Sports

DOUG BULWER, Sports Editor

Vikings launch tonight

B.C. junior A hockey action returns to Vernon tonight as the first home game of the new Vernon Vikings unfolds when they take on White Rock Centennials , another new league entry.

Along with an expected exciting scene of hockey, official opening ceremonies will see Civic dignitaries headed by Mayor Stuart Fleming on hand along with some martial music by the Vernon McIntosh pipe plus other entertaining features.

With the news of the official league opener at Penticton Friday where the B.C. defending champions, Penticton Broncos came up with a solid show in whipping White Rock 7-1, Vernon fans can expect good things out of their charges as word out of the Vernon camp indicates the boys are ready to repeat the Penticton act.

Coach Vern Dye expressed surprise of the news of the Penticton-White Rock game, saying he had received word the Coast team were quite capable with several key players such as Greg Agar, son of well-known former Vernon Canadian coach-player Goerge Agar, able to make a good showing of themselves.

Dye plans on putting out at least five of his best defencemen such as Terry Anaka, Brian Greise, Gerry Munro, Lyle Brewer and newcoming from Regina, Mike Kambeitz, along with first string forwards Ken Price, Greg Howe and Bob Burgoyne with Martin Stein, Dave Caldow and John Kokotelo working on the second line with other forwards alternating on the third line.

Several players could make up the third line with the likes of Grant Sidnick, Barry Dye, Ron Arenshenkoff, Dennis Bergeron, Ranny MacDonald, Jeff Boychuk and Dave Dubbins ready to go.

Starting goalie for tonight's game could be former Vancouver Nats alternate goalie Bob Klim who has made several good solid impressions during the recent Vernon-Kelowna exhibition series.

A good crowd is expected for the big opener and fans are advised to be on hand early with the game due to start sharp at 8 p.m. following the opening ceremonies.

Cougars are a bust in Milwaukee arena

Chicago Cougars experiment to put Milwaukee on the major league hockey map has been a big bust.

The World Hockey Association Cougars played their fourth exhibition game in the 10,000-seat Milwaukee Arena and drew only 1,158 fans Friday night.

And the visitors weren't any more compromising than the Milwaukee fans as Jimmy Johnson scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the third period that lifted Minnesota Fighting Saints to a 5-4 exhibition win over the Cougars.

In the only other WHA contest Friday, Edmonton Oilers blasted Vancouver Blazers 5-1 at Edmonton.

In the National Hockey League, Pittsburgh Penguins downed St. Louis Blues 4-2 at Flint, Mich., and Minnesota North Stars and Los Angeles Kings played to a 4-4 tie at Portland, Ore.

CROWDS POOR

Previous turnouts at the Milwaukee arena in Chicago's unpromising test ranged from 3,248—most of them attracted by Winnipeg Jets' Bobby Hull—to 589.

Rusty Patenaude, Ron Climie, Val Fonteyne, Ken Baird and Roger Cote shared the Oilers goals at Edmonton. Serge Beaudoin tallied for the Blazers.

HORTON DIDN'T SHOW

ST. CATHARINES, Ont. (CP) — Unless Tim Horton changes his mind, Buffalo Sabres will be without the veteran defenceman for the 1973-74 National Hockey League season.

He did not show at the club's training camp Friday and general manager Punch Imlach said he had to assume the 43-year-old Horton had retired.

"We met for two hours Thursday then Timmy left for his home in Toronto," Imlach said. "He just couldn't make up his mind whether to play a 22nd season ... the agreement was that if he turned up for practice Friday morning he'd be with us one more year."

Coach Joe Crozier said he has not decided who will replace Horton to play beside Jim Schoenfeld "if Tim has really quit."

HOCKEY RESULTS

NHL Exhibition
Pittsburgh 4 St. Louis 2
Minnesota 4 Los Angeles 4
WHA Exhibition
Minnesota 5 Chicago 4
Edmonton 5 Vancouver 1
Quebec Major
Sherbrooke 3 Hull 1
Quebec 6 Montreal 4
Sorel 6 Shawinigan 4
Cornwall 6 Trois-Rivieres 3
Ontario Junior
Peterborough 3 London 2
Toronto at Kitchener ppd., bad ice
Hamilton 3 St. Catharines 2
Kingston 6 Oshawa 4
Sudbury 6 Ottawa 4

B.C. hockey roundup

PENTICTON WINS 7-1

PENTICTON, B.C. (CP)— The B.C. Junior Hockey League opened its 1973-74 regular season on a rough and ready note Friday night as the defending champions, Penticton Broncos, romped to a 7-1 win over the White Rock Centennials.

