

DO OR DIE FOR LAKERS

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

There have been several key factors in Vernon Lakers' success in their B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff series with Kelowna Packers and the team will have to utilize these factors carefully and religiously tonight if they hope to stay alive for game seven.

Packers currently lead the BCJHL Interior Division semi-final series 3-2 with game six scheduled for tonight, at 8 p.m., in the Civic Arena.

In games two and three, which Lakers won, the local club used strong skating, close-checking and hard-hitting to their advantage in etching out victories of 8-4 and 7-4. They used the same ingredients, to some extent, in game one which they lost 3-2 in Kelowna. They didn't use these ingredients enough in either of the last two games in the series, which they lost.

Now behind the eight-ball and looking at possible elimination, Lakers are in a do-or-die situation tonight and Coach Mike Enemark would like to revert to the style of hockey that has been so successful for the club in earlier games.

"We have to regroup and come back," suggested Enemark following the team's 5-3 loss to Packers Sunday, in Kelowna. "Nothing fancy . . . we just have to get skating and hitting again.

"This series is definitely not over . . . we've shown a lot of character in the playoffs and we're going to continue."

Both teams have been getting the bulk of their production from the second and third string players. Lakers could use the scoring prowess of Dennis Holland who has been uncharacteristically silent in the series. Packers, likewise have lost the scoring touch from Pat Mangold, Ward Carlson and Shawn Harrison. Harrison is out for the remainder of the playoffs while Carlson and Mangold, both of whom scored in excess of 100 points this season, have been held in check by the Vernon defensive efforts.

Packers' Head Coach Wayne Naka is looking to end the series tonight on the road.

"We're going in (to Vernon) to win," suggested Naka.

Lakers will be without the services of centre Al Young, who sprained his ankle in game four, Saturday night.

Winter Hawks want brothers

The ever-increasing number of Vernon players on the Portland Winter Hawks' players' list grew by two more names Saturday when the Western Hockey League franchise added Trevor and Troy Pohl to their protected column.

However the identical two-thirds of the Pohl trio currently playing for Vernon Lakers of the B.C. Junior Hockey League will have to have something more concrete than a bit of coaxing if they are expected to suit up with the Hawks next season. The brothers are holding out for scholarships to U.S. colleges for next season and at present Troy has been made an offer from Lowell University of Boston, Mass.

Nevertheless, Winter Hawks had two spaces made available on their protected list recently and the names of Trevor and Troy were quickly inked in according to Wayne Meier, director of player personnel.

"That line (Pohls and Dennis Holland) could probably play in our system next year," suggested Meier. "Besides being tough and aggressive, they (Pohls) can play hockey."

"I understand Troy is interested in a scholarship, but we hope to convince him to come to Portland."

The Pohl brothers know the score between U.S. scholarship programs and major junior hockey players.

"If we step on the ice then we're ineligible for a scholarship," explained Troy who scored 46 goals for Lakers this season and accumulated more than 250 minutes in penalties. "The offer is going to have to be pretty stable."

In spite of his penalty minutes, Lowell University has shown enough interest in the hockey prospect to offer to fly him to Boston in the post-season for familiarization exercises. Lowell is in the Hockey East Conference of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Meanwhile, the centre on the Pohl line, Holland, recently completed a deal with Winter Hawks for next season with a guarantee of school funding as the catalyst in the proceedings. Another Vernon minor hockey product, Troy Mick, is poised to join the team next season. Defencemen Jeff Finley, property of New York Islanders, and Jay Stark, both of Vernon, are now with the major junior club.

Winter Hawks will host the 1986 Memorial Cup Championship, emblematic of junior hockey supremacy in North America.



TROY POHL



TREVOR POHL

Gymnast captures top spot

Seaton gymnast Sara Hamilton, who placed first overall in girls' level II events, led a contingent of 11 local athletes who competed in the Lambrick Park Invitational Gymnastics Meet last weekend.

The event included participating gymnastics teams from Labrick Park and Spectrum High Schools of Victoria, Balmoral and Hillside Schools of Vancouver, and Seaton.

Hamilton finished first on the uneven bars in her competition while taking second spot in both the beam and vaulting exercises. She finished up with a third place finish in the floor exercises with the combined total giving her first place.

Meanwhile, at boys level II, Gerry Gorrigan placed third overall with first place finishes in side horse, rings, and parallel bars competitions.

In level III competition, Wendell Goudge led the local competitors with second place overall while Kyle Yakimovitch was third and Derek Moran was fourth.

Goudge's total included first place finishes in vaulting, side horse, and rings exercises. The Seaton gymnast also placed second in the high bars and third in the parallel bars competitions.

In level IV competition, Mike Dutcher placed second overall while Blair Machiewich was third and Chris Goble fourth. Dutcher was first in parallel bars and second in the remaining five exercises.

Three other girls, Melody Gorrigan, Val Peters, and Lynn Marzocco, also competed in the meet but didn't place in their events.