

Vikings dumped in road opener

Chilliwack 3, Vernon 2

A goal with less than three minutes remaining in regulation time gave Chilliwack Bruins a 3-2 victory over Vernon Vikings in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Thursday, in Chilliwack.

Gord Brandt scored while Vernon defenceman Peter Poeschek was in the penalty box, with just 2:48 left in the final period.

Vernon opened the scoring in the first period when newly acquired winger Dwight Bailey scored at 14:43. However, before the first period ended, Al Cunningham

tyed the score for Chilliwack.

Bruins took a 2-1 second period lead when Gary Huth scored a power play goal with two Vikings in the penalty box.

TIED SCORE

Bailey tied the score for Vernon early in the third period with a power play marker, which set the stage for Brandt's winner.

Vikings had several good scoring opportunities but some erratic shooting, nullified many chances. Brad Schultz had numerous scoring chances but could not find the target.

Vikings' goalie Keith Ferner made 24 saves while Dennis

Welsh, in the Bruins' net, turned away 16 shots.

Bailey joined Vikings Wednesday after being cut Wednesday by Kamloops Chiefs. He was the best player on the ice for Vernon Thursday. Poeschek also joined the Vikings this week, after being released by the Medicine Hat Tigers. The bruising defenceman starred last year with Langley Lords.

Poeschek and the rest of Vikings continue their four-day road trip tonight when they are hosted by Langley. Saturday they meet Nanaimo Clippers, and Sunday, Bellingham Blazers.