

# Vikings come through in over-time thriller

Martin Stein's ice skimming screen shot from 25 feet out at the 3:19 mark in overtime gave Vernon Vikings a 6-5 victory over visiting Bellingham Blazers in B.C. Junior hockey action Saturday night.

Playing before just over 1,000 hometown fans, Vikings had to come from behind a 5-3 deficit with less than four minutes remaining in the third period to score the upset with Dave Caldwell proving to be the big scorer with a pair of quick goals, his second and third, at the 16:21 and 17:37 marks to round out a perfect night on the scoresheet.

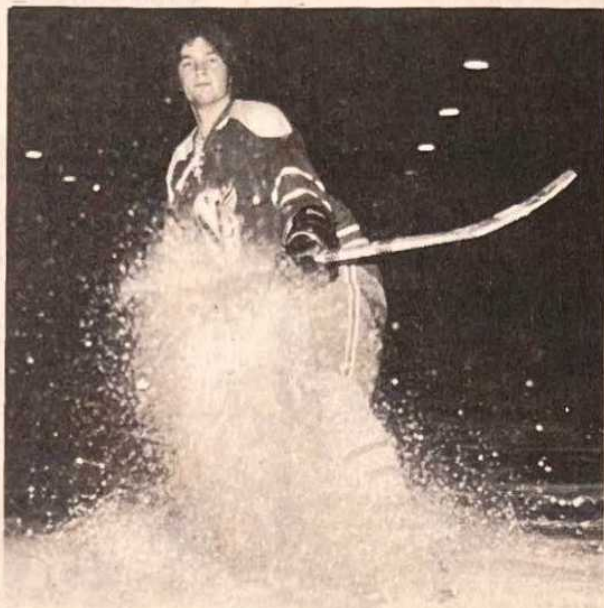
Bellingham led 3-2 at the end of the first period and 4-3 at the end of the second then added their final marker at the halfway point of the third stanza before Vernon could get untracked.

Other scorers for Vernon were Ken Price and Rod Dyck with singles.

Scoring the Bellingham goals were Wayne Jeske, Stant Smyl, Brad Maxwell, Neil Robinson and Mark Arnett.

In penalties, Bellingham picked up three minors, one fighting major and a 10-minute misconduct while Vernon were assessed five minors and one major and Vernon outshot Bellingham 36-32 in the game.

This was the Vikings 26th win in 40 starts this season and



Dave Caldwell was a standout

weekend, the first-place Kelowna Buckaroos tightened their grasp on the top of the league by beating Merritt Centennials 4-3 Saturday in Merritt. Vernon Vikings handed the Bellingham Blazers a 6-5 defeat Saturday at Vernon and Pentiction Broncos trounced the hapless Blazers 7-1 Sunday in Pentiction.

The weekend games left Kelowna leading the league with 59 points, followed by Vernon, with 52.

Broncos, with 43 points, were well ahead of Merritt, the basement team in the Interior division, with 26.

Langley led the Coast division with 47 points, 13 ahead of second-place Bellingham. Chilliwack with 27, and Nanaimo, with 26, brought up the rear.

Lords scored two third-period goals Saturday to take the Nanaimo game. The teams were tied 2-2 at the end of the first period and Clippers had taken a 4-3 lead by the end of 40 minutes. Dave Hathaway scored his second goal of the night and Brian Henderson also counted in the final frame to give Langley the victory. John Gregory and Allan Young got the other Langley goals. Gord Dumont scored twice for Nanaimo, with singles going to Fenton Gale and Jeff Frketch.

Young led Langley with three goals Sunday, with counters also coming from Sandy Bain and Ryan Walter. Ken Widmeyer, with three goals, and Terry Hochstetter scored for Chilliwack.

Merritt outshot Kelowna 41-32 Saturday night but Buckaroos held period leads of 1-0 and 3-2. Kelowna goals were notched by Randy Naito, Archie McKinnon, Dale Costanzo and Murray Hanson, who scored the winning goal. Fred Berry scored two goals for Merritt and Darrell Zelinski added a single.

Marty Stein's 25-foot ice-skimming screen shot at 3:19 in overtime gave Vernon the game Saturday. Dave Caldwell brought Vernon from behind late in the third period with his second and third goals of the evening. Bellingham led 3-2 at the end of the first period and 4-3 at the end of 40 minutes.

Ken Price and Rod Dyck also connected for Vernon. Scoring Bellingham were Wayne Jeske, Stan Smyl, Brad Maxwell, Neil Robinson and Mark Arnett.

Jeske fired the Blazers' lone goal Sunday after Bellingham coach Lawrence Gingras pulled his goalie who set up the counter

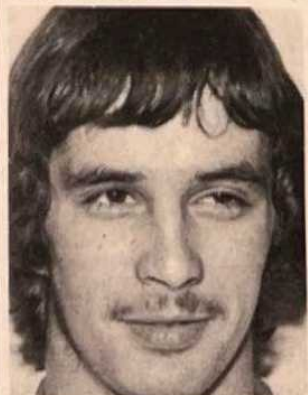
at 19:15 of the third period. For Pentiction, Gord MacKay led the Broncos with three goals while other markers went to Mark Severyn, Mark Patterson, Doug Lawson and Reg Ker.

Pentiction travels to Kelowna Tuesday and Langley goes to Merritt.

## In the NOHL

# Totems carve Merchants for second big victory

North Okanagan Hockey League fans were again treated to above average action in a pair of games which unfolded before them Sunday night at Vernon civic arena.



