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Vikings back on top —take Merritt 9-5

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

A tie for leadership of the Interior division and a three-way deadlock among the Coast also-rans resulted from Thursday night's British Columbia Junior Hockey League play, as Vernon Vikings beat Merritt Centennials 9-5 and Chilliwack Bruins downed Penticton Broncos 5-2.

Vernon's victory at Merritt tied the Vikings with the Interior leaders, Kelowna Buckaroos, at 42 points. Penticton has 33 points and Merritt 22.

Dave Caldwell and Ranny MacDonald led Vernon with three goals each while Bob Burgoyne, Barry Dye and Jeff Boychuk had singles.

Merritt scorers were Darrell Zelinski, Paul Murvey and Don Festerling in the first two periods. Greg Agar rounded out the final frame for the Centennials with two goals.

Penticton outshot Chilliwack 32-22 but still lost 5-2.

Ken Weninger scored twice for the Bruins as they moved into a tie with Nanaimo Clippers and Bellingham Blazers at 22 points, 11 behind the coast division leaders, Langley Lords.

The game was played at Mission, about 20 miles west of Chilliwack, because the Bruins could not get home ice.

A crowd of about 300 saw Ken Widemeyer, Marcel Van Der

Graff and Wayne Bernard get the other Bruins goals, while Penticton scorers were Ron Zaviduk and Espo Siipolla.

Fights were the order of the night, with each team getting five major penalties for fighting and the Broncos picking up a game misconduct. There were 28 penalties in all, 14 to Penticton.

Tonight, the Broncos visit Langley, Vernon is at Chilliwack and Kelowna at Nanaimo.

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