

Benson breaks lengthy slump



LEFT ALL ALONE, with three Screaming Eagle forwards in front, Armstrong Cougars' goalie Barry Dinwoodie makes one save but can't block the rebound which was tipped in by Dave Dobie. Dobie's goal

put the Eagles in front 3-1 but it was not enough as Cougars rallied, in the third period, to win 6-5 in North Okanagan Hockey League action Sunday night. (Daily New photo by Don Kendall)

Vikings split pair of weekend encounters

It has been a long, frustrating four months for Vernon Vikings' forward Gary Benson.

Benson came to the Vikings this season from the Medicine Hat midget reps where he gained the reputation of being deadly around the opposition's net.

He looked great in the Vikings' pre-season camp and scored several goals in exhibition games.

However, until Sunday night, Benson had scored only one goal in 39 Viking games. He found the range Sunday in Merritt, scoring three times, as the Vikings thumped Merritt Centennials 9-1.

SCORED THREE

Vikings will have to release four players prior to the roster deadline and no doubt, until Sunday, Benson was one of the four Joe Tennant was expecting to send to Vernon's farm club in Grand Forks.

But, the 17-year-old left winger has given Tennant something to think about now.

Other Vernon marksmen were Marty Stein, Darrell Billsten, Jack Lefley, Dwight Bailey, Darrell Booth, and Jeff Boychuk.

Scott Kolewaski was the only Centennial player able to beat Vikings' goalie Darrell Furmanek, who blocked 23 shots.

TOUGH LOSS

Saturday in Vernon, Vikings suffered a heartbreaking 6-5 loss to Pentiction Broncos.

Broncos jumped to a 4-1 first period lead but Vernon narrowed the gap to 5-3 after 40 minutes, and then tied the score 5-5 midway through the final period.

But, with less than four minutes remaining, Vikings' forward Grant Sidnick surrendered the puck in his own end and speedy Kirk Aulin scored his second goal of the game to put Pentiction back in the lead.

Mark Patterson also had two goals for the Broncos but



GARY BENSON ... scores three

singles going to Gord MacKay and Del Iannone.

Gary Gilchrist, Brian Griese, Marty Stein, Ron Areshneko, and Lefley replied for Vvrnon.

Tennant said, "We were outplayed in the first period but I thought we were better than them in the final 40 minutes. It was a tough one to lose."

"We outshot them 26-24 and should have won that one."

FURMANEK SHARP

Jim Scammel was in the nets for Vernon Saturday and looked a little shaky. So, Tennant started Furmanek Sunday and he may have wrestled the starting job away from Scammel.

Vikings next game is New Year's Day at 2 p.m. when they host Kelowna Buckaroos.

Bucks lead the interior division with 58 points, 17 more than Pentiction, and 18 more than the Vikings. Merritt trails with 27 points.

In other BCJHL weekend games: Bellingham 7, Langley 2; Kelowna 3, Merritt 2; and Langley 9, Nanaimo 8.

Kal pucksters extend streak

Kal Hotel stretched its winning streak to nine games with a 7-4 victory over Winfield Raiders in North Okanagan Hockey League action Sunday at the Vernon Civic Arena.

In the other NOHL game Sunday, Armstrong Cougars fought from behind to defeat Vernon Screaming Eagles 6-5.

Jack Howard and Jim Moro scored two goals each for Kal with singles from Don Jakes, Dave Caldwell, and George Fargher.

Rob Lacroix, Tom Williamson, Bill Neid, and Emery Lacroix replied for the Raiders.

Kal led 2-0 at the end of the first period and 3-1 after the second.

Ed Forslund, in the Kal net, and Dee Kutschera, in the Winfield goal, both made 23 saves.

Kal was assessed six of nine minor penalties.

Screaming Eagles, who were missing several key players, led 2-1 at the end of the first period and 4-3 after the second.

Larry Kackman tied the score for the Cougars early in the third period but Randy Marchand put Eagles back in the lead with a goal at 8:39.

Vernon held onto the lead until Steve White, with his second goal of the game, tied the score at 18:51. With only 15 seconds remaining, Ken Haller beat Eagle goalie Mike Herring to put Cougars in front.

Other Armstrong scorers were Scott Shirley and Merle Ransom.

Tony Kopp, Terry Kopp, Dave Dobie, and Randy Marchand netted the other Eagle goals.

Herrings made 20 saves while Barry Dinwoodies, in Armstrong's net, blocked 19 shots.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

VERNON DAILY NEWS, MONDAY, DEC. 30, 1974

Medicine Hat in second place

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Medicine Hat Tigers moved into second place in the Western Canada Hockey League's western division with a pair of weekend victories over Flin Flon Bombers, 5-3 Saturday and 9-3 Sunday.

Saskatoon Blades, the east division leaders, were beaten 4-1 Sunday by New Westminster Bruins after losing 6-4 Saturday to Victoria Cougars.

In other games Sunday, Edmonton Oil Kings defeated Calgary Centennials 4-3 on a shorthanded goal by defenceman John Phillips and Brandon Wheat Kings downed Regina Pats 7-1.

In the other Saturday game, Kamloops Chiefs downed Edmonton 6-4.

Phillips stole the puck at centre ice and raced in alone Saturday to beat goalie Brian Hepp and give his club a 4-2 lead. Rocky Maze, Ted Olson and Mike Will also scored for Edmonton. Rookie Glen Wylie, Denny McLean and Larry Lestander replied for Calgary.

WHEAT KINGS STRONG
In Calgary on Sunday, the Wheat Kings were without their two highest-scoring forwards, Dale McMullin and Rick Blight, but turned in one of their strongest games this year.

