

LOSE IN KELOWNA

Home ice advantage if Vikings win two

Vernon Vikings must win their final two games of the season to capture second place and the home ice advantage in the first round of the B.C. Junior Hockey League's interior division playoffs.

The squad was defeated 6-2 by Buckaroos in Kelowna Friday. Tonight, Vikings play Bucks at the Civic Arena, and Sunday the team travels to Penticton to meet Broncos.

Win or lose, Vikings meet Broncos in the semi-finals. However, if Vikings manage second spot, four of the seven games of the series will be played on home ice, compared with just three home-ice games for a third-place finish.

Vernon, with 73 points, is one point behind Penticton. The Broncos' final game will be against Merritt Centennials, a team entrenched in the interior cellar.

EVENLY MATCHED

Vernon and Kelowna were evenly matched in the first period Friday, coming out of it with a 1-1 tie, but the Bucks went ahead 4-1 in the second period and finished the game with a commanding 6-2 lead.

Tad Campbell scored for Vikings in the first period, and

Jeff Boychuk scored in the third.

Buckaroo goals were from Mark Lofthouse with two, and Murray Hanson, Dale Costanzo, Tom Onno and Duane Monteith notched singles.

Kelowna set a new league record during the game, as the team has now scored 366 goals in regular season play. The previous record, 362 goals, was set by the old Vernon Essos in a season with four games less than this one.

Both teams missed chances in the first period, but Vikings were outplayed by Bucks in the final 40 minutes of the hard-hitting contest.

THIRD STAR

Vernon's Pat Price was named the third star of the game.

In other Friday meetings, Langley Lords strengthened their lead in the coast division with a 6-3 win over Nanaimo Clippers.

Bob MacGillivray scored twice for Langley, with singles coming from Barry Beck, Peter Poeschek, Don Moore and Dave Hathaway.

Nanaimo's Kirk Fyffe scored twice and Clint Eccles added the third Clippers



TAD CAMPBELL

...scored goal

marker.

In the coast division standings, Langley has 78 points, followed by Bellingham with 54, Chilliwack with 47 and Nanaimo with 42.

Kelowna leads the interior division with 90 points, while Penticton has 74, Vernon has 73, and Merritt trails with 42.

Tonight's game at the Civic Arena starts at 8 p.m.