

Vikings begin playoffs tonight against Broncos

Vernon Vikings hit the B.C. junior 'A' hockey league playoff trail starting tonight at Penticton and by all indications the semi-final series with the Broncos should be a real thriller.

While Vernon did not show too well against this same club in the final three of 12 games played against each other during the regular season, losing all three, the win loss record for both clubs stands at six wins and six losses each over the full season.

Another aspect which shows how even both teams are, is the goals for and against with Penticton having just a slight edge of two goals with Vernon scoring a total of 60 against the Broncos with Penticton having a 62 goal tally against the Vikings.

One big item definitely not in favour of the Vikings in this particular series is the loss of Don Murdoch who broke his right hand in a fight with

Wade Jowett of the Broncos last Sunday afternoon during the final regular game of the season.

Murdoch was the teams high goal scorer with a total of 48 in his favour but a badly sprained ankle suffered in the All-star game late in January put him out of action until recently and now with this new injury will again be sidelined indefinitely.

Word out of the Viking camp indicates everyone else is healthy and coach Vern Dye feels his team should hold their own against Penticton saying they are due for some key victories.

Second game of the series takes to the ice here in Vernon tomorrow night (Wednesday) game time at 8:30 with game three back in Penticton Friday night and game four here in Vernon Saturday night.

Remaining games shows Vernon in Penticton on Tuesday night, here at Vernon

Wednesday with the seventh game back in Penticton on Friday, March 15.

With the series a best of seven effort, Vernon stand a good chance to take a major portion of these considering their record of four wins at home and a pair of victories on Penticton ice during the schedule.

Kelowna series in jeopardy

KELOWNA, B.C. (CP) — The British Columbia Junior Hockey League interior semi-finals between Kelowna Buckaroos and Merritt Centennials could be in jeopardy.

The B.C. Amateur Hockey Association has fined the Merritt club \$500 for using two Alberta players who had inter-branch transfer rejected by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association. The two are goalie Tom Cassady and defenceman Joe Radvak.

BCAHA secretary Ivan Temple said as far as he's concerned Radvak and Cassady have been playing illegally since the start of the season.

Meanwhile, effective Monday Temple has given the Centennials seven days to pay their two-per-cent season gate assessment to the BCAHA. If the assessment isn't paid by the deadline, the Centennials will be suspended, along with any club playing against them, Temple said.

Kelowna and Merritt will have played four games in their best-of-seven series before the assessment is due. Buckaroo manager Wayne North said the Kelowna club will adopt a wait-and-see approach to the Merritt situation.

The Kelowna-Merritt series opens in Kelowna tonight.

Berry of Merritt top scorer

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fred Berry of the Merritt Centennials finished regular-season play at the top of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League scoring race although his team, with 20 wins and 42 losses, was at the bottom.

Berry scored 60 times and got 76 assists to rack up 136 points while teammate Darrell Zelinski got 60 goals and 57 assists for 117 points.

Murray Hanson of first-place Kelowna Buckaroos was third with 41 goals and 70 assists for 111 points.

The teams now enter a series of best-of-seven semi-finals.

Scoring leaders:

	G	A	P
Berry, M	60	76	136
Zelinski, M	60	57	117
Murray Hanson, K	41	70	111
McKinnon, K	53	56	109
Costanzo, K	39	70	109
Young, L	51	57	108
Lawton, P	50	55	105
Patterson, P	41	64	105
Walter, L	40	62	102
Price, V	28	66	94

Final Jr. standings

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Langley Lords of the Coast Division and Kelowna Buckaroos of the Interior Division finished the regular season with comfortable leads in their first positions in British Columbia Junior Hockey League Standings.

Langley, with 78 points, finished 20 ahead of second-place Bellingham Blazers, while Kelowna, with 90 points, was 12 ahead of Penticton Broncos.

The league now moves into best-of-seven semi-finals.