JEFF SHIRLEY ... sparks Totems

In the opener, cellar-dwelling Westside Totems came through with what has to be considered an upset as this new entry to the five-team league outscored second place Vernon Merchants to the tune of a 7-4 difference.

The second game while not quite as exciting and fast paced as the first, did provide fans with many good moments of excitement as league leading Head of the Lake Stampeders widened a first period 2-1 lead, with no scoring in the middle stanza, by a 4-2 difference in the final 20 minutes of play to take the game on a 6-3 count.

In the Totems vs Merchant fixture, a brilliant bit of play-making coupled with a three

goal effort on the part of Jeff Shirley sparked the Totems to their second win of the season in 10 starts.

The Westside boys took a 2-1 first period lead, with both teams tied 2-2 by the 3:40 mark of the second period on Lawrence Quechuks second goal of the night only to have the totems match this goal with a plow-play effort to take a 3-2 lead going into the final period.

Early in the third it was the Merchants who caught fire with two quick goals at the 3:30 and 6:59 marks by George Fargher and Willy Bevan to take a short lived lead but Shirley's three straight goals spanning eight



MIKE SMITHSON ... three games Sunday

minutes spelled the difference with goal number seven added as an insurance marker with a minute and seven seconds to go in the game.

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Miss Kreiner, younger sister of Laurie, 19, who finished 36th Sunday in 1:25.14, is a Grade 11 student at Timmins high school. Last year, Kathy was third in the giant slalom race, part of the World Cup competition, at Mount Aleyaska, Alaska.

Kathy won the race in a rain-storm, but the course remained hard and Miss Kreiner said it suited her well.

Hanni Wenzel of Liechtenstein was one of the unluckier skiers. Ten gates from the finish she almost lost her balance, and although she recovered she lost an estimated two seconds in time on the 1,450-metre course, with a drop of 320 metres.

Some believed she would have won, if not for the slight mishap, and added to her giant slalom victory two weeks ago at Zell Am See, Austria.

# Sports

DOUG BULWER, Sports Editor

# Kathy upsets the best in giant slalom skiing

PFRONTEN, West Germany (CP) — Kathy Kreiner, who began skiing when she was three years old in Timmons, Ont., upset her more celebrated rivals Sunday to win the giant slalom event in World Cup competition.

The win moved her to second from 10th in this season's World Cup standings. She now has 66 points, well back of Austria's Anne Marie Proell-Moser who was eighth Sunday and first Saturday for 109 points.

Miss Kreiner streaked through the 46-gate course in one minute 20.43 seconds. Lise-Marie Morerod of Switzerland was second in 1:21.40, followed by Fabienne Serrat of France in 1:21.43.

Miss Kreiner competed aggressively, particularly in the early stages of the race "where I thought I made a number of errors and almost lost my balance."

She added that she felt she had a good chance to place high

in the World Cup standings "because I like all three Alpine disciplines and that is important for a world champion."

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MARTIN STEIN ... scores in overtime

helped to keep them within striking distance of Kelowna Buckaroos who are still seven points ahead of the Vernon for the league leadership.

While the game was for the most part rather lack-lustre in the early stages, the final few minutes of the third period plus the overtime was excellent and thrilling and with the sudden outburst of wild cheering by Vernon fans urging the Vikings on during these final minutes of both sessions the game took on a new meaning.

Later in the dressing room, the Vernon players gave praise to the fans for the voiceful support and as one young man put it, "We seemed to catch fire with the way the fans started cheering and the sudden lift gave us something to really work for."

Next Friday the Vikings could use more of this kind of support as they have a tough game in Kelowna on Friday night then play host to the unpredictable Merritt Centennials on Saturday night.

Langley Lords edged their way to two 5-4 British Columbia Junior Hockey League victories on the weekend, beating the Clippers in Nanaimo Saturday and Chilliwack Bruins in Langley Sunday.

In other BCJHL games on the

# Marty Smith scores four in Pup action

Junior Pup action Saturday, Dec. 29, saw the Rangers led by

year ott right picking up their first win with a well earned 2-1

# Pee Wees

For the third place Winfield Raiders, their sixth loss in 11 games kept them from jumping ahead of the Merchants who are a mere single point ahead of them.

Like the Stampeders, Raiders goals were single efforts with Chris Swain, Clay Schmidt and Billy Nied doing the honors.

One aspect of the NOHL action worthy of mention was the stellar playing of goalie Mike Smithson who is a trojan worker in the league this season with his fill-in role for the various teams.

Sunday was probably one of the best examples of his outstanding efforts as he played three solid games starting early in the afternoon when he played in the nets for the Salmon Arm Aces and helped them take a 4-3 win away from the Lumby Flying Frenchmen of the Monashee Hockey League then came back to Vernon and did the net chores for the Merchants and then topped off the night with some good chores between the posts for the Stampeders.



### JUBILANT B.C. HOCKEY CHAMPS OF 1972

Taking a look down memory lane, the above photo recalls one of many happy moments hockey fans have been treated to here in Vernon. It was Friday, April 7, 1972 and the seventh and final game of the B.C. championship series here on Vernon's home ice the Essos

came through before over 3,100 fans to win the B.C. championship by a 3-1 score. As can be seen in the photo, every member of the Vernon club swarmed around coach Odie Lowe and lifting him, carried him around the arena much to the pleasure of the packed house at the time.

The B.C. title was the Vernon teams second such win in the space of three years and if the present edition of the local team continue with their winning ways, could make it a B.C. championship coming to Vernon for the third time in five years.