The Broncos were never in trouble in the game, taking a 2-0 lead in the opening period, expanding their edge to 4-1 after two periods and ramming in a trio of unanswered goals in the third.

Kirk Aulin set the scoring pace with three goals while Bryan James added a pair and Reg Kerr and Paul Mulvey contributed singles for Penticton.

Fred Berry scored the lone White Rock counter.

The game, rough throughout, deteriorated even more in the final period as the two teams were assessed 14 penalties, including seven five-minute majors for fighting and a pair of 10-minute misconducts.

During the game, Penticton took 11 of 18 minor penalties and five of nine fighting penalties. The two misconducts went to Penticton's Dwayne Mills and White Rock's Frank Thiessen.

Penticton outshot White Rock by a wide margin as they rained 44 shots on Centennials' Ernie Glanville, while Brad Cifra faced 24 shots in the Broncos' net. It was the only league game scheduled Friday night.

White Rock is at Vernon, Bellingham at Chilliwack and Langley at Nanaimo in games scheduled tonight.

DYNAMITERS TOP ROYALS

KIMBERLEY, B.C. (CP) — Kimberley Dynamiters came back from a 4-3 deficit to defeat Cranbrook Royals 6-4 in a Western International Hockey league exhibition game Friday night before 1,100 fans.

Cranbrook led 2-1 at the end of the first period, but Kimberley pulled in front 3-2 at the end of the second. The Royals grabbed an early third-period lead of 4-3, only to have the Dynamiters score three unanswered goals.

Mickey Wilson led Kimberley with two goals, while singles went to Terry Roboitelle, David Lee, Bob Clunie and Glen Walton. Scoring for Cranbrook were Chris Becker, Marv Ferg, Geoff Powess and Bob Marsh.

Cranbrook took 15 of the 28 penalties called. Ed Babiuk and Barry McKay blocked 34 shots in the Kimberley goal, while Wayne Doll and John Gabrish handled the same number in the Cranbrook goal.

RUSSIANS COMING

TRAIL, B.C. (CP) — Moscow Selects, the Soviet Union's premier hockey club, will meet Trail Smoke Eaters Dec. 19 in Trail as part of the Russian team's North American tour.

A Selects spokesman said in a letter the club, which wanted a game with a team in the Western International Hockey League, chose Trail because of its past successes in Europe and the Soviet Union.

The Smoke Eaters last met the Russians in 1963 when Trail finished fourth in the world champions. Trail won the championship in 1961.

CHIEFS - COUGARS TIE

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — Victoria Cougars overcame a 3-1 second-period deficit Friday night to salvage a 4-4 tie with Kamloops Chiefs in a Western Canada Hockey League Exhibition game.

Mark Lomenda paced the Cougar attack with two goals, while Brian Bay and Cal Kitching added singles. Bryan Arnold, Wayne Krebs, Greg Milliard and Jack Patterson replied for the Chiefs.

Seventeen minor penalties were assessed to the two clubs, nine of them to the Cougars.

Victoria outshot Kamloops 39-35.

McLEAN GRABS REF

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C. (CP) — Calgary Centennials scored four goals in the first period and coasted to a 6-1 Western Canada Hockey League exhibition victory over New Westminster Bruins here Friday night.

The Centennials got two goals apiece from Jerry Holland and Mike Rogers. Singles were scored by Danny Gare and Grant Mulvey.

The lone Bruin goal was scored by Ron Greschner. Each team had 34 shots on goal.

New Westminster got 11 of the 21 penalties called. Each team received four major penalties for fighting.

Late in the game, New Westminster coach Ernie McLean leaned over the boards and grabbed linesman Paul Pichette by the collar and shook him after Pichette had disallowed a Bruins' goal, ruling that New Westminster was offside on the play.

NELSON OVER JETS

NELSON, B.C. (CP) — Nelson Maple Leafs scored the first four goals of the game, three o them while playing short handed, and went on to defea Spokane Jets 6-4 in a Western International Hockey League exhibition game Friday.

Laurie Moore, Buck Crawford, Brian Russill, Gary Crossina, Hugh Hooker, Leroy Molery scored for Nelson.

Tom Rendall, George Galotti Dwight Carruthers and Larry Palanio replied for the defen ding WIHL champions.

Nelson led 2-0 at the end of the first period and increased the margin 4-2 after 40 minute.

Nelson took nine of 15 mino penalties. Each team was assessed two majors.

Nelson outshot Spokane 33-1

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