

Crucial game here tonight as Vikings host Penticton

With only 11 games remaining in regular scheduled games of the B.C. Junior A hockey league, Vernon Vikings still do not have things all their own way as far as keeping second place intact in the Interior division.

Tonight the Vikings play host to the Penticton Broncos who are slowly closing their third place gap of just seven points behind the Vikings and a combination of wins by Penticton and losses by Vernon, Vikings could find themselves relegated to third place by the time it is all over.

With this thought in mind,

B.C. junior hockey standings

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

First-place teams in both divisions of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League hold commanding leads.

In the Coast division, Langley has 67 points, 23 points more than second-place Bellingham. In the Interior division, Kelowna has 80 points, 11 ahead of Vernon.

Both third-place teams are close to second place, however. Chilliwack in the Coast division is three points behind Bellingham while in the Interior, Penticton is seven behind Vernon.

Team Standings

	Coast		Division		
	W	L	T	Pts	
Langley	33	20	1	67	
Bellingham	22	33	0	44	
Chilliwack	19	33	3	41	
Nanaimo	16	36	2	34	
	Interior Division				
Kelowna	39	14	2	80	
Vernon	34	18	1	69	
Penticton	30	23	2	62	
Merritt	18	35	1	37	

Vernon will be out in force in tonight's game here and should win the encounter based on the fine display they put before local fans last Sunday when Kelowna Buckaroos were in town.

So far this season Vikings have won six of the nine games played with Penticton and have outscored the Broncos 51-45 in the goals department and at the moment Vernon have two games in hand over the Peach city crew.

BRONCOS LOSE TO BUCKS

Chilliwack Bruins downed Merritt Centennials 5-4 in Merritt while Interior Division-leading Kelowna Buckaroos defeated Penticton Broncos 8-5 in British Columbia Junior Hockey League action Tuesday.

The game in Kelowna put the Buckaroos, now with 82 points, 13 ahead of second-place Vernon in BCJHL Interior Division standings. Penticton remains in third place with 62 points.

Archie McKinnon and Curt Fraser led the Kelowna attack with two goals each, while

Dale Turner, Mark Lofthouse, Dale Costanzo and Murray Hanson scored singles.

Mike Holmes, Dean Dyer, Brian James, Reg Kerr and Wade Jouett scored for the Broncos, who outshot Kelowna 36-30.

The teams were tied 2-2 after the first period, and the Buckaroos led 6-2 going into the third.

Tuesday's action put Chilliwack, with 43 points, within one point of second place Bellingham Blazers in the Coast Division. It left Merritt at the bottom of the Interior Division, with 37 points.

Chilliwack led 2-1 after one period on goals by Brad Bateman and Ken Weninger. Fred Berry scored Merritt's first-period goal.

The second period ended in a 3-3 tie, with Paul Muldey and Don Festerling scoring for Merritt and Vern Quaroni for Chilliwack.

Quaroni and Gary Huth scored Chilliwack's third period goals, while Gary Criss replied for Merritt.

Merritt outshot Chilliwack 46-29.

Armstrong to rep B.C.

CHILLIWACK, B.C. — Jim Armstrong of Richmond has captured the British Columbia Men's Curling Championship with two straight wins over Ted Moffatt of Prince George.

Armstrong took the final game 12-7 in 11 ends.

The game had a sharp turning point in the first end when Moffatt was called for skidding over the hog line and had his rock taken out of play, setting up a four-point edge for Armstrong.

But Moffatt came back with three of his own in the third, keyed by a clean miss by

Armstrong with his last rock.

Tied 5-5 after six ends. Armstrong moved on top with a single in the seventh, then stole three points in the eighth end when Moffatt missed both his shots.

From there Armstrong added one in the ninth, gave up two in the tenth, regained his points in the eleventh end and won 12-7.

The Armstrong rink now advances to the Canadian Men's Championship in London, Ont. March 4-9.

Panthers