

Merritt

edges

Nanaimo

Merritt Centennials moved to within one point of third place Penticton Broncos, and two points of second place Vernon Vikings, when they edged Nanaimo Clippers 6-5 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Thursday.

However, Broncos and Vikings have a chance to add to their point totals Saturday when the two Okanagan clubs clash in Vernon.

Nanaimo led 3-2 after the first period, but Merritt took a 6-5 lead after 40 minutes, in Thursday's game.

The third period was scoreless.

Joe Radback, Danny Rota, Rob Neeld, Hal Papke, Darrell Zelinski, and Gord Adamite scored for Merritt. Clint Eccles scored twice and Kim Hillewich, Wayne Larsen and Kirk Fyffe added singles for Nanaimo.

Merritt outshot Nanaimo 34-33.

Clippers took seven of nine minor penalties.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

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Johnstone scores first pro goal

It will be a long time before Eddie Johnstone forgets Oct. 17, 1974.

Johnstone, a Vernon minor hockey product, played his first professional hockey game Thursday and helped his club, the Michigan Stags, of the World Hockey Association, defeat Indianapolis Racers 4-2, in the first league game of the season for both clubs.

Johnstone wasted no time picking up his first goal at the 51 second mark of the opening period, giving Michigan a 1-0 lead.

For Johnstone, it ended a drought which saw him get blanked during the Stags' exhibition schedule.

Other Michigan marksmen were Steve West, Danny Gruen, and Marc Tardif. Indianapolis, a WHA expansion team, got goals from Steve Richardson and Bob Whitlook.

With the score tied 2-2, Gruen beat Racer goalie Andy



EDDIE JOHNSTONE
... with Michigan

Brown at 11:35 of the third period, and just 1:41 later, Tardif added an insurance marker.

Indianapolis outshot Michigan 33-24.