

Vikings' defence goes home early

Vernon Vikings' goalie Darrell Furmanek was the loneliest man in town Wednesday night.

Furmanek faced 36 shots, including at least a dozen from point-blank range, as Merritt Centennials thumped the Vikings 10-5 in B.C. Junior Hockey League play at the Vernon Civic Arena.

Vernon led 2-1 after the first period and 3-2 early in the second period, but then the defence took a prolonged coffee break.

Furmanek was completely unguarded on four straight Merritt goals which put the Cents on top 6-3 after the second period.

Greg Agar, Perry Stensland, and Stan Alsted scored twice for Merritt with singles from Bob Peebles, Scott Kolewaski, Neil Robinson and Darrell Zelinski.

Brad Schultz scored a pair for the Vikings while Jeff Boychuk, Gary Gassoff, and Dwight Bailey added one each.

BAD NIGHT

The night started off badly for Vernon when hustling winger Marty Stein twisted his ankle in warm-up and was unable to play. Stein's absence forced Vikings' coach Joe Tennant to do a lot of line juggling.

Schultz could have easily had four goals if Bailey had elected to give the speedy winger the puck when he was breaking, rather than try to pack it himself.



BRAD SCHULTZ
... scores two

Heavyweight champion selected top athlete

NEW YORK (AP) — Muhammad Ali evened two scores last year—beating Joe Frazier and regaining the heavyweight championship he had lost out of the ring. For his successes, he has been named The Associated Press male athlete of 1974.

Ali, who regained the title by knocking out George Foreman in Africa, received 162 votes in a poll of sports writers and sportscasters from across the United States.

Hank Aaron, who broke Babe Ruth's career home run record by hitting No. 715 in

Although Vikings had a bad game, Merritt deserved full credit for the victory. Cents forechecked well and goalie Greg Hayes made several key stops.

Vikings' usually reliable WAG line, Greg Walmsley, Ron Areshnekoff, and Gary Gilchrist, were not only shutout, but also had a bad game defensively.

Vernon's next game will be Friday night when they make the 32 mile trip to Kelowna to take on the league-leading Buckaroos. The same two clubs play a return match Saturday in Vernon.

In the only other BCJHL game Wednesday, Nanaimo Clippers downed the Bellingham Blazers 5-3.

stripped of the title in 1967, his dramatic return to the ring in 1970 against Jerry Quarry, the first Frazier fight in 1971 and the U.S. Supreme Court reversal of the draft-evasion conviction that same year, and his broken-jaw loss to Ken Norton in 1973, which many boxing observers felt signalled the end of his career.

On that morning in Zaire, as a 3-1 underdog, Ali knocked out George Foreman in the eighth round and regained the championship, a decade after he first won it and seven years after he had it stripped from

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

VERNON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, JAN. 16, 1975

Merritt games may be cancelled

B.C. Junior Hockey League President Bryan Couling today instructed BCJHL teams not to play Merritt Centennials if the Merritt club is suspended Friday by the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association.

Centennials were assessed a \$1,000 fine by the BCAHA this week for allegedly using ineligible players. Merritt has refused to pay the fine saying they feel the penalty is too stiff and they cannot afford that amount.

If the fine is not paid by Friday noon, the BCAHA will suspend the Centennials, and any team who plays against them after that time.

Couling said the first games which would be postponed would be Saturday when Merritt is scheduled to meet Penticton and Sunday when

Stags cancel another game

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Michigan Stags have postponed a scheduled home game tonight against Chicago Cougars, Dennis Murphy, president of the World Hockey

Kelowna is slated to play the Cents.

The league president said, "A league governor's meeting will be held Monday in Kelowna to decide what action will be taken.

"I agree with Centennials' President Don Dewintz when he says the fine is too stiff but I feel they can raise the money to pay the fine if they want to keep hockey in Merritt."

When asked if the league would possibly help Merritt pay the fine, Couling said, "That will have to be decided at the governor's meeting."

Couling asked BCAHA President Frank Spring Wednesday for a four-day postponement of the fine deadline, but Spring refused. Couling had asked for the extension so the governor's could meet before any action would have to be taken.

"But," Couling said, "At this point of the season we cannot risk the chance of Penticton or Kelowna being suspended for playing against Merritt this weekend."

North Okanagan D

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Junior leagues may join forces

TORONTO (CP) — There is a strong possibility Canada's top three junior hockey leagues will band together and become a separate identity, "maybe under the CAHA (Canadian Amateur Hockey Association) umbrella," Ed Chynoweth, president of the Western Canada Hockey Association, said Wednesday.

In a telephone interview from Victoria, where he is attending WCHL all-star game festivities, Chynoweth says he has been in contact with the Quebec and Ontario major junior leagues and is "very optimistic" they will join forces in their attempts to get money from the professional leagues for development of junior players.

Chynoweth announced Monday that WCHL governors had agreed unanimously to withdraw from the CAHA after this season, citing a lack of

leadership in pressing the professionals for the money outstanding as the problem facing club owners in his league.

"I have been in contact with the Ontario and Quebec leagues, outlining our position to them and have made it clear that we want to continue in partnership with them.

"I am not in a position to speak for the Ontario and Quebec leagues, but I would say personally there is certainly a strong possibility that we will become a separate identity, maybe under the CAHA umbrella."

Chynoweth said the crux of his league's decision to withdraw from the CAHA "is that somebody had to take a stand. We can't continue to operate without being paid development money from the professionals.

The CAHA is in continuing contact with delinquent National Hockey League and World Hockey Association teams trying to collect the \$640,000 still owed for drafted juniors.

"I'm sure the CAHA has attempted to get the money from the pros, but men on the CAHA executive cannot appreciate the problem of an owner who has to go into the bank for \$60,000 to keep his team going."

The major reason for the WCHL's decision to withdraw from the CAHA is its desire to negotiate an agreement of its own with the pros.

Shaver abandons training

CAMBRIDGE, Ont. (CP) — Ron Shaver's success in the 1975 Canadian and world figure skating championships could depend on the extent of a leg injury suffered during an exhibition last weekend in Brandon, Man.

The injury has forced