

CLIPPERS TROUNCED 8-2

Merritt puts it together

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Merritt Centennials bettered their chances of finally getting out of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League interior division basement with their fifth straight win Thursday night.

They defeated Nanaimo Clippers, in the coast division basement, 8-2. Merritt now has 27 points, three behind third-place Vernon Vikings.

In other BCJHL action, Vern Quaroni's five points and six fights highlighted Chilliwack Bruins' 6-4 win

over Bellingham Blazers.

Chilliwack, with 32 points, is only one back of first-place Langley in the coast division. Bellingham is third with 27 points, seven ahead of Nanaimo.

In Merritt, the Centennials led 6-2 after one period and 8-2 after 40 minutes.

Darrell Zelinski scored three first-period goals. Perry Stensland added a pair of goals and Greg Agar, Paul Chadwick and Neil Robinson rounded out the Merritt scoring.

Scoring for Bellingham were Pat Mallough and Wayne Larson.

TEMPERS HIGH

Tempers flew in the second period with game misconducts going to Dale Wetherall and Pat Dupuis of Merritt. John Gordon and Kim Hillkewich had game misconducts for Nanaimo.

In Chilliwack, Quaroni scored two goals and assisted on three others by Butch Dupont, Gary Huth and Mitch Germain to give Chilliwack the victory. Al Cunningham

scored with only two minutes left for the Bruins.

Scoring for the Blazers were Kevin Schamehorn, Brian Pearce, Ken Pendleton and Bruce Roland.

There were 84 minutes in penalties. Bellingham had 10 minors and six majors, while Chilliwack had six minors and six majors.

Chilliwack outshot Bellingham 42-25.

Tonight, Nanaimo travels to Kelowna, Vernon goes to Penticton and Bellingham plays in Langley.