

Bucks and Vees win against coast teams

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Interior Division clubs improved their position in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League Friday night with lopsided victories over Coast Division teams.

In Chilliwack, Kelowna Buckaroos belted the Bruins 12-3 to move into a second-place tie with Vernon Vikings while Penticton Vees stayed one point behind with an 8-3 verdict over the visiting Maple Ridge Blazers.

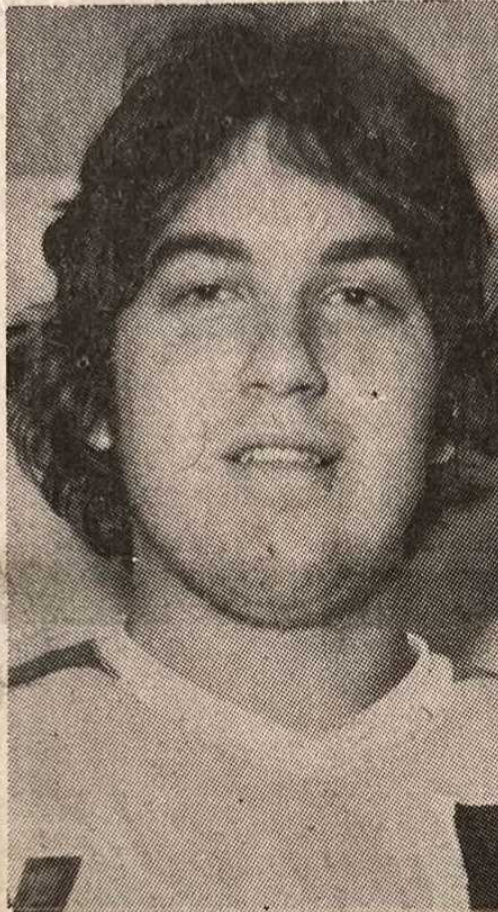
In the other game, John Gordon's goal with four minutes left gave Nanaimo Clippers a 3-3 tie with the Lords at Langley. This result gave the Clippers a three-point bulge atop the Coast Division with the Blazers and the Lords sharing second place.

In Chilliwack, the players sat out 258 minutes in penalties, most of them in a rowdy third period, as Phil Logan scored three goals to lead the Buckaroos.

Bill Audycki and Ian Malcolm scored two goals apiece while John Uveges, Perry Schnarr, John Oliver Wayne Nelson and Mike Wills also tallied for the winners.

Kevin Krieger, Gordie Brandt and Randy Irving scored for the Blazers who were outscored 7-0 in the second period and were outshot 56-23 during the game.

Gord MacKay also fired three goals in the Vees triumph. Jeff Boychuk added two more for the winners



JEFF BOYCHUK

... two for Vees

while Ryan Hatfield, Dwight Bailey and Darrel Becker were the other Penticton marksmen.

Two inept teams battle for third

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Toronto Argonauts and Hamilton Tiger-Cats, with only three and two wins respectively this year as the season rapidly draws to a

Roy Wheaton, Rob Anderson and John Kelly scored for the Blazers who trailed 3-1 after one period, 6-3 after 40 minutes and were outshot 57-28. Richard Martens started in goal for Maple Ridge but was replaced by Larry Lozinski at 4:02 of the second period with his club down 6-2.

Nanaimo goalie Steve Amiss played an important role in his club's tie, stopping 30 shots and blanking Langley for more than 50 minutes including the scoreless 10-minute overtime session.

Rob Jones, Russ Wilderman and Mark Taylor scored first-period goals for the Lords before 950 fans while Brent Kristof and Mike Shields were the other Nanaimo snipers.

Tonight, the Blazers visit the Vikings and the Lords play at Chilliwack. On Sunday, the Buckaroos are at Langley while Merritt Centennials, leaders in the Interior Division, play at Maple Ridge. The Buckaroos play the Clippers at Nanaimo in Monday's single game.

Bailey in the offensive backfield. Hartfield, accustomed to operating as a fullback, may force Murphy to shift Lou Harris to running back.

The Ticats say they now



Is Vernon that strong?

With a record of three wins and three losses, the B.C. Junior Hockey League is not about to give first-place to the Vernon Vikings.

But, if you listen to League President Bryan Couling, the rest of the Interior Division might as well fight over second-place.

Couling, who sees more BCJHL games than anyone, says Vikings appear to have the best team by far. He said, "Joe Tennant has more depth on his club than anyone in the league, and besides that, he is the best coach."

He has plenty of experience on defence with Peter Poeschek, Terry Anaka, Brian Griese, and Gary Gassoff, and a couple tough kids in Brian Mazer and Dean Pratico.

Up front, he still has 13 forwards and can't choose between any of them. Usually after a few games, the forwards start sorting themselves out. Some excel, while others drift by the wayside. But, that hasn't happened here. In six games, Vikings have 33 goals, an average of 5.5 per game.

NEW STYLE

Tennant's squad has changed its style this season. Last year seven Vikings had more than 100 minutes in penalties. This year, that probably won't be the case.

Tough guys Greg Walmsley, Gary Gilchrist, John Scammel, and Randy McDonalds are gone. Instead of a rock 'em sock 'em team, Vernon has a good skating club.

However, Tennant is quick to point out no one is going to push his club around. He said, "Penticton tried to rough us up on Wednesday, and we straightened them out in a hurry."

He has the muscle if he needs it. Big Jack Lefley, Grant Sidnick, Poeschek, and Mazer keep the opposition honest.

Centre Gary Huth will probably prove to be the steal of the year. Huth, who played with Chilliwack last year, has six goals in six games. Rookie Calvin Halasz already has seven goals, but if he keeps playing like he is, he'll be in Medicine Hat before long.

When asked if he thought Vikings would catch Merritt, currently in first-place in the Interior, Couling said a definite, "Yes. Centennials have a good club but not as good as Vernon."

Merritt should probably take second spot, with Kelowna and Penticton battling it out for the third and final playoff berth.

It is early in the season, but you can make your own decision on the Vikings tonight when they host Maple Ridge Blazers.

HIGHER FEES

City of Vernon levied a \$35 non-resident fee on users of the Civic Arena this winter, which was later reduced, after much protest, to \$15.

If Coldstream Council vetoes the Regional Recreation vote, non-residents can expect to pay threw the teeth next year.

It was made obvious this year that Vernon Council feels that city residents have been subsidizing out-of-town people long enough.

In addition to a larger fee on arena users next year, the city could charge more for non-residents using he swimming pool, tennis courts, playing fields, or taking part in recreation sponsored activities.

Just a thought for the future!

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor