



MAPPING OUT THE STRATEGY

A stiff practice Wednesday night for the Vikings plus working out several key plays

was the main strategy of coach Vern Dye as he prepares the team for a big

four game road trip which begins tonight in Bellingham. Above photo shows most of

the team gathered around coach Dye as he describes some of the plays he wants them to improve upon.

Vikings heading for Coast battleground

By DOUG BULWER

Vernon Vikings left early today for what can be considered a gruelling four game coast trip in B.C. junior A hockey action.

Tough part of it all stems from a couple of factors, they presently lead the eight team league and can expect to see stiff opposition from Bellingham, Chilliwack, White Rock and Langley as they play these teams in the order listed starting tonight.

Next, all four teams would dearly like to knock the Vikings off their lofty perch particularly on their home ice thereby gaining a little prestige from home town fans.

Vikings of course will be looking to keep ahead of the pack, and this is where one can expect to see some strong playing on the Vernon teams part. With rumors bearing out some facts, it is said after this weekend, coach Dye will be making some player cuts and so the present 22 man roster will see to it a strong team is left intact even if it means cutting local players some of which haven't shown too well at this stage of the season.

Another interesting point on this weekends series of games at the coast, will also see both Penticton and Kelowna making the same tour.

Kelowna didn't play in Langley Wednesday (last night) as the arena there isn't ready for use until Dec. 16 when the two teams will meet at that time.

With Kelowna getting the bye, Vernon remains with a two point lead over the Bucks and

should stay this way providing they keep winning. Bucks will play three games as will Penticton.

Interesting look at the standings show Vernon with 14 points on seven wins and only two losses with Kelowna two points back with a six and one record.

Fighting it out for third place



DON MURDOCH
... first hat trick

is Penticton, Bellingham and White Rock who each have five wins for 10 points with the Broncos looking just a little

better on their game average having lost only twice (both to Vernon) while Bellingham have a .500 average with five losses in 10 games played. The White Rock crew also have five wins but having played more games (12) have dropped seven encounters.

With the 4-2 win Wednesday over Chilliwack, Nanaimo sits in sixth spot on a four win, six loss record for eight points.

Chilliwack is next with six points on only three wins in 11 tries. On the bottom but having only played eight games, is Langley who have a two win, six loss record.

Individually, Vikings have several boys making bids for more goals and assists and with the tremendous three goal effort by Don Murdoch at Penticton Tuesday night which included two of them coming when Vernon was playing a man short plus a big assist the same night, he has jumped from 19th position to 11th and could be much higher by the end of the week.

Bob Burgoyne still leads the points list with a most goals effort of eight along with 11 assists, also the most for the club for a total of 19 points.

B.C. Junior A hockey standings to and including Wednesday, October 24 games:

TEAM	Gp	W	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Vernon	9	7	2	54	37	14
Kelowna	7	6	1	43	24	12
Penticton	7	5	2	37	25	10
Bellingham	10	5	5	41	36	10
White Rock	12	5	7	50	61	10
Nanaimo	10	4	6	37	37	8
Chilliwack	11	3	8	36	67	6
Langley	8	2	6	28	37	4

Donkey basketball tonight

Spectators will get a kick, not physically that is, of entertainment as a fun-filled basketball game unfolds at the senior high school gymnasium tonight.

The big kick of it all will come as real donkeys will be used by the players and with such antics as one could imagine with the balky animals doing their best not to co-operate, the audience should be kept in stitches of laughter throughout the entertaining evening.

The action will feature four teams taking turns with senior high boys, parents, teaching staff and city basketball players on hand to make up the various teams.

The evening of fun will begin sharp at 8 p.m. and as it is a fund raising project for the school, a full house of spectators will greatly be appreciated.

Rockets clobbered in NBA play

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's this about a home court advantage in basketball? If it's true, Houston Rockets haven't heard about it.

At this early stage of the National Basketball Association season, the Rockets are doing much better on the road than at home—and Wednesday night, clobbered Boston Celtics 132-117.

The victory was the fourth in five starts on the road this season. Incidentally, the Rockets are 0-3 at home.

In other games, Philadelphia 76ers drubbed Portland Trail Blazers 132-110; Milwaukee