

# Sports

DOUG BULWER, Sports Editor

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## Vikings make coaching change as last resort

By DOUG BULWER

Vernon Vikings move into Penticton tonight for the third game of their best of seven Interior semi-final series of the B.C. Junior A hockey league down two games and going with a new coach.

At what can be called an extraordinary special director-owners meeting Thursday night, eight of the 10 team officials on hand agreed to make a last minute change in the coaching staff in the hope the move would jolt the players into winning form.

A general lack of team spirit has plagued the team for the past several games so the directors felt, and was agreed by outgoing coach Vern Dye, to go with assistant coach Gerry Wenman for the remainder of this year," said club chairman Nick Schuck.

Wenman, 38, a family man with four teenage daughters and his wife Alice have made their home here in Vernon for the past two years, comes to

key post with a vast amount of hockey experience. His playing days include good years as a junior with both Regina and Melville of the old Prairie Junior 'A' circuit and then good years as a senior with Weyburn and Melville in the Saskatchewan league.

While only working with the Vikings in the capacity as assistant coach since Christmas, Wenman has had an excellent background as an intermediate coach in the Saskatoon area and it is understood he is well respected by the Vikings players.

While Vern Dye steps aside from the thankless task of coach, he remains with the club in a most active way and according to an interview with him early today, will be ready to go to bat for the team the way he has always done in the past.

### POSITION NOT CLEAR

While the position of general manager is still not too clear, Dye re-affirmed he would

carry on in this capacity, and under questioning by a reporter at the conclusion of the meeting Wednesday night, directors said there were no other changes at this time on the running of the club.

"We still have the same directors and Les Schier who was named the club manager at the beginning of the season remains in this capacity," said chairman Schuck.

The question arose on the basis in the team program for each home games, Dye was listed as coach and general manager with Schier as manager, but directors explained this was a mis-print in the program which began at the start of the season.

Vern Dye said he agreed with the idea of trying a change saying, "We had to try something and the boys just might pick up a little spirit and want to try and stay in hockey a little longer this season.

I believe we have the bodies to go all the way and while our defence has been on the weak side, this could change if the boys settle down.

As most people know I am not a quitter but in the best interests of having this team survive and if we want Junior hockey to continue in this area, I am willing to try anything."

Dye concluded by saying how disappointing it has been for the team on home ice as far as fan support has been.

"We won 27 of 32 home games this year, losing only five and three of these so close anyone could have won.

While no official comments have come from the players, it is understood they did not necessarily agree with the coaching change at this time, some felt that if such a move was going to be done it should have come at the start of the season.

Meanwhile, everything hinges on the next two games, if the Vikings can come back to take the strong skating Penticton club, they could go



GERRY WENMAN  
... takes over

all the way to the B.C. title.

Game time tonight at Penticton and back here tomorrow (Saturday) has been set for 8:30 p.m. and fans should try and make it to give the new coach and his charges something to try a little harder for.

Fan support is what will make good hockey here in Vernon survive, club officials are the first to admit without the fans there certainly would not be any hockey.

## Junior Pups play out final games

Last Saturday saw the final Junior Pup Hockey Playoff games played.

In the first game, Empire Meats tied Winmans 3-3. Henry Riemer scored two goals and David Munk claimed the other one. Robin King and Gordon Masson assisted twice while Tad McCleod added a single for Empire Meats.

Jason Chambers, Bill Baron and Don Balcombe counted for Winmans. Clayton Adams and Chambers picked up the assists.

Game number two saw Canadians take Rangers 6-0. Brent Gilchrist and Tommy Kowal scored twice while single goals were scored by James Fedivich and Jeff

## Midgets host Revelstoke in zone playoffs Saturday

Okanagan Midgets hockey champs and the pride and joy of Vernon are set to take on Revelstoke in the Okanagan-Mainline zone finals this weekend.

The Vernon Midgets will play host to the Revelstoke boys this Saturday afternoon with game time set for 4:15 p.m. in the opening round of the best of three series, then move back to Revelstoke Sunday afternoon with this second game set for a 1 p.m. start.

Vernon are the odds on favorite team with an excellent season record of 10 wins, one loss and only one tie and in semi-final and final Okanagan playoffs, won four straight games edging Kelowna and Penticton twice each in that order for the Okanagan title.

Winner of this upcoming series will earn the right to

represent this area and zone in the B.C. Midget championships at Victoria with a total of seven zones involved in a round robin playoff series.

The Vernon Midgets are the only local remaining Rep team to stay in contention for further honors on the playoff trail from the Vernon Minor hockey association and all eyes and hopes are pinned on their success.

Some real Vernon fan support will go a long way to helping the boys to stay on the victory trail. A further incentive to the spectator is that it won't cost a penny to come out and cheer these deserving boys on, who by the way, are under the able coaching of Gordie Nuyens.

Last weekend here in Vernon, the local lads dropped a real 3-2 thriller to Quesnel Midgets with the game well played throughout.

## BCJHL playoff picture

Bellingham Blazers clamped a virtual stranglehold on their quarter-final series, while Langley Lords were in command in their quarter-final in British Columbia Junior Hockey League action Thursday night.

The Blazers took a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven set by thumping Chilliwack Bruins 3-1 in the Washington city, while the Lords blasted Nanaimo Clippers 6-3 in the Vancouver Island centre to take a 2-0 bulge in their series.

Meanwhile, Vernon Vikings, trailing Penticton Broncos 2-0 in one of the other quarter-finals, moved to replace coach Vern Dye with assistant Gerry Wenman. In the other quarter-final, Kelowna Buckaroos and Merritt Centennials are tied 1-1.

Brothers Mark and Dean Arnett each scored once to

pace the Blazers over the Bruins. Don Delautt scored the other goal for the Bellingham club.

Butch Dupont scored in the second period for Chilliwack, which has managed just two goals in the three games.

In Nanaimo, the Lords spotted the Clippers the first goal, then pulled away to win handily.

### POOR SPIRIT

Dave Hatheway and Allen Young scored two goals apiece and Don Moores and Barry Beck added single goals for Langley, who pelted the Nanaimo net with 51 shots.

Al Hill, Kirk Fyffe and Dale Ewasiuk scored for the Clippers.

Three of the four series will add a game tonight, with Nanaimo visiting Langley, Merritt at Kelowna and Vernon at Penticton.

## The Outdoors

BY NONIE FRISBY

The Okanagan Landing Women's club has requested a

dispose, including any waters on or flowing through the said lands and the natural