Rookies Dale Parker and Dave Semenko scored three goals and two respectively, while Doug Murray and Gary Ashton added single goals. Les Grauer robbed Glen Hanlon of a shutout with a screen shot from the point on a first-period power play.

Sunday in Flin Flon, the Tigers were all over the Bombers, scoring three times in each period and hurling 43 shots at Bombers goalie Dale Rideout.

Jim Bertram and Bob Murdoch each scored twice. Tom Bast, Greg Carroll, Barry Dean, Brian Hill and Elmer Ray added the other goals while Bob Watson, Scott

Canadians record win

Vernon Junior Canadians recorded a 6-4 victory over Spokane in exhibition junior B hockey action Sunday in the Washington State city.

Fred Parapalkin scored twice for the winners with singles from Bernie Marchand, Gary Kriss, Clay Anderson, and Dave Crerar.

The same two teams were scheduled to play today at 12:30 p.m.

Canada, Russia still undefeated

WINNIPEG (CT) — Canada and the Soviet Union came up with easy victories in world junior hockey tournament play during the weekend.

Canada downed Sweden 10-2 Saturday and the Soviets beat Czechoslovakia 5-1 Sunday. Finland and Czechoslovakia had battled to a 1-1 tie in Brandon Saturday.

Canada meets Finland while the United States meets Sweden, both winless in their opening games, in Fargo, N.D., tonight.

Two European coaches said following weekend action that Canada has an excellent chance of winning the round-robin championship, won last year by the Soviet Union.

"I was asked last year and I said Canada had little chance

of beating the Soviets," Sweden coach Lennart Skerdaker said after his club was defeated by the Western Canada Hockey League players. "But Canada this year has a good chance to beat them."

Miroslav Kubera of Czechoslovakia, whose team lost to the Soviets Sunday and dropped two exhibition games to Canada prior to the tournament, said: "Yes, I think Canada will beat the Soviets in this tournament."

Both Canada and the Soviets have two more games before they meet in the final game of the tournament next Sunday.

GAME WAS CHIPPY

The Soviets led 2-0 after the first period and 5-1 by the end of the second period of the extremely chippy game. Referee Bud Ulrich of Canada handed out 18 minor penalties, 13 to the Soviets, as both clubs played with the sticks high and active.

Victor Khatulev scored two goals for the Soviets with Dimitri Fedin, Boris Chuchin and Sergei Babinov each scoring once. Karel Holy got Czechoslovakia's goal.

But the surprise was Canada's handling of Sweden, the European junior champions.

Canada played Sweden on even terms through the first period but got two big breaks—miscues by goaltender Ake Andersson—that resulted in goals. Then, after both clubs scored in the first two minutes of the second, Canada took command.

Coach Jackie McLeod had only days in which to produce his lines, but so far he has been right with each one. In Canada's first game it was the unit of Bryan Trotter, Kelly Greenbank and Brian Sutter that led the way. Saturday it was Mel Bridgman, Dale McMullin and Rick Blight.

The line scored five goals—Bridgman and Blight had two each—and picked up 11 points. They opened the scoring and went to work again after Sweden cut the margin to 3-1 in the second

Ipswich moves into first

LONDON (Reuter) — Ipswich Town starts 1975 as the leader of the English League First Division soccer race after a 1-0 win at Birmingham Saturday.

Liverpool was blown off the top of the table when its match at Newcastle was postponed by gale-force winds.

Roger Osborne scored for Ipswich in the 90th second for a 1-0 victory at Birmingham.

In second place, on goal average, is Middlesbrough, which drew 1-1 at Everton.

Bob Latchford scored for Everton before Willie Maddren scored for Middlesbrough.

It was the day of the happy return for Queen's Park Rangers manager Dave Sexton to Chelsea and Francis Lee of Derby to the Manchester City ground.

Rangers won 3-0 at Chelsea, from which Sexton was sacked as manager three months ago after seven years' service.

MINOR HOCKEY

Vernon captures 'B' championship

Vernon Peewee Reps captured first place in the 'B' event of the Kamloops Peewee tourney held over the weekend.

Eight teams took part in the three-day event.

Vernon opened the tournament with an 11-3 victory over Kamloops. Kevin Poirier turned in a great game scoring five times for the winners.

Kelowna knocked Vernon out of 'A' competition Saturday morning as the Regatta City crew skated away with an 11-8 win.

Kelowna led 5-0 after 13 minutes of the first period but Vernon came storming back and tied the game 7-7 with 11 minutes remaining in the third period.

But, Kelowna then scored four goals in seven minutes, to record the victory.

Poirier scored four times in that game with singles from Len Overbeeke, Rod Kashuba, Lance Vachon, and Wayne Bodnaruk.

Saturday evening, Vernon edged North Kamloops 5-3. Kashuba and Vachon scored two goals each for the winners while Robert McKenzie added a single.

In the 'B' championship game Sunday, Vernon dumped Prince George 6-3.

In that game, Kashuba and Poirier scored two each with singles from Kevin Romanic and McKenzie.

HOUSE ACTION

In peewee house league action Sunday, Vernon Sport and Marine blasted Geniers 6-1. Tradeland edged Archie Fleming 9-8, and Universal Welders trounced Butcher Boys 8-2.

Wayne Marshall and Jason Harder scored two each for Sport and Marine while Michael Alexis and Jim Johnson notched one apiece.

Tim Frost got Geniers only goal.

Dale Garrett scored four times for Tradeland and Terry Balfour collected three goals.

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