

FIVE PLAYERS CUT

Vikings' roster reduced to 19

Vernon Vikings Thursday released five players reducing the club's player roster to 19.

Defencemen John Scammel and Herb Smith and forward Randy McDonald were assigned to the Vikings' farm team in Grand Forks. Winger Gary Benson returned home to Medicine Hat and centre Bill Ranson returned to his home in Port Alberni.

Vikings' coach Joe Tennant had to release five players to get down to the roster limit by the league deadline, today.

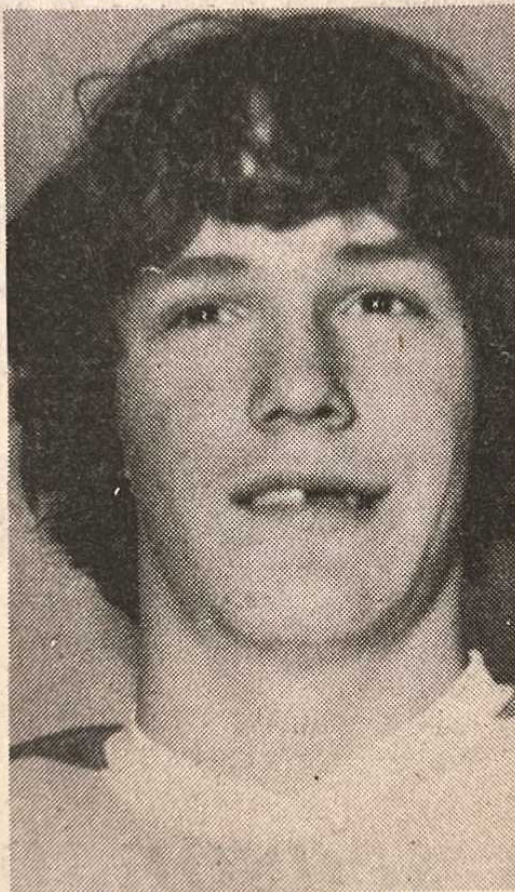
Ranson and Benson, both 17, did not want to report to the Grand Forks junior B team and told Tennant they would rather play junior B in their home towns. However, both players have indicated they would like to rejoin the club next season.

McDonald, 17, considered perhaps the toughest player in the BCJHL, is expected to improve his hockey skills in Grand Forks where he will get more ice time.

Smith, 17, joined the Vikings six weeks ago but saw little action. He became a victim of the numbers game as there were eight defencemen on the roster and the most Tennant could keep was six.

Scammel, 16, was the hardest player for Tennant to cut. Despite being only 160 pounds, Scammel was second on the club, only to McDonald, when it came to fisticuffs.

He is an excellent bodychecker and gives 100 per cent all the time, but because of his age, he lacked the experience to help the Vikings this year.



RANDY McDONALD
... to Grand Forks

"But," Tennant said, "you can bet he'll be with us next year."

Vikings kept two goalies, six defencemen, and 11 forwards. Of those 19 players, six of them were members of the 1973-74 Vikings, and two others, Dwight Bailey and Peter Poeschek, have other junior A experience.

Tennant told the Daily News today, "I feel we have enough here to win the championship. We definately have the horses to do the job and once they start functioning like a unit, I feel we can beat Kelowna or any other team in the league."

Tennant will get his first look at the final club Saturday when Vikings host the coast division's last-place team, Nanaimo Clippers. Game time is 8 p.m.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor
VERNON DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, JAN. 10, 1975

Canucks' Smith on all-star team

MONTREAL (CP) — Seven of the nine teams in the Clarence Campbell Conference are represented among the first 12 players chosen for that conference's participation in the National



Murdoch leads Tiger comeback

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winnipeg Clubs made the fatal mistake of falling back into a defensive shell Thursday night, a tactical miscue that cost them their Western Canada Hockey League game with Medicine Hat Tigers.

The Clubs, coasting along with a 4-1 lead early in the third period, settled into defensive hockey. But their defence wasn't good enough as the Tigers came roaring back with four goals, including two in the last minute, for a 5-4 victory on home ice.

In other games, Edmonton Oil Kings mastered Calgary Centennials 9-1 and New Westminster Bruins and Kamloops Chiefs battled to a 5-5 tie in Kamloops.

Med Hat 5 Winnipeg 4

The Clubs had built up a 4-1 edge on two goals by Gord Blumenshein and singles by Guy Lash and Kelly Greenbank. Morris Lukowich scored for the Tigers late in the second period and Barry Dean had two midway through the third period to bring the Tigers close. Don Murdoch scored on a rebound at 19:21 to tie the game and then set up Lukowich for the winner with 10 seconds left to play.

Edmonton 9 Calgary 1

The Oil Kings, who have downed the Centennials four straight times this season after failing to win in 10 regular-season contests against their southern rivals last season, were led by Rocky Maze's three-goal outburst.

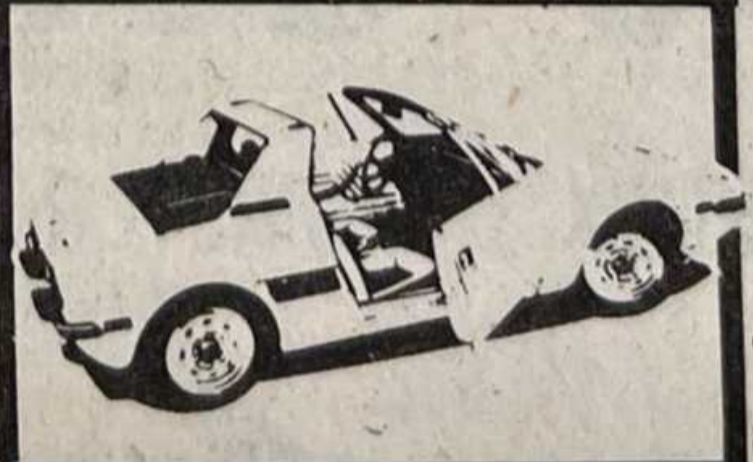
Wayne Babych, Mike Will, Terry McDonald, Wayne Perkins, Robin Sadler and Doug Johnston had the other goals for the visitors, with Don Ashby replying for the Centennials.

Kamloops 5 New West 5

The Bruins overcame a 5-4 second-period deficit for their tie on a goal by Bryan Shmyr. Mark Lofthouse scored twice for the Bruins and single goals were added by Brad Maxwell and Al Cameron. Reg Kerr paced the Chiefs with three goals, with Don Moores and Terry McDonald scoring the others.

Tonight, Brandon is at New Westminster, Saskatoon at Regina, Flin Flon at Calgary and Winnipeg at Lethbridge.

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