

Vikings host Kelowna tonight

Vernon Vikings get the acid test tonight when they host the defending B.C. champions, Kelowna Buckaroos, in B.C. Junior Hockey League play, at 8 p.m.

Tonight is a must game for the Vikings if they hope to remain within striking distance of the Bucks.

First place Kelowna has 12 points, three more than Vernon and Penticton Broncos. The Broncos moved into a second place tie with Vikings Tuesday when they trounced Merritt Centennials 15-2.

Vernon coach Joe Tennant plans on starting Darrell Furmanek in the nets against Kelowna. To date, Furmanek has been the most consistent

of the Vikings' three net-minders.

At least two Vikings are doubtful starters because of the flu. Defenceman Terry Anaka, and the club's leading scorer, left wing Darrell Booth, have been ill for two days.

Tennant would not predict a victory or a loss tonight, he simply said it will be close.

He said, "Our team is checking and moving the puck better every game, and despite the fact Kelowna has an older and more experienced team, I think we'll give them a run for their money."

In Merritt Tuesday, Bob Irvine led the Broncos with three goals.