

Sports

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5

Gift goal gives Broncos 6-5 edge over Vikings

Vernon Vikings played the kind hosts on the first day of the new year as they literally gifted the visiting Penticton Broncos with a tie breaking goal with only 34 seconds remaining in one of three BCJHL games played Tuesday to go on to win 6-5 here at Vernon.

Mark Patterson's second goal of the game at the 19:26 mark of the final period came as a result of sloppy defensive work when a Vernon defenceman put the puck on the Penticton players stick as the Vikings found themselves hard pressed around their own goal area.

Penticton had opened the scoring early in the game with three quick goals before the halfway mark of the initial period then added their fourth moments after Don Murdoch had scored his second goals of the same period at the 12:02 and 12:45 marks, his 39th and 40th, by the way.

Both teams then battled through a scoreless second frame with the Vikings coming back with a three goal effort in the third to tie the game with Patterson's first goal tucked in between on a power play at the 6:41 mark with Greg Howe off for hooking. Howe had opened the final period scoring on a good effort just 30 seconds before.

Ken Price and Terry Anaka took turns in bringing the fans to their feet as each man found the openings with the Anaka goal tying the game at 5-5 with just eight minutes to play.

MERRITT PLAYING AGAIN

Darryl Zelinski scored four goals, including the tie-breaker in overtime, to give the hometown Merritt Centennials a 6-5 win over Bellingham Blazers in

a British Columbia Junior Hockey League game Tuesday.

In other BCJHL action, fourthplace Nanaimo Clippers downed the visiting Chilliwack Bruins 7-4, while Penticton Broncos edged the hometown Vernon Vikings 6-5.

In Merritt, the teams tied 1-1 after the first period and the Blazers led 3-2 after two. A 5-5 third-period tie forced the overtime.

Also scoring for the fourth-place Centennials were Bob Dietrich and Danny Rota.

Brad Macwell counted two for Bellingham, while Doug Davis, Wayne Jeske and Harold Philipoff had singles.

FIRED 65 SHOTS

In Nanaimo, the Clippers fired 65 shots at Chilliwack goalie Dennis Welch, while the Bruins managed only 29 shots on the Nanaimo net.

Allan Hill and Bruce Van Camp led the Clippers with two goals each, while Morley Anderson, Gordon Venereux and Kirk Fyffe got singles.

Chilliwack's goals were scored by Ken Widmeyer, Jim Slater, Wayne Barnard and Verne Quaroni.

Mark Patterson's second goal with only 34 seconds to go broke a 5-5 deadlock and gave Penticton its win over the Vikings.

Also scoring for Penticton were Kirk Aulin, Mark Severyn, Pat Severyn and Gordon McKay.

Don Murdoch got a pair for the losers, while singles came from Greg Howe, Ken Price and Terry Anaka.

STILL LAST

The Clippers are still in the basement of the Coast Division with 26 points, one behind fourth place Chilliwack. Langley Lords are in first with 39 points

After four bowl games ... who is number one?

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Who's No. 1? Depends on who you ask.

The annual New Year orgy of bowl games left the usual dispute about which is the top U.S. college football team, and even

The Associated Press's final poll of football writers might not settle the question in some minds.

The poll results will be announced Thursday, but "some one will have to beat us head-on to prove they're better," Penn State coach Joe Paterno said after his Nittany Lions beat Louisiana State 16-9 in the Orange Bowl Tuesday night. "This is the best team I've ever coached."

Paterno had no monopoly on self-esteem.

"This is the greatest victory I've ever had, and the greatest for the school," said Woody Hayes, coach at Ohio State for 23 years, after his Buckeyes trounced Southern California 42-21 in the Rose Bowl Tuesday afternoon.

And Ara Parseghian of Notre Dame said after the Fighting Irish took a 24-23 thriller from Alabama in the Sugar Bowl New Year's Eve: "I definitely feel we're the national champion."

In a fourth bowl game, Nebraska broke loose from a 3-3 tie at halftime to upset Texas, ranked eighth in the last regular-season poll, for a 19-3 Cotton Bowl victory.

and the Blazers have 32 points for second spot.

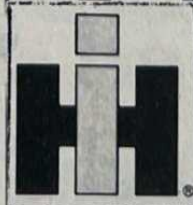
In the Interior Division, the idle Kelowna Buckaroos are firmly in top position with 55 points, while the Vikings are second with 48. Penticton is third with 41 and Merritt is last with 26 points.

The Centennial win came as they were coached for the first time by Don Berry, who took over Tuesday from Gordon McBeth, and was the first game after the lifting of the league's suspension of the team's franchise.

Bob Ferguson, a director of the Centennials, said the suspension came into effect last Thursday, but was lifted Sunday.

The Centennials travel to Bellingham today and Langley hosts the Bruins.

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