

## BUCKS WIN 7-4

# Kelowna-Merritt game dominated by fights

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Playoff tensions in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League caused fights and lengthy delays Friday as Kelowna Buckaroos defeated Merritt Centennials 7-4 and Bellingham Blazers blanked Nanaimo Clippers 2-0.

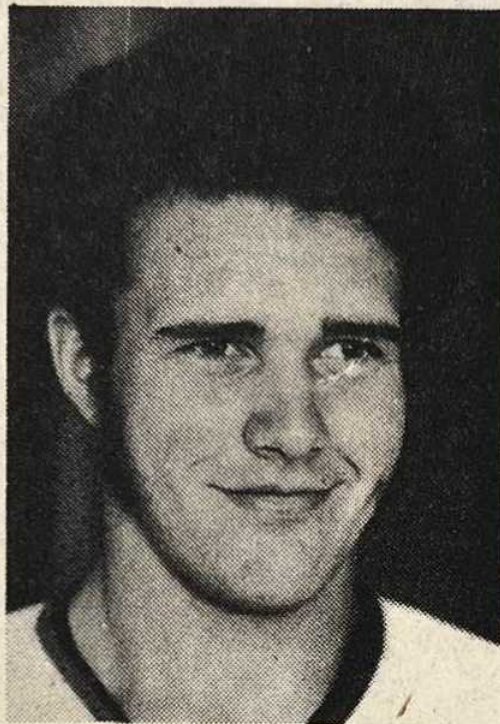
Kelowna's win gave it the best-of-seven quarter-final in the interior division at 4-3 and Bellingham now has a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven coast division semi-final.

In Kelowna, the game's first period took almost an hour to play because of numerous fights. Kelowna led 3-2 after the end of that period and 5-3 after the second.

Archie McKinnon scored three goals to lead Kelowna. Gord Gibson, Gene Weninger, Gord Dumont and Brad Owens rounded out the winning attack.

Stan Alsted scored two goals for Merritt and Perry Stensland and Greg Agar one each.

Kelowna goalie Bill Stankoven kicked away 24 shots and Merritt netminder



**BILL STANKOVEN**

... kicks out 24

Greg Hayes blocked 30.

Merritt received four of the five minor penalties. Each team was assessed three fighting majors and two game misconducts in the first period.

In Nanaimo, RCMP were called in during the third period to restore order in the arena where about 1,500 were

watching the game.

Fans in the area of the penalty box and the Bellingham players bench were harassing opposition players after fighting broke out when Blazers' Don Hobbins rammed into Nanaimo goalie Don Rogers who had left his net to clear a loose puck.

Three players from each team, including Hobbins, were ejected from the game. The Blazers picked up nine of 17 minor penalties in the game.

Randy Rudnyk scored in the first period to give Bellingham a 1-0 lead and Rob Anderson scored into an empty net late in the third period to provide the insurance.

Bellingham goalie Carey Walker stopped 27 shots and Rogers blocked 31.

Nanaimo will play Bellingham Sunday in the second game of the semi-final series in Langley. Kelowna will meet Vernon Vikings Sunday in Kelowna in the first game of the best-of-seven interior division semi-finals.