

Vikings thump Merritt

Vernon 13, Merritt 3

If Merritt Centennials thought Friday evening was a nightmare, just wait until tonight.

Vernon Vikings trounced the Cents 13-3 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Friday before 950 fans at the Vernon Civic Arena. Merritt goes from the frying pan into the fire tonight when they meet the undefeated Buckaroos in Kelowna.

Vernon is also in action tonight, at 8 p.m., hosting Chilliwack Bruins, who lost 9-1 to Kelowna Friday.

Although Vikings turned in their finest performance so far this season, an inept Merritt defence and terrible goaltending made their job easy.

The star of the game for Vikings was centre Bill Ranson, brought up this week from the Port Alberni junior B team.

The diminutive centre scored three times and set up two goals by linemate Greg Walmsley also had a big night, picking up two assists.

FIVE POINTS

Winger Darrell Booth scored once and added four assists, while his linemate, Grant Sidnick, turned in perhaps his best game of the season, with a pair of goals and assists.

Defenceman Owen Lloyd and Darrell Billsten also scored two goals each for the winners, with a single marker from Gary Benson.

With the score 5-3, midway through the second period, Merritt pulled goalie Gerry Perreault and inserted Jerry

Price. From that point on, Vikings scored eight unanswered goals.

Together, the Cat's netminders made 39 stops.

Vernon netminder Keith Ferner, who turned away 21 shots could easily have had a shutout. On Merritt's first goal by Bob Wasson, at 6:26 of the first period, Ferner let off a bad rebound and on the second goal at 11:26 by Gord Adomite, Ferner did not have the angle.

However, after being beaten on a shot from the point, on a power play by Rod Neeld, at 8:14 of the second period, the young Vernon netminder closed the door.

Vernon led 3-2 after the first period and 8-3 after 40 minutes.

WELL PLAYED

The game was fast, and cleanly played until late in the third period, when Merritt realized they had no hope of winning.

At that point, several fights broke out, and Centennials did not do particularly well in fisticuffs either.

Referee Lyall Johnson called several majors and misconducts in the final minutes, and penalty totals

Holiday weekend schedules

Due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday weekend, both the arena and swimming pool schedules have been changed.

There will be public skating both Sunday and Monday,



DARRELL BOOTH
... five points

were undetermined.

Vikings' hottest scorer going into the game, centre Dwight Bailey, was held to one assist. But, Ranson, if he continues his hustle and fine skating, could be the find of the year for Vernon.

In Langley Friday, Pen-ticton Broncos picked up their first point of the season when they fought to a 6-6 overtime tie with the Lords.

Broncs visit Nanaimo tonight.

Kelowna leads the interior division with eight points, followed by Vernon with six, Merritt two, and Broncs have one.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

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No pay, no play for WFL Blazers

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida Blazers, unhappy about missing salary cheques for a month, are talking about issuing a "No pay, No play" ultimatum to the World Football League.

Quarterback Bob Davis, Florida's player representative, said today was the informal deadline for the financially troubled WFL to deliver the cheques.

over the Blazers from managing general partner Rommie Loudd, also is having financial problems with Jacksonville Sharks and Detroit Wheels.

NOT ON SCHEDULE

WFL commissioner Gary Davidson—who says the two teams are not folding—has ordered that Jacksonville and Detroit be removed from the league's 1974 schedule. They each had five games