

# Muscle important



Vernon Vikings are on the road tonight for an exhibition game against their farm club in Grand Forks.

Besides giving Vernon coach Joe Tennant to take a look at what the club in Grand Forks has, he hopes the game will act as a stimulant for both clubs.

Grand Forks is down two games to none, to Rossland, in the best-of-seven Kootenay International Junior B League semi-finals.

Vikings have a few days off before tangling with Penticton Broncos in a home-and-home series next weekend.

Although the games against the Broncos will have no bearing on the league standings, the contests are both important.

The two clubs will meet head-on in the Interior Division semi-finals and if one team can establish themselves as the stronger of the two, it could leave a favorable impression going into the playoffs.

Broncos have four players in the league's top 10 scorers, including an entire line.

## DEADLY UNIT

Vikings are going to have to stop the Del Iannone, Bob Irvine, and Gord MacKay line, if they hope to stop Penticton.

Since Christmas, that threesome has been the deadliest unit in the league. To date, they have accumulated 141 goals and 323 total points.

Vikings, when they want to be, are the most physical team in the league.

Last Sunday they came out hitting against the Langley Lords and had no trouble cruising to a 7-3 victory.

If Tennant can keep guys like Jack Lefley, Brad Schultz, Peter Poeschek, and Jeff Boychuk hitting, they will be away to the races.

Owen Lloyd, Greg Walmsley, Randy McDonald, and Gary Gilchrist are always going to throw their share of hard checks, but it has to be a team effort.

There are different methods to win hockey games. Montreal Canadiens do it with speed. Los Angeles Kings do it with tough forechecking and sound defence. Boston Bruins score a lot of goals and just hope the other team scores less. While, of course, Philadelphia Flyers use muscle.

Vikings strongest point seems to be muscle, so why not use it. They don't have to play dirty, just aggressive. If Tennant can get the club finishing their checks, and riding their men out of the play, they could be on their way.

If not, the ice might be coming out of the arena early this year.

# Sports

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