

Viking-Buckaroo feud spreads into stands



JOHN SCAMMEL
... first in fray



GARY BENSON
... lone marksman



JERRY NEKRASOFF
... solid effort

KELOWNA 6, VERNON 1
Kelowna Buckaroos started off the New Year the same way they finished 1974 as they rolled over the Vernon Vikings 6-1 before 1,480 fans in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Wednesday at the Vernon Civic Arena.

Vikings took a 1-0 lead in the first period on a goal by Gary Benson but, from that point on, Vernon could not put the puck past Kelowna goalie Jerry Nekrasoff.

A near-riot which broke out at 13:43 of the third period, netted each team three fighting majors and two game misconducts.

Vikings' John Scammel started the incident when he went after Bill Haynes. Vernon defenceman Gary Gassoff and Rick Beningshoff paired off and in the main event, Buckaroo winger Archie McKinnon and

Vikings' hardrock Randy McDonald exchanged blows.

McKinnon landed a few solid blows early in the scuffle but McDonald connected with two punishing punches, and ended up on top of McKinnon when linesmen broke up the battle.

FANS INVOLVED

While the teams were having it out on the ice, several fans and team officials became involved in a fracas in the stands, behind the Vernon bench.

Kelowna scorers were Duane Montelth, Perry Schaar, Mark Schaar, Doug Berry, Brad Owens, and Wayne Krebs.

Vikings' Jim Scammel made 33 stops while Nekrasoff turned away 28 shots for the Bucks.

Kelowna led 2-1 at the end of the second period and scored four unanswered goals, in-

cluding two on power plays, in the final period.

The same two clubs battle in Kelowna tonight and the worst place to be will be on the ice in the referee's shirt.

FULL HOUSE EXPECTED

Emotions were running high in both dressing rooms after the game and it could be a wild one tonight. Kelowna team officials expect a near capacity crowd for the game.

The victory could have been a costly one for the Bucks as forward Doug Davis suffered, what is believed to be, a broken wrist in the third period.

For Kelowna, it was their 30th win of the season against only seven losses. The lost left Vikings in third place, one point back of Penticton Broncos, and 20 back of the Buckaroos.

GOALPOSTS: Vikings will host Medicine Hat Tigers in an

exhibition game Monday at the Civic Arena... for the first time in more than one month Vikings had no players out with injuries for Wednesday's game.

OUTSHOT 34-29
The Lords outshot the Centennials 34-29 and took one of five minors assessed during the game played before about 750 fans.

Kelowna extended its first-place lead in the league's interior division to 60 points, 19 more than Penticton Broncos.

Vernon remains one point behind Penticton and Merritt in the basement with 27.

In the coast division, Langley's win gives it 43 points, six more than Bellingham Blazers. Chilliwack Bruins are in third position with 34 and Nanaimo Clippers in fourth with 24.

In league play today, Merritt visits Chilliwack and Kelowna is host to Vernon.

CZECHS BLANKED

Canada one win away from junior laurels

WINNIPEG (CP)—Ed Staniowski of Regina Pats recorded the first shutout of the world junior hockey tournament Wednesday, moving Canada to within one victory of the world junior hockey title.

Canada scored two goals in the first period and went on to beat Czechoslovakia 3-0 for its fourth straight triumph. In the other game Wednesday, Sweden defeated Finland 5-3 to grab a solid hold on third place in the six-team, round-robin competition.

All teams are idle today with the United States meeting Czechoslovakia Friday in Minneapolis and Sweden going against the Soviet Union in Winnipeg.

"The reason there was a shutout is that everyone gave 110 per cent. Everyone was keyed up and all the guys were coming back," said Staniowski, who kicked out 29 shots to backstop the Western Canada Hockey League representatives to the victory. The only time he was severely tested was early in the first

and second periods and in the final minute of the third when the Canadians were playing two men short.

Mel Bridgman of Victoria Cougars and Bryan Trotter of Lethbridge Broncos, the two leading scorers in the WCHL, each picked up their fourth goals of the tournament. Mark Davidson opened the scoring with his third.

Canada needs only a victory against the defending champion Soviet Union in their final game Sunday to win the championship.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor
VERNON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, JAN. 2, 1975

SELLING JOB AHEAD

Catfish inks record pact with Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Yankees pleased pitcher Jim (Catfish) Hunter with the richest contract in baseball history.

That was relatively easy compared to the task which now faces Hunter—satisfying the toughest sell in the major leagues, the New York fans and the New York media.

If Hunter is successful, New York can be very friendly to a country boy from Hertford, N.C. But if he fails—and failure is judged by steeper standards here than anywhere else, particularly when you're paid as much as Hunter will be—New York can be a tough place to live. Even if you have a contract worth \$3.75 million over five years.

