



VERNON FORWARDS Troy Pohl, foreground, Doug Spooner, and Kelowna defenceman Shawn Swail all watch the puck sail into the Packers' net during first period action between

the two teams Sunday night in Kelowna. The goal was the result of Mark McCleary's shot from the top of the circle that eluded goaltender Frank Romeo seen on his knees.

The goal narrowed Packers' first period lead to 2-1 but the Kelowna squad hung on to defeat Lakers 5-3 and take a 3-2 series lead. Game six takes place Tuesday night at Civic Arena.

(Daily News Photo)

SIXTH GAME TUESDAY

Packers lead series 3-2

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Twice, in two games, Kelowna Packers scored the first goal within the opening minute and on both occasions the Orchard City crew won their B.C. Junior Hockey League games against Vernon Lakers.

Sunday night, Rick Viens scored twice to pace Packers to a 5-3 decision while Saturday night the visiting Kelowna squad earned a 5-4 decision over Lakers after opening an early 4-0 lead.

Packers now lead the BCJHL Interior Division semi-final series 3-2 with game six scheduled for Tuesday night in the Vernon Civic Arena. Game seven, if necessary, will take place Wednesday in Kelowna.

There was an obvious absence of the key ingredients which had accounted for Lakers' success prior to Sunday's game. The Vernon club eased off its skating game and resorted to poke-checking instead of utilizing its hitting game which had proven effective in recent contests.

Coupled with a number of defensive miscues that resulted in Kelowna goals, Sunday's result has left Lakers fighting for their lives at this stage in the series. It is a fight the Vernon team will have to take more seriously if it expects to come back from its deficit.

"We weren't playing our positions in our zone and that really hurt us," explained Lakers' Coach Mike Enemark. "Our defence was backing into our zone and the forwards weren't coming back to help them... we can't make excuses we just didn't come to play hockey."

"We have to regroup and come back... nothing fancy, we just have to get skating and hitting again."

Viens scored both of his goals in the first period Sunday night, notching the first just 23 seconds into the contest.

Lakers closed to within a goal when Mark McCleary tallied on a power-

play late in the opening stanza.

Packers regained their two-goal lead early in the second frame but Vernon kept pace with a goal by Troy Pohl at 12:45. Kerry Russell scored for Kelowna.

The Vernon team tied the game 3-3 early in the third period, but Packers reclaimed their lead slightly more than a minute later when Joel Savage popped home the winner. Shawn Lofroth had provided the tying marker.

Mike Murinko gave Packers the insurance marker at 7:56. Both third-period goals by Packers came off defensive miscues by Lakers.

For the first time in the series Packers outshot Lakers, holding a 37-32 advantage. King turned in his best performance to date in a losing

cause while Frank Romeo was again steady with timely flashes of brilliance.

Saturday night, Kevin Taillifer, with two, Savage, Greg Moberg and Shawn Swail got the Kelowna goals as the visitors pounced on the sleeping Lakers and took a 4-0 first period lead. They led 5-2 after 40 minutes and despite holding a wide margin in play in the third frame, Lakers couldn't put the equalizer on the board.

Packers' Coach Wayne Naka said his club has learned some valuable lessons in this series.

"They (Lakers) taught us how hard we have to work," he said. "They (Lakers) have worked so hard... it's going to be a nail-biter right to the end."

The three-games-in-three-nights

pace has taken its toll on Lakers. Though both teams looked tired Sunday, one team was able to grind out a victory in spite of the fatigue. A day of rest may see a resurgence of energy in the Vernon club, but either way it must find some method of winning game six or the club will exit the playoffs in the opening round once again. Vernon has not won a playoff series since becoming the Lakers five years ago.

Meanwhile, Penticton Knights eliminated Merritt Warriors in four straight games with a 7-3 victory over Warriors Saturday night. Sunday, on the Coast, Richmond Sockeyes also eliminated Abbotsford Falcons.

In the only other series, Nanaimo Clippers and Delta Flyers are tied 2-2 in their semi-final series. Those teams play tonight in Delta.

Boxing club schedules open sparring session

Vernon Boxing Club is going to knock itself out Tuesday night to show fans of the pugilistic sport and potential members the stuff it is made of.

The club executive is hoping the night of open sparring sessions and workout demonstrations it has planned will help it pick itself up off the canvas and start it toward better financial footing and a more active club schedule.

In 1985, a sort of malaise hit the club caused mainly by a shortage of funds and it was there again when the '86 season started. Meeting the rent for the club premises, a room under the Priest Valley gym, close to \$2,000 a season, left the club little money to take boxers to tournaments. Most tournaments are in Vancouver and the cost to send a coach and two boxers is more than \$300. There are at least a dozen a year club boxers should attend. The result has been limited travel and the club's 30 boxers training with no competition at the end of it, except matches that are held locally and in Kamloops and Kelowna, and they are few.

The remedy, as seen by the executive which was elected

this year, is more activity and more members and the open night of sparring is a start in that direction.

President Ross MacDonald, son of coach Don MacDonald, said a higher membership would help take care of rent and a plan to hold at least two boxing cards a year would go far toward financing trips to tournaments and help bring back some championships. Last championship the club claimed was in 1984, when John Henry Wilson was Canadian Bantamweight Intermediate champion. "We have the boxers to win many more," said MacDonald.

As a second step in its recovery plan, the club intends to present a full boxing card in the Recreation Centre, April 12.

For Tuesday night, Don MacDonald has set up eight matches that will demonstrate what the club is all about and there will be training demonstrations. Trainers and senior members will be on hand to answer any questions parents may have on safety and costs. A celebrity fun match has been arranged between mystery challengers. Such starts at 7.30 p.m. and admission is free, with donations appreciated.

4-1)

B.C. Junior

Kelowna 5 Vernon 4

(Best - o f - s e v e n

division

B.C. Junior

Kelowna 5 Vernon 3

(Kelowna leads best-of-seven
semifinal 3-2)

Peace-Cariboo