Team Standings:

	W	L	T	Pts
Coast Division				
Langley	38	24	2	78
Bellingham	29	35	0	58
Chilliwack	22	39	3	47
Nanaimo	21	41	2	44
Interior Division				
Kelowna	44	18	2	90
Penticton	38	24	2	78
Vernon	37	26	1	75
Merritt	20	42	2	42

Arctic games now underway

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — About 1,100 athletes and coaches from North America began competition Monday in the third biennial Arctic Winter Games in a day marked primarily by ceremony.

The games opened officially at about noon with a parade and a welcoming ceremony with short remarks from Anchorage Mayor George Sullivan and Alaska Governor William A. Egan.

A total of 16 sports and three exhibition events were scheduled to see participation from Alaska, the Canadian Northwest, Yukon Territory, and Arctic Quebec.

In the junior hockey, Chris Bromley scored three goals to lead the Northwest Territories to a 9-5 victory over the Yukon Territory.

YUKON STRONG
Curling got under way in force as the Northwest Territories handed the Alaska team a 2-0 loss in the mixed division. The Yukon Territory beat Quebec 2-0 in the second round of mixed curling.

In the women's division of curling the Yukon continued its strong showing with another 2-0 victory over Alaska.

Athletes have a full slate of events scheduled today. They began at 8 a.m. with curling and shooting and go to nearly midnight with hockey, volleyball, basketball, arctic sports and exhibition swimming.

The defending champion in the games is the Yukon Territory.

Sports

DOUG BULWER, Sports Editor

East German wins gold medal in skating event

MUNICH (CP) — As expected, Jan Hoffmann of East Germany took the gold medal in compulsory figures at the world figure skating championships today.

Hoffman, third in the world last year and a serious contender for the crown this year, was first in all three figures, the first event of the 1974 championships.

Sergei Volkov of the Soviet Union took the silver with Vladimir Kovalev of the Soviet Union third.

John Curry of England was fourth, Gordon McKellen of the United States fifth, Didier Gailhaguet of France sixth and two Canadians seventh and eighth.

Ron Shaver of Cambridge, Ont., was seventh and Canadian champion Toller Cranston of Toronto eighth.

The compulsory figures count 40 per cent toward a skater's total marks. The compulsory free skating counts 20 per cent and the five-minute free skate the other 40 per cent.

Asked if he was satisfied, Cranston said: "Of course not, but the best is yet to come."

LOOKS TO IMPROVE
He was referring to his forte, free skating, in which he is ranked with the best, if not the best, in the world.

Shaver is also one of the best free skaters in the world, but whether they can overcome Hoffmann's margin is questionable.

"It can be done," said Don Jackson of Toronto, a former world champion. "However, I'm surprized Toller is as far down the list as he is."

"I thought he might be in the top three after figures. Nevertheless, there's no doubt that the Canadians and Americans are the most exciting skaters in the world and Toller, Ronnie and Gordie McKellan

Final placings in the figures showed Hoffmann with 76.24 points, Volkov with 75.44 and Kovalev with 72.31. Shaver had 69.23 and Cranston 68.98.

While they are about seven points off Hoffmann, they are both within easy striking distance of Kovalev.

RUBENS WELL BACK
The third Canadian, Robert Rubens of Toronto, was a disastrous 20th after figures and his chances of getting into the top 10 are slim at best. He scored 58.16.

Cranston, an artist, says he's still not worried about a medal, just wanting to "redeem myself to myself."

He was fifth in the world last year after falling in his free skating routine at Bratislava, Czechoslovakia.

Lions hire assistant for Keys

VANCOUVER (CP) — British Columbia Lions of the Canadian Football League have hired Cal Murphy, 41, as an assistant to head coach Eagle Keys.

Murphy, who will handle the defensive line in the 1974 season, has been at San Jose State University for the past year. He coached junior and high school football in Vancouver before leaving for the United States in 1965. He has also been an assistant coach at Eastern Washington State College and University of Hawaii.

He replaces Owen Dejanovich, who moved to the World Football League.

Murphy was a quarterback at the University of British Columbia in the early 1950s and a defensive back with the

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