

Vikings on winning track

Vernon Vikings defeated Penticton Broncos 5-2 Wednesday to even their best-of-seven B.C. Junior Hockey League series at one game apiece.

The teams played through a scoreless first period before Vikings opened up a 3-0 lead after the second.

Ron Areshnekoff and Gary Gilchrist led the Vikings attack with two goals each while Grant Sidnick added a single.

Areshnekoff's second goal went into an empty net after Broncos had pulled their goalie, in the final minute, in favor of a sixth attacker.

11 POINTS

The rangy centre now has three goals and eight assists, for 11 points, in the two games.

League scoring champion



RON ARESHNEKOFF
... 11 points

Del Iannone was the only Bronco able to beat Viking netminder Jim Scammel. He scored at 1:55 and 5:08 of the final period.

Penticton had won the first game of the series, 10-8, Tuesday in the Peach City.

Penticton goalie Randy Strutch kept his club in the game in the second period, making several sensational saves. He finished the night with 37 stops. Scammel made 30 saves for the Vikings with his best stops coming in the third period off Iannone.

AULIN HURT

Vernon came out hitting and appeared to soften up the smaller Broncos. Penticton forward Kirk Aulin was carried from the ice, on a stretcher, in the second period

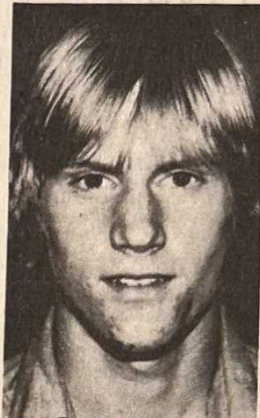
after being hit by defenceman Peter Poeschek.

Owen Lloyd and Greg Walmsley also threw several punishing checks.

If the series goes to six or seven games, Broncos could have trouble mustering a team. Just prior to the playoffs, defenceman Rod Zavaduk picked up a shoulder injury. Forward Mark Patterson was injured in the first game and did not play Wednesday. And Aulin, was taken to hospital after being carried from the ice.

In spite of the hard hitting, Vikings were assessed six of only 10 minor penalties and the Broncos picked up the game's only major.

Third game of the series is scheduled in Penticton,



KIRK AULIN
... injured

Friday at 8:30 p.m. Fourth game will be back in Vernon Saturday night.

CLIPPERS WIN

On the coast, Nanaimo Clippers upset first-place Langley Lords 4-3 in the opening game of their quarter-final series.

Clippers finished in last place on the coast, 30 points behind the Lords.

Ken Hillkewich, Brian Day, Dale Ewasiuk, and Clint Eccles scored for the Clippers. Ryan Walter, Sandy Bain, and Randy Larsen countered for Langley.

In games tonight, Langley is in Nanaimo, Kelowna visits Merritt, and Chilliwack travels to Bellingham. Chilliwack and Kelowna lead their series 1-0.

Fans assured of playoffs



Vernon hockey fans will get the opportunity to see junior hockey playoffs on the March 21, 22 and 23 weekend, whether the Vikings make it to the league finals or not.

If Vikings are knocked out in the quarter-finals by Penticton Broncos, or the semi-finals by either Kelowna or Merritt, the Vernon Junior B Canadians will play their playoffs in the arena that weekend.

Canadians have tentatively booked the Lumby Arena, as a back-up, in case Vikings win in the B.C. Junior Hockey League playoffs.

NO ICE TIME

North Okanagan hockey fans have not had the opportunity to see the Canadians play yet this season. The club was formed in October to give more local teenage players a place to play hockey.

But, because the team was formed after the season started, no ice time was available.

So, Canadians have played their games exclusively on the road. In 10 road games this season, they have won eight, tied one, and lost only one.

Their opponents in the first round of B.C. playdowns will be the Kootenay-International Junior B League champions. If Canadians beat the Kootenay champs, they advance to the provincial finals, and will also host that series.

Vernon Coach Gerry Wenman feels his club has a good chance.

Wenman said, "We have a well-balanced club and I can't say we really have any weak spots. But, if we do have a problem, it is lack of ice time."

SOLID LINEUP

There is no doubt about it, Canadians have a good hockey team. With proper ice time, they could probably give a few BCJHL teams a run for their money.

The first forward line has Dave Caldow and Bernie Marchand on the wings with Gord Lyons at centre. All three have junior A experience.

Second line has Barry Dye between Tony Sparrow and Jeff Todd. Dye too has junior A experience and the three play well as a unit.

Third line is centered by Rod Dyck, one of the most valuable players on the Vikings last year. His wingers are Fred Perepolkin and either Guy Davison or Greg Sawka.

Canadians are set in goal with ex-junior A netminders Charlie Briskham and Mike Smithson.

The defence, headed by Tony Kopp and Gary Criss, is also strong.

With no gate receipts coming in from home games, the team's only income has been from a raffle and other fund-raising projects. The players and executive have dipped into their own pockets to pay some bills.

Whether the Canadians play in Vernon or Lumby, it would be great to see the North Okanagan get behind them.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

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VERNON DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1975

Sanche gets big goal as Tigers tie Brandon

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brandon Wheat Kings and Medicine Hat Tigers saw-sawed to a 6-6 tie Wednesday night but in another Western Canada Hockey League game, the outcome was never in doubt.

Edmonton Oil Kings, with two goals each by Robin Saddler and Tony Currie, beat Flin Flon Bombers 9-1 and the only question was whether Doug Soetaert could blank the opposition.

The Edmonton goalie, playing before a hometown crowd of 1,420, had his chance for a shutout spoiled at 13:58 of the final period, when Mark Davidson scored off a deflection.

Edmonton, with 3-0 and 7-0 period leads, had single goals from Gary Rissling, Rocky Maze, Mike Will, Doug Lecuyer and Brent Peterson. The Tigers were outshot 45-31.

At Brandon, Tim Sanche of the Tigers scored the game-tying goal at 19:36 of the third period, while Medicine Hat goalie Jerry Farwell was on the bench in favor of a sixth attacker.

The game, played before 1,608 fans, was a tight contest in the scoring department, with the teams deadlocked 2-2 at the end of the first period and 5-5 after the second. The Tigers, however, held a wide territorial edge in play.

Don Murdoch, 18-year-old rookie right winger, scored three Medicine Hat goals, raising his league-leading total for the season to 74. Team-mates Greg Carroll and Morris Lukowich also scored.

Derek Spring and Rick Blight had two goals each for the Wheat Kings and the other Brandon goals were by Dale McMullin and Gerald Stoughton.