



Vernon coach all smiles

After Wednesday night's junior hockey game in Vernon, you couldn't wipe the smile off Vikings' coach Joe Tennant's face.

Tennant said, "I told you, those guys from 30 miles down the road have never beat me and they aren't going to this year either."

Buckaroos still hold a healthy 12 points lead over the second place Vikings but Kelowna coach Don Culley has got to be wondering what has happened to his club in the last couple weeks.

Since Bucks returned from a coast road swing three weeks ago, they haven't looked like the same club. In the past three weeks, Kelowna has lost three of its six games. Previous to that, they had lost only three in 25 outings.

Vernon is playing .500 hockey against Kelowna with three wins and three losses. That is quite an accomplishment for a team with basically a rookie roster, against the defending B.C. champions, with a veteran-loaded roster.

Tennant predicted his club would not start playing up to its potential until the New Year and if that is the case, the rest of the league could be in trouble come January and February.

VAST IMPROVEMENT

Although the Vikings still make too many defensive errors, now they are not completely adept around the net. In yet, they are a vastly improved club from the one that took the ice a couple months ago.

Vikings are playing like a team now and for the second time this season, they have put together a winning streak. Wednesday's victory was their fourth in a row, one short of their longest streak this year.

Younis said Culley will have his troops up for Friday's game when the Bucks host Vernon and Vikings will have to work to stretch their streak to five games.

Bucks have been hurt by the loss of hustling Doug Colborne to Calgary Centennials, and if the injury Bill Haynes picked up Wednesday is as serious as it first looked, Kelowna will be minus two players who sparked them early in the season.

People at the start of the year, including Kelowna officials, laughed when Tennant said his club would knock out the Buckaroos. But, Joe was the one smiling Wednesday.

Young racers register Sunday

Registration for the Nancy Greene Ski League will be held Sunday at the Silver Star Day Lodge, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

After the registration session, there will be a skiing session for members.

Nancy Greene League is for youngsters, aged seven to 13, interested in ski racing.

Silver Star Ski Club has hired two coaches for the league this winter. The

One of the league's organizers in Vernon, Al Goldie, said the idea of the league is to start children in the racing program and make them stronger skiers.

Goldie said, "The hope is that some of the skiers, in future years, will become international racers. But, whether they continue with racing or not, the Nancy Greene League will make them better skiers."

FOR THIRD TIME

Vikings dump league leaders



KELOWNA BUCKAROOS' goalie Jerry Nekrasof made a good save on a shot from Viking forward Jeff Boychuk during the third period of Wednesday's BCJHL game in Vernon. Nekrasof shut out the Vikings for the final 32 minutes of the game, but it

was not enough as Vernon defeated the Bucks 7-5. Below, Kelowna forward Bill Haynes lies motionless on the ice after crashing into the goal post with seven seconds remaining in the game. He suffered a possible broken leg. (Daily News Photo by Don Kendall)



Vernon 7, Kelowna 5
League-leading Kelowna Buckaroos suffered only their sixth loss in 31 games Wednesday when they were defeated 7-5 by the Vernon Vikings in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at the Vernon Civic Arena.

The win, Vernon's third in six games against Kelowna this year, moved the second place Vikings to within 12 points of the Buckaroos.

Duane Monteith gave Kelowna a 1-0 lead in the opening minute of the game but before Bucks scored again, it was late in the second period and Vernon then led 7-1.

Jack Lefley, Brad Schultz, Jeff Boychuk, John Scammel, and Gary Gilchrist gave Vikings a 5-1 lead after the first period. Owen Lloyd and Darrell Billsten stretched that margin to 7-1 early in the second period. However, a power play goal by Doug Davis, and a short-handed goal by Randy Naito, made the score 7-3 before the period ended.

In the third, Viking's goalie Jim Scammel was responsible for keeping his team in the lead as the forwards and defence continued to play kitty-bar-the-door.

Rick Benninghof and Perry Schnaar moved the Bucks to within two goals with eight minutes remaining, but some

fine work by Scammel, preserved Vernon's 18th victory of the season. Scammel turned away 34 shots while Bill Stankoven, who was pulled in the first period with the score 5-1, and Jerry Nekrasof, combined to stop 31 shots.

The loss could prove to be a costly one for the Bucks as they lost two players during the game. Wayne Krebs suffered a bad cut on his head in a second period scuffle with Vernon hardrock Randy McDonald, while hustling Bill Haynes may be out for the remainder of the season. Haynes was carried from the ice on a stretcher with seven seconds remaining in the game after he had chased the puck for an icing call, collided with Viking forward Grant Sidnick, and went flying into his own goalpost. He suffered what is probably a broken leg.

Vikings were handed nine of 17 minor penalties and each team was assessed two fighting majors. The other fight occurred after Haynes was injured when Doug Berry went after Sidnick.

The same two clubs meet Friday night in Kelowna and Saturday night, Vikings host the hot-and-cold Merritt Centennials.

In the only other BCJHL game Wednesday, Centennials were defeated 5-3 by the Bellingham Blazers.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

8 VERNON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 1974

Seven Vikings on NFC squad

NEW YORK (AP) — Minnesota's Central Division champion Vikings placed seven players, most for any team, on the National Football Conference Pro Bowl squad announced Wednesday.

The NFL team will meet a team from the American Conference in the National Football League's Pro Bowl game at Miami's Orange Bowl, Monday, Jan. 20.

Five of the Vikings selected — running back Chuck Foreman, offensive tackle Ron Yary, defensive end Carl Eller, defensive tackle Alan Page, and defensive end

Cowboys. The tight end is Philadelphia Ragles' Charles Young.

Besides Yary, the offensive line has Rayfield Wright of Dallas at the other tackle, Green Bay Packers' Gale Gillingham and Tom Mack of Los Angeles at the guards and Jeff Van Note of Atlanta Falcons at centre.

On defence, Atlanta's Claude Humphrey and Merlin Olsen of Los Angeles join Page and Eller on the front line. The linebackers will be Ted Hendricks of Green Bay, Philadelphia's Bill Bergey

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