

# Vikings swamped as Bucks make big splash

The sum total of 15 goals scored against you in a pair of back to back exhibition games then add two days remaining before the serious stuff starts, means you have got a problem.

This is exactly the situation coach and general manager Vern Dye and his Vernon Viking hockey squad face as the team prepare for the big season opener of the B.C. Junior A Hockey league's 1973-74 season.

Tuesday night at Kelowna, Dye's charges took it on the chin by a 7-2 score then Wednesday night here at home an 8-1 decision favoring the Kelowna Buckaroos really left an impression of frustration.

They say exhibition games never really mean much but with Vernon due to take on White Rock Centennials here at home this Saturday what is one to think of the calibre of hockey spectators will be paying to see.

After Wednesday's game, coach Dye was emphatic he will be making changes for the big opener on Saturday and fans can look forward to seeing the likes of a pair of tough defencemen back in uniform such as Brian Greise and Terry Anaka.

Others who were not in the Wednesday lineup will also be back as Martin Stein, Bernie Marchand and Ron Areshenkoff took a rest Wednesday night.

Dye would not confirm reports the local team are looking at several prospects including Tim Sanche who toiled for the Essos last year and was the leagues rookie star last season, but he did say he expects to see a right winger

sent in from the Western Canada league soon.

Wednesday night, Kelowna jumped early on the scoring with a power play goal coming with only a minute and 11 seconds gone in the first period. Gerry Munro had gone off at the 48 second mark for tripping.

Vikings were back with the equalizer just over four minutes later as Dennis Bergeron let go a blistering drive from 15 feet in front of the Kelowna net. This goal was the climax of a flurry of passes deep in Buckaroo territory as Vernon was swarming all over the goal mouth area.

This proved to be all the scoring for Vernon as Kelowna came back with two more markers before the initial period ended then banged in three more in the middle frame and added two more in the final 20 minutes of play.

Former Vancouver Villa ace, Dale Costanzo, led the Kelowna attacking force with a three goal splurge with singles coming from Mark Lofthouse, Archie McKinnon, Steve Paolone and Darrel Starling.

While Vernon were frustrated in their attempts at scoring with 41 of their shots turned aside by a pair of goalies, namely Enderby's Billy Stankoven and Gerry Nekrasoff.

Stankoven in particular was outstanding as he was successful in blocking the door completely for his period and a half goal keeping chores.

While Vernon was busy at banging away at the Kelowna netman, Buckaroos on the other hand were more effective with much fewer direct shots as their total showed 36 shots, eight of them getting past three Viking goalies.

Starting Friday, the BCJHL will begin its 256 game schedule with eight teams, three of them based here in the Okanagan ready to go as White Rock Centennials tangle with Penticton Broncos at Penticton, then on Saturday, three games are on tap as White Rock appears here in Vernon, Bellingham Blazers go to Chilliwack Bruins and Langley Lords take on Nanaimo Clippers at the Islan centre.

Sunday games will see White Rock complete their three game sweep into the Interior as they meet Kelowna in an afternoon game and Chilliwack travel to Bellingham.

Local fans can expect a good game to unfold here with game time set for an 8:30 p.m. start. Doors will open an hour early for fans to get the best seats of their own choosing.

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