and Murray Baron drawing assists. Young, as usual, turned in a strong defensive performance

up front for Lakers and missed a golden opportunity late in the game when he broke in alone on Findlater.

David Tomlinson tied the game at 1-1 at 17:10 of the first period.

In the second frame Bucks pulled ahead 2-1 on a goal by Gord Paulson but another man-advantage goal, this time by defenceman Campbell Blair, put the two teams on even terms once again.

Blair, acquired from Buckaroos earlier this season, also drew an assist on Baron's game-winner and has provided good offensive power for the club since he turned up in November.

The three power-play goals by Vernon made Moores happy, as did the overtime win.

"It's nice to see us get a break and get the winner," he said. "Our power-play has been very effective."

Meanwhile, Moores was pleased with the effort of newly-acquired goaltender Richard King whom the club picked up from Richmond Sockeyes for cash last week. King turned aside 26 of 29 shots directed his way but made a good number of close-in saves in the early going to keep it close.

"He (King) is a very consistent goaltender and he stays in the game very well," said Moores of King who was selected to the Coastal Division all-star squad in 1985.

Saturday night, Merritt's Brad Smiley scored on a penalty-shot with 31 seconds remaining in the game to lift Warriors to a 3-3 tie which stood up through the 10-minute overtime period as well.

In other action Saturday night, Kelowna Packers blanked hometown Abbotsford Falcons 10-0 while Shuswap Blazers, also on a Coastal swing on the weekend, were blasted 16-5 by Delta Flyers. In the only other contest, Penticton Knights, who earned a 16-4 decision over Summerland Friday night, doubled the Buckaroos 10-5 Saturday.

Lakers next action will be Friday night when they travel to Summerland for a rematch. The next home game is Saturday when the local club hosts Merritt Warriors.