If Hunter thought he had rough dealing with his former boss, Oakland A's owner Charles Finley, he might think again after enduring the ever-present media and thousands of victory-hungry fans in New York who won't be kind if he doesn't win fast and often.

A HIDDEN COST

tered the chase for Hunter with two personal visits to Aoshkie, N.C., doesn't appear worried.

He thinks Hunter can perform and will perform.

"We have been looking for a right-handed pitcher," Paul said after Hunter signed Tuesday night. "In Hunter, we have the winner of the 1974 Cy Young Award. I don't think we can do any better than that."

"If he wasn't as competitive as he is and had as much pride as he does, then we couldn't give him a multi-year contract."

Paul says the players are welcoming Hunter with open arms.

"The morale of the club will be improved and increased when you add a player of Hunter's stature," Paul said. "The players I talked to all say signing Hunter would be great since it will enhance their chances for a World Series share."

Several high baseball sources close to the negotiations told The

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Philadelphia Flyers, defending Stanley Cup champions, are the new point leaders in the National Hockey League and goalie Bernie Parent has his seventh shutout of the season.

The Flyers emerged 2-0 victors over the Canucks at Vancouver Wednesday night after a goaltending battle with Vancouver's Gary Smith who gave up Bill Barber's winning goal late in the third period.

The win put the Flyers at the top with 55 points in 37 games, and gave them a 13-point lead over second-place New York Rangers in the Patrick Division. Buffalo Sabres, the overall points leader the last few weeks, now is second with 53 but still has a seven-point lead over second-place Boston Bruins in the Adams Division.

In other games Wednesday, the Rangers beat Chicago Black Hawks 6-2 and Toronto Maple Leafs tied California Seals 3-3.

Tuesday night, Los Angeles Kings beat Chicago 3-1 and Detroit Red Wings ended an eight-game winless streak by beating California 4-3.

WHA ROUNDUP

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Toronto Toros, who have often complained of the pressure they face in playing at home where they are still trying to lure more fans into Maple Leaf Gardens, are facing even more pressure

National League	Patrick Division		F		P
	W	L	T	P	
Philadelphia	25	7	5	139	74 55
Rangers	17	11	8	150	118 42
Atlanta	16	5	6	104	108 38
Islanders	14	14	9	122	103 37

Smythe Division	W		L		T	P
	W	L	T	P		
Vancouver	22	11	5	139	112	49
Chicago	17	14	6	124	103	38
St. Louis	15	15	6	125	129	36
Minnesota	11	20	5	103	103	27
Kan. City	5	24	4	84	159	14

NHL Division	W		L		T	P
	W	L	T	P		
Montreal	20	6	11	162	106	51
Los Angeles	20	5	11	113	146	29
Pittsburgh	12	15	8	142	138	32
Detroit	10	20	5	103	145	25
Washington	3	30	4	78	197	10

Adams Division	W		L		T	P
	W	L	T	P		
Buffalo	24	8	5	167	121	53
Boston	20	10	6	172	116	46
Toronto	11	18	7	120	141	29
California	9	23	7	104	161	25

Barber's 16th goal of the season broke the scoreless battle at 16:16 of the third period.

Philadelphia captain Bobby Clarke set up Barber's goal when he out-muscled a Canucks forward along the boards and kicked the puck to Barber who let go a 20-foot shot to catch Smith on the short side.

Clarke also set up Ross Lonsberry's empty-net goal in the final minute.

At Toronto, the Leafs, who a few weeks ago were criticized by owner Harold Ballard for

lack of hustle, were further berated by a member of the Seals, who are only four points behind the third-place Leafs in the Adams Division.

Seals forward Dave Hrechkosy, who scored once in the game, said afterward that he and his team-mates still believe they can overtake Toronto for the division's third playoff spot.

Hrechkosy's goal midway in the first period gave the Leafs a 2-0 lead but Toronto tied it before the period ended.

Rookie Charlie Simmer put the Seals back in front in the second period, but Errol Thompson's goal gave Leafs the tie and California goalie Gilles Meloche withstood an 18-shot Toronto rally in the third period.

At New York, goals by rookies Rick Middleton and Ron Greschner started a four-goal Rangers outburst in the second period, but prompted the Black Hawks to lift goalie Tony Esposito in favor of Mike Veisor.

Also scoring for New York was Rod Gilbert with his 20th of the season, the 10th time in his career he has scored 20 or more in a year.

More pressure for Toros

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WORLD ASSOCIATION	Canadian Division		F		P
	W	L	T	P	
Toronto	25	3	1	150	125 41
Quebec	20	15	0	145	123 40
Edmonton	18	10	0	108	90 30
Winnipeg	17	14	1	128	101 35
Vancouver	14	22	0	97	94 32

and vaulted the Oilers into third place, one point ahead of the idle Winnipeg Jets.

Murray Kennett, playing in his first game for Edmonton after he was purchased from Indianapolis Racers, helped set up the winning goal.