

# Anyone going to the game?



Vernon Vikings host Kelowna Buckaroos Friday night in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at the Vernon Civic Arena, and if there isn't 1,500 fans on hand, the people of Vernon should be ashamed of themselves.

To date, Vikings have been drawing the smallest crowds in the BCJHL with an average of less than 500 fans per game. The visiting press come to town and say, "Is this the way the people here support their team."

Kelowna, Bellingham, Merritt, Penticton, and Langley, have been drawing good crowds since the season began. Nanaimo and Chilliwack got off to a slow start, fan wise, but their crowds have now picked up to an average of about 800.

Several crowds in excess of 1,500 have been registered so far this season, but not in Vernon. Not even a 1,000 crowd here.

Vikings are playing .500 hockey, right on the button. If you remember right, coach Joe Tennant said if his young club was playing .500 hockey at Christmas, he'd be happy.

## NO PROMISES

He never promised to burn up the league before Christmas. He said the players will mature by the New Year rolls around.

On the last Coast road swing, Vikings played just as hard as any team which has ever represented Vernon.

The last time Kelowna, winners of 11 straight games, were in town, there was less than 500 fans on hand. Close to one-half of those people were from the Regatta City.

There is nothing like a little fan support to get a team moving.

Owners of the club, just ordinary guys like Vern Dye, Ernie Kowal, and Les York, who like hockey so they sponsor the Vikings, are wondering what they have to do to put people in the building.

These kids, playing on the Vikings, have not yet experienced the thrill of having a big, hometown crowd behind them. Let's see if we can do it Friday.