

BCJHL PLAYOFFS

Vikings-Broncos series opens tonight

By DON KENDALL
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Vernon Vikings open their best-of-seven B.C. Junior Hockey League Interior Division semi-finals tonight in Penticton against the Broncos.

Chilliwack Bruins and Bellingham Blazers also open their series tonight while Merritt Centennials travel to Kelowna to take on the Buckaroos. The Nanaimo Clippers-Langley Lords series is scheduled to start Wednesday in Langley.

The Vikings-Broncos encounter could possibly be the most exciting series. Despite the fact that Penticton finished in second-place in the Interior, eight points ahead of

the Vikings, Vernon had eight wins in 14 games against the Broncos. During those meetings, Vikings also outscored the Broncos 74-64.

Vernon Coach Joe Tennant says his club will play it rough against Penticton.

Tennant said, "We're going to hit them hard and often."

Vikings biggest task will be stopping Broncos' number one line centred by league scoring champion Del Iannone. Iannone totalled 142 points while his linemates, Gord McKay and Bob Irvine, both collected more than 100 points.

Penticton ran into some bad luck last weekend when defenceman Rod Zavaduk separated his shoulder in Merritt. He is expected to miss the series.



DEL IANNONE
... scoring champ

Vikings will be going basically with three forward lines and four defencemen. The Vernon offence will be spearheaded by the WAG line, Greg Wamsley, Ron Areshnekoff, and Gary Gilchrist. The unit totalled more than 225 points.

In the hitting department, Jack Lesley, Owen Lloyd, and Peter Poeschek will lead the charge.

PICK: VIKINGS IN SIX

Kelowna Buckaroos are flying and will be tough to beat. They have lost high-scoring Mark Schnarr for two weeks with a knee injury, but still have plenty of scorers.

Buck forwards Doug Berry, Perry Schnarr, Archie McKinnon, and Duane Monteith all finished among



GARY GILCHRIST
... part of WAG line

the league's top 15 scorers.

With a solid offence, good goaltending, and a better-than-average defence, Kelowna appears to have everything under control.

Merritt's hopes lie mostly with goalie Gregg Hayes and forward Darrel Zelinski.

Zelinski finished fifth in the league in scoring while Hayes, when he's hot, is one of the league's top goalies.

PICK: KELOWNA IN FIVE

Bellingham Blazers seem to have every team on the coast intimidated.

Led by Don Hobbins, who set a league record with 363 minutes in penalties, Blazers will be trying to rough up the Bruins.



MARK SCHNARR
... knee injury

Vern Quaroni and Gary Huth lead the Chilliwack attack but Bruins have little to defend themselves with against the big, bad, Blazers.

PICK: BELLINGHAM IN SIX

Nanaimo Clippers have improved vastly in the New Year but not enough to pose a serious threat to the Langley Lords.

Lords have a strong club led by high-scoring Ryan Walters, Sandy Bain, and Lane Lavik. If Langley has a weak spot, it is in goal.

Clint Eccles and Bob Burgoyne are among the best of the Nanaimo forwards and the Clippers are strong in goal. But, their defence erratic and inexperienced.

PICK: LANGLEY IN FIVE

BCJHL STATS

FINAL STANDINGS

Interior Division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pt
Kelowna	46	20	0	458	297	92
Penticton	35	29	2	379	334	72
Vernon	31	33	2	327	343	64
Merritt	26	38	2	300	428	54

Coast Division

	W	L	T	F	A	Pt
Langley	34	31	1	330	351	69
Chilliwack	34	32	0	321	342	68
Bellingham	33	32	1	313	251	67
Nanaimo	21	45	0	303	385	42

Final Scoring Leaders

	G	A	Pts
Dell Laonnie, P	52	90	142
Doug Berry, K	37	103	140
Archie McKinnon, K	58	63	121
Perry Schnarr, K	64	50	114
Darrell Zelinski, M	50	61	111
Kirk Aulin, P	38	72	110
Bob Irvine, P	48	61	109
Gord McKay, P	58	47	105
Sandy Bain, L	43	61	104
Lane Lavik, L	40	61	101
Mark Schnarr, K	36	64	100
Gary Huth, C	42	57	99
Duane Monteith, K	44	51	95
Vern Quaroni, C	49	43	92
Ryan Walter, L	32	60	92
Ron Areshenkoff, V	36	50	86
Wade Jowett, P	33	51	84
Butch Dupont, C	18	64	82
Gord Dumont, K	32	49	81
Bill Haynes, K	38	42	80