

# Sports

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## Rookies pace the Vikings to victory

It was rookie night Saturday for the Vernon Vikings as three of their first year stringers came through with scoring efforts to edge visiting Merritt Centennials 6-4 in BCJHL action here in Vernon.

Paced by a stellar performance by 17 year old local product, Grant Sidneck, who scored three big goals along with another Vernon boy, Martin Stein who added a pair with the single coming from Salmon Arm native Randy Krantz, the Viking looked good for the most part and came through with period scores leads of 3-1, 5-2 and added a single to Merritts pair in the final frame.

For the Vikings, it was their 27th win in 42 starts and helped keep them abreast of Kelowna Buckaroos who hold a lions share of first place leadership, 11 more than second place Vernon.

For the hapless Centennials, Saturdays game was the second of three eventual losses they were to suffer on their Okanagan swing over the weekend.

Friday night they dropped a 6-5 squeaker to Penticton and then on Sunday night they were bombed 12-2 at the hands of the Buckaroos.

Next Friday Vikings will play host to the Kelowna squad and will be out working hard this week in practices hoping they can pick up their first win over Kelowna in seven starts this season.

### BCJHL ROUNDUP

Kelowna Buckaroos smashed Merritt Centennials 12-2 and Nanaimo Clippers sailed past Bellingham Blazers 5-2 in British Columbia Junior Hockey League games Sunday.

The win gave Kelowna a stranglehold on the lead in the BCJHL interior division with 65 points, while Nanaimo moved into third place in the coast division with 30 points.

In games played Saturday, the roles were reversed between Blazers and Clippers, as the Bellingham team edged Nanaimo 7-6. Chilliwack Bruins ripped Langley Lords, the top team in the BCJHL coast division, 4-3 in Chilliwack. Vernon Vikings defeated Merritt Centennials 6-4 in Vernon.

Playing in Nanaimo Sunday, the Clippers and Blazers were tied 1-1 at the end of the first period, but Nanaimo took a quick 3-1 lead in the second period before a fight broke out.

### TEN EJECTED

Sparked by an interference penalty to the Blazer's Brian McAlister, and a dispute between him and the Clipper's Morley Anderson, it ended in 10 players being ejected from the game.

Dale Ewasiuk scored three goals for the Clippers, with sin-



GRANT SIDNECK  
... big hat trick

gles by Allan Hill and Fenton Gale. Stan Smyl and Wayne Jeske scored for Bellingham.

The game left Bellingham in second place in the BCJHL coast division with 36 points.

In Sunday's contest in Kelowna, the Buckaroos outshot Merritt Centennials 52-23, scoring five second-period goals and six third-period goals.

Randy Naito netted three goals for the Buckaroos, while Duane Monteith and John Stone each added doubles. Singles came from Les Strachan, Dale Turner, Curt Fraser, Murray Hanson and Archie McKinnon.

Replying for Merritt were Don Festerling and Al Holcomb.

Merritt led 2-1 at the end of the first period before Kelowna broke loose.

In Saturday's game at Bellingham, Wash., the Blazers outshot the Clippers 42-28, although the Clippers led 3-2 after the first period and 5-4 after the second.

Stanley Smyl scored twice while Bruce Rowland, Kevin Shamehorn, Miles Zeharko, Dean Arnett, and Harold Phillipoff added singles for the Blazers. Bruce Van Camp, Morley Anderson, Cliff Eccles, Greg Norbratten, Curt Fyffe and Al Hill scored for the Clippers.

### FIRM GRIP

Vernon Vikings strengthened their grip on second place in the BCJHL interior division in Saturday's game against fourthplace Merritt Centennials. The Vikings have 54 points, 11 back of first-place Kelowna; the Centennials are in the division basement with 26.

Grant Sydneyck scored three goals for the Vikings. Martin Stein added two, and Randy Krantz added a single.

Danny rota scored two goals for the Centennials, and Paul Mulvey added two.

Vernon led 3-1 at the end of the first period and 5-2 after the second. The Vikings outshot their opponents 42-37.