



## KENDALL'S KORNER

# WAG line flying high



No matter how well-balanced a hockey team is, there is always one standout line on every good club.

The Esposito line in Boston, the French Connection in Buffalo, and the Clarke line in Philadelphia, are just three examples.

In the B.C. Junior Hockey League this season, a couple lines stood out for their offensive ability.

Kelowna's big line of Doug Berry with Mark and Perry Schnaar, counted more than 350 points. In the process, Berry set a league record for most assists in a season.

Penticton Broncos' big line of Del Iannone, Gord McKay, and Bob Irvine, also scored more than 300 points. Iannone emerged as the league scoring champion.

But, one line that got little recognition, except here in Vernon, was the WAG line. What is the WAG line? It is Greg Walmsley, Ron Areshnekoff, and Gary Gilchrist.

### VALUABLE UNIT

Although their scoring credentials during the season were not as impressive as some other lines in the league, there is no question that they were as valuable to the Vikings, as any other unit was to their team.

So far in the playoffs, the WAG line is the highest scoring unit in the league with 36 points.

Besides that, they are one of the most physical lines in the league.

Why are they so effective? Walmsley feels it is because their style of play complements each other. They are the first to admit that they are not the fastest skaters in the world, but they all play the same style.

Areshnekoff attributes a lot of the success to talking to each other. The rangy centre says they spend a lot of time talking about what they are going to do.

Gilchrist added, "When we are the most deadly is when we are forechecking well. Our strategy is to bottle the other team up in their own end."

### BIG WORK LOAD

A lot of the scoring load has fallen into the hands of the WAG line during the quarter-finals but, they seem to be able to hand the burden.

Last Saturday, in the fourth game of the quarter-finals, the WAG line was shutout and Vikings lost 3-1. In the other four games to date, Broncos have not been able to stop the trio.

None of the line has yet finalized their plans for next year but they do have some ideas.

Walmsley would either like to play in Vernon again next season as a 20-year-old, or else perhaps join his cousin, Wayne Dye, on the Spokane Flyers.

Gilchrist, 18, and Areshnekoff, 17, both have excellent chances of sticking with Medicine Hat Tigers of the Western Canada Hockey League next season.

But, right now, the only thing on their mind is beating the Broncos. They want to wrap up the series tonight at home because as Gilchrist says, "We don't want to go back to Penticton again."

VIKINGS' WAG line will be in action tonight when Vernon plays host to Penticton Broncos in the B.C. Junior Hockey League quarter-finals. Vikings lead the series 3-2 and could advance to the semi-finals with a win tonight. From the left are Greg Walmsley, Ron

Areshnekoff, and Gary Gilchrist. Other playoff games tonight have Merritt Centennials in Kelowna to meet the Buckaroos and Bellingham Blazers in Chilliwack to battle the Bruins.

(Daily News Photo)

# Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

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## Orr takes over NHL scoring lead

MONTREAL (CP) — Defenceman Bobby Orr of Boston Bruins has moved into top spot in the National Hockey League's scoring race as a result of a seven-point performance last week.

Statistics released today by the league show Orr with 38 goals and 80 assists for 118 points, three more than teammate Phil Esposito. Orr's goal total breaks his own NHL record for most goals in a season by a defenceman set in 1970-71 and equalled a year later.

Esposito has a league-leading 55 goals to go along with 60 assists for 115 points. He had a goal and three assists in Boston's three wins last week.

Tied for third spot with 102 are two members of Montreal Canadiens — rightwinger Guy Lafleur and centre Peter Mahovlich.

Lafleur, back from an extended layoff due to a broken left index finger, scored two goals and two assists in his return to action Friday night against Washington Capitals and had two assists Sunday as Montreal defeated New York Rangers. The former Quebec Remparts junior star has 46 goals and 56 assists.

scorers with 100 points or more.

Bobby Clarke, Philadelphia Flyers' team captain, is 10 points behind Dionne with 23 goals and 67 assists.

Meanwhile, the members of Buffalo Sabres French Connection line appear on their way to enjoying the finest seasons of their careers. Rene Robert, out of action with a heel injury, is seventh in the scoring race with 37 goals and 51 assists for 88 points, five more than his personal high set last year.

Leftwinger Rick Martin, who missed seven games with torn thumb ligaments, has 42 goals and 38 assists for 80 points, just six less than his best campaign last season. Gilbert Perreault, with 31 goals and 48 assists for 79 points, is just nine points away from his personal high set last season. The Sabres still have 13 games to go.

### SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts	Pim
Orr, B	38	80	118	81
Esposito, B	55	60	115	54
Lafleur, M	46	56	102	31
Mahovlich, M	32	70	102	38
Dionne, D	38	62	100	12
Clarke, Pha	23	67	90	106
Robert, Buf	37	51	88	65
Gilbert, NYR	33	49	82	22
Martin, Buf	42	38	80	63
Perreault, Buf	31	48	79	30