



IN FULL FLIGHT

Vernon Lakers' centre Dennis Holland pulls away from a Kelowna Packers' checker during B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff action, Tuesday, at the Civic Arena. Holland scored two goals and added an assist

to spark Lakers to a 6-1 win over the Packers. Their best-of-seven series is now tied 3-3 with the deciding game scheduled tonight, at Kelowna Memorial Arena. See story and photo pg. 13. (Daily News Photo)

Lakers force seventh game



VERNON LAKERS' forward Doug Spooner, right, gives Kelowna defenceman Kip Noble a rough ride to the boards during BCJHL playoff action, Tuesday night, in the Vernon Civic Arena. Spooner and his

team-mates physically punished Packers on their way to a 6-1 victory. The best-of-seven series is now tied 3-3, with the deciding game tonight in Kelowna.

(Daily News Photo)

By JIM JUDD
Daily News Sports

Like rats with their backs to the wall, Vernon Lakers came out with their teeth showing and battled their way to a 6-1 victory over visiting Kelowna Packers, Tuesday night, in B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff action at the Civic Arena.

The win ties the best-of-seven Interior Division semi-final series 3-3 and forces a seventh, and deciding, game tonight in Kelowna's Memorial Arena.

An aggressive, close-checking style of hockey kept the smooth-skating Packers at bay during the night while Vernon goaltender Scott King turned in a sterling performance in the nets. King held Packers scoreless until 16:49 of the final period when Ward Carlson's slapshot from the top of the circle got by him.

In the meantime, Lakers blanked Kelowna on 10 power-play opportunities and came up with two man-advantage goals themselves.

In total it was the most dynamic, solid team effort the club has displayed this season and Head Coach Mike Enemark couldn't have been happier with his club's performance.

"I don't think you could ask for anything more from your players," he exclaimed. "It was almost flawless hockey... when we come to play nobody beats us."

Wayne Naka, coach of Packers, felt their was no time for thinking about past mistakes with the series about to climax tonight in Kelowna. However he did praise King for his solid goaltending.

"They got great goaltending... boy did they get good goaltending," he said.

Frank Romeo had an equally busy night in net for Packers, blocking 40 of the 46 drives that came his way.

Although it was a night for the guys in the trenches to howl once again, star centre Dennis Holland broke out of his scoring slump and was a major contributing factor for the first time in the series.

Holland scored twice and set up the eventual game-winner by Shannon Pohl at 5:21 of the opening period. Lakers led 2-0 after 20 minutes while Campbell Blair's power-play goal, the only marker in the second frame, gave the local club a 3-0 lead after 40 minutes.

Doug Spooner and Holland, with his

second, stretched the lead to 5-0 before Carlson put Packers on the board. Stacy Hartnell, with his fifth of the series, completed the scoring with another power-play marker at 18:59 of the final frame.

Lakers came out hitting from the starting gun and used the body to good effect in setting the pace of the game. Later, when the action cooled somewhat, the club was able to continue enjoying territory they had staked out early in the contest.

"After the first five or 10 minutes, we owned the corners and we didn't seem to have to hit quite so much," explained Enemark who improved his personal playoff career record to 5-7 with the win.

"We have to play the same style tomorrow (tonight)," he explained. "We have to be physical, aggressive and we have to check hard."

Twins Trevor and Troy Pohl played a major part in the offensive thrust of the victory. Though neither hit the scoreboard, the two joined centre Mark McCleary as the top playmakers with three assists apiece.

The game was slowed somewhat in the third period when the near-capacity crowd got out of hand on several occasions. Lakers, however, seemed to enjoy the fracas.

"It sure was nice to have the fans behind us because it gave us confidence," Enemark said.

Packers, who have already lost centre Shawn Harrison for the season, were without the services of Pat Mangold as well Tuesday night as the Kelowna captain was drained from having written final exams.

The game tonight will feature the re-emergence of tough-guy Gary Ruff for Packers and depending on the flow of the game, he may see some action.

Series winner travels to Penticton to take on Knights, Friday night, in the Interior Division final series.

On the Coast, Delta Flyers wrapped up their semi-final series with a 9-6 victory over Nanaimo Clippers. Flyers won the best-of-seven series 4-2 and now meet Richmond Sockeyes in the division final.

Chuck Tapp, former head coach of Merritt Warriors, took over in Delta last Sunday when owner Frank Sever dismissed Willie Young after several Flyers had passed the curfew hour at a drinking establishment in Nanaimo, Saturday night.

Vernon
Daily
News

sports

Editor—DON KENDALL

Stars blank Oilers

By The Canadian Press

Every NHL team dreams of beating Edmonton Oilers. Shutting them out

Junior girls