Blazers here Sat.

Vikings set for games tonight and tomorrow

By DOUG BULWER

Vernon Vikings go back into the fray of B.C. junior A hockey action this weekend with a pair of important games unfolding both here and in Penticton.

Tonight the Vikings travel to the South Okanagan centre for game seven of the season with the Broncos and a hoped for fifth win.

The Vernon crew so far have the edge in victories and an edge in goals for and against, having found the open net against Penticton goalies 38 times in six previous meetings as compared to 30 being scored against them.

Vikings will also be looking to avenge their 6-5 loss handed them here on New Years day at the hands of the Broncos with Mark Patterson scoring the victory goal with just 34 seconds remaining in the game.

Tomorrow night, the Vikings return home for their seventh game of the season with Bellingham Blazers and like the Broncos series, have won four of the six games played so far.

Blazers could be tough as they have come through with a strong showing in their last 11 games, winning nine and losing the other two by mere single goal differences.

Blazers can be considered the hottest club in the Coast section of the eight team league at the moment and are closing in on lower mainland leaders Langley Lords with only seven points separating them at the moment.

VIKINGS REVAMPED

Word out of the Viking camp reports several changes or shifting of players and personel.

Coach Vern Dye says he has been given some help in his coaching chores with the naming of Jerry Wenman as his assistant.

Wenman, a comparatively new resident to the Vernon area has excellent hockey background and having played both junior and senior hockey in the Weyburn area of Saskatchewan.

Dye will have his new assistant work closely with the defence in practices and hopes this will correct some of the weaknesses noted in the blue line patrollers.

Other news indicates some player changes are in store as a new netminder takes on the Vernon colors in the form of former Bellingham goalie Greg Hay, a 19-year-old native from Portland, Oregon.

Hay saw duty in 20 games earlier this season with the Blazers before being sidelined with a sprained leg. He then was dropped in favor of the Blazer policy of going with younger players.

Dye said he plans on carrying all three goalies for awhile with Ken Holland and Charlie Briskham the other two regulars.

Greg Chapman, a Kelowna born player and a regular with the Vikings this season has been traded to Chilliwack Bruins for future considerations.

Tim Sanche, another of the blueline patrollers has been given a three or more game try out with Medicine Hat Tigers of the Western Canada junior league. He left for the Alberta centre on Jan. 1.

Tad Campbell is reported back in the Vernon line-up after taking leave in November. Campbell is interested in a college education and headed north to work in a mine to earn tuition fees.

In 14 games played with the Vikings this season, Campbell scored seven goals and added six assists to remain in 14th place in the present Viking team standings.

Jeff Boychuk will be out of the line-up for a few more games as his father is reported seriously ill at the Coast.

Jerry Munro was also sent home to the Coast for more junior B level training and the Vikings hope to have him back in their camp for next season.

With the cutoff date fast approaching for carded players on each of the BCJHL teams, all squads should have their rosters resolved into final listings by the 10th of this month. Each team can carry a maximum of 19 carded players.

Another possible addition to the Viking lineup will be the familiar face of Gord Henschke, a native of Vernon who has been out of hockey for one year and still of junior age.

Henschke saw duty two seasons ago with New Westminster Bruins of the WCHL before calling it temporarily quits in favor of returning home for more schooling.

Game time both tonight at Penticton and here at Vernon civic arena tomorrow night has been set for 8:30 p.m.

Basketball opens here tonight

Senior high school basketball officially gets set to open in the Okanagan tonight here in Vernon as both the boys and girls teams host visiting North Kamloops in first league play of the season.

The Panthers boys squad will take on a reportedly tough team from the South Thompson area while the Royals girls squad will hope for a big win over another good girls team from the same school in North Kamloops.

The girls take to the floor in the opener at 7 p.m. while the boys go at it starting at 8:30 p.m. sharp with both games in the ultra modern Senior high school gym.

Admission for these two thrillers is a modest 50 cents and with good viewing from the warm and comfy bleachers, plus good concessions available, fans should get their monies worth.

Viking team standings

Vernon Viking team point standings for 38 games played to and including Jan. 1, 1974.

PLAYER	Gp	G	A	Pen	Pim	Pts
1. Price	38	20	48	33	131	68
2. Murdoch	31	40	21	15	64	61
3. Howe	37	24	27	27	79	51
4. Burgoyne	38	19	30	8	35	49
5. Caldow	35	19	33	33	111	52
6. Boychuk	36	17	15	10	44	32
7. Brewer	38	8	23	44	161	31
8. Stein	38	8	21	13	64	29
9. Sanche	29	7	22	45	151	29
10. Sidnick	35	7	11	17	52	18
11. Dubbin	36	4	13	13	62	17
12. Kokotilo	23	6	9	10	39	15
13. Anaka	24	2	12	16	38	14
14. Campbell	14	7	6	9	40	13
15. Dyck	10	5	7	1	5	12
16. Griese	30	1	11	10	46	12
17. Dye	31	4	3	5	13	7
18. Munro	29	3	4	8	19	7
19. Chapman	20	1	5	8	19	6
20. Areshenkoff	14	4	1	0	0	5
21. O'Donnell	9	0	4	1	5	4
22. McGillvary	6	1	2	6	31	3
23. Bowman	8	0	2	3	6	2
24. Renner	5	0	2	6	20	2
25. Chappell	2	1	0	0	0	1
26. Krantz	2	0	1	2	4	1
27. Meisner	2	0	0	0	0	0
28. Marchand	9	0	0	1	2	0
29. McDonald	4	0	0	1	2	0
30. Hamm	6	0	0	0	0	0
31. Briskham	0	0	0	3	22	0