

# Vikings drop another to Bucks.. Broncos just three points back

By DOUG BULWER

Vernon Vikings will play their second of three straight games this weekend at home tonight and with a pair of recent losses, last night at Kelowna by a 6-4 score and last Wed. night against Penticton by a 5-3 difference, look to be in trouble as far as maintaining their second

place team in each division plays the third place team and second place goes against the fourth place.

Vernon would do far better to go against Merritt Centennials who are moulded in the bottom of the Interior section as they have won five of seven games played against the Cents, but against Kelowna, Vernon have only won twice and tied once in 10 games and the schedule calls for both teams to meet two more times before the league comes to a close on March 3.

Vikings also have had a tough time with Penticton, winning six times and losing four others and they must play the Peach City boys twice

return has brought many questions to local fans minds.

Player discipline and the lack of leadership amongst the players with Lyle Brewer being replaced by Tad Campbell as team captain last week is another big question and over-all player control both on and off the ice, such as the bad display at the end of the game against Penticton last Wednesday and the way the players dress before coming to the arena, are many things which could be causing the Vikings to slip when it is most important they be really fit as they prepare to meet the challenge of the playoffs.

Consuming of beer during games by one certain team official as witnessed by this reporter and his being obviously under the influence of liquor before, during and immediately after games is another factor which must be getting through to the players who sweat their butts off playing and then have to listen to this man's words of advice at the end of each game played.

## KEY GAME SUNDAY

Another key game and the Vikings third of the weekend goes before the public tomorrow night (Sunday) at Penticton and the only consoling fact in favour of the Vernon boys will be they will

have one game in hand over the Broncos come Monday morning.

## BCJHL ROUNDUP

Kelowna Buckaroos pulled 15 points ahead of second-place Vernon Vikings in the Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League Friday they downed the Vikings 6-4 in Kelowna.

In the night's only other game, Penticton Broncos topped the visiting Langley Lords 4-2. Penticton is third in the Interior, and the Lords lead the Coast Division.

Dale Costanzo led Kelowna with three goals and an assist.

Archie McKinnon, Murry Hanson and Mark Lofthouse rounded out the scoring for Kelowna. Rod Dyck scored all four goals in a losing cause.

Kelowna goaltender Bill Stankoven stopped 24 shots while Vernon netminders Charlie Briskham and Ken Holland kicked away 44.

In Penticton the Broncos went to the front early and never looked back.

Kirk Aulin, Mark Patterson, Reg Kerr and Doug Lawton counted goals for the Broncos while Don Moores scored both of the Langley markers.

Penticton held a wide edge on the shots on goal as they fired 40 at Langley's Mark Earp while Andy Mydlak handled just 20 in the Broncos' net.



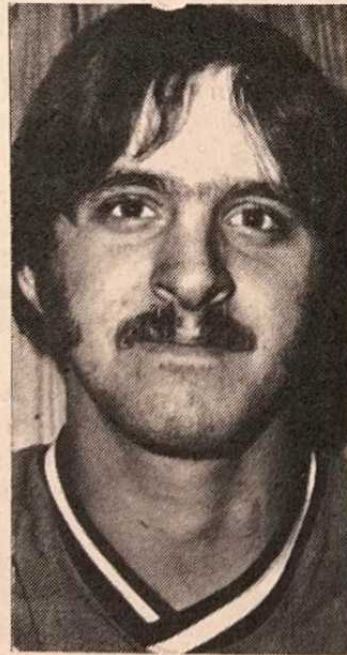
ROD DYCK  
... scored all four

place position in the BCJHL interior standings.

Tonight they take on Coast division leaders Langley Lords who by the way lost to Penticton by a 4-2 difference last night at Penticton but are considered tough everytime they step onto the ice.

Now, with only three points separating Vernon and third place Penticton and with only nine more games to play, Vikings must get back on the win trail or find themselves facing Kelowna Buckaroos in the semi-final playoffs which start the second week in March.

With eight teams in the league, officials go with the idea all teams will get a chance to play in a playoff series. For example; the first



DALE COSTANZO  
... leads Kelowna

more and on Penticton ice at that.

## LACKING SPIRIT

Coupled with an apparent lack of team spirit while on the ice in recent games, rumour has it there is also much dissention within the confines of the dressing room and the team office for the Vikings.

For example, the quitting of players such as Tad Campbell, Don Murdock and Ken Holland and their subsequent

# Sports Briefs

## LEEDS FAVORED

LONDON (Reuter) — Leeds United, beaten finalists last year, were quoted by a leading London bookmaker Friday as 5-to-2 favorites to win the English Football Association Cup second favorite, at 5-to-1, is Liverpool.

## MILESCHUK OUSTED

WINNIPEG (CP) — A Winnipeg rink skipped by Orest Meleschu, 1972 world champion, was eliminated Friday in the semi-finals of the Manitoba men's curling

contract. Morton, acquired by the Braves a year ago, topped the Braves' staff in victories in 1973 with a 15-10 mark.

## BOSOX INK YAZ

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Red Sox announced Friday the signing of veteran Carl Yastrzemski, outfielder Tommy Harper and relief pitcher to oneyear contracts for the 1974 American League baseball season. The Red Sox said only second baseman Doug Griffin and rookie pitcher Bill Kouns remain unsigned.