



VERNON VIKINGS' Ken Stroud pulled Merritt goalie Randy Struch out of the net

and slipped the puck behind him during the third period of Tuesday's BCJHL game.

Stroud had two assists to go with his goal and Darrell Billsten, background,

scored three times as Vikings dumped Merritt 7-1. (Daily News Photo)

Forward line shuffle pays off for Vikings

Vernon Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant was saying before Tuesday night's B.C. Junior Hockey League game that he had to get more goals from Darrell Billsten and Ken Stroud.

So, he juggled his lines and put the pair on the same unit and they responded with flying colors as Vikings thumped previously unbeaten Merritt Centennials 7-1, in Merritt.

Billsten scored three times and picked up one assist while Stroud scored once and set up two others. Their centre, Rick Simpson, got one assist and played a solid two-way game.

Vikings' other marksmen were Calvin Halasz, Steve Danshin, and Gary Huth.

TOOK LEAD

Wade Jowett gave the Cents a 1-0 lead on a power play at 3:42 of the first period. But, before the period had ended, Halasz, Danshin, and Billsten scored to make it 3-1.

Stroud scored the lone goal of the second period but the individual star was Vernon goalie Keith Ferner who withstood five minutes of constant pressure from Merritt midway through the period.

Centennials appeared to give up on winning the game early in the third and decided to start taking runs at the Vikings.

The result was three more Vernon goals and four fights. Main antagonist was Merritt veteran Greg Agar who spent one and one-half periods trying to lure Gary Gassoff into a brawl.

WON FIGHT

Finally with Clyde Goodswimmer battling Cents' Gary Criss, Agar got his chance and started a tussle with Gassoff. The fiery Merritt winger threw a few good punches before Gassoff got him in a headlock and ended up winning the decision.

Gassoff, who has been under

criticism in recent games for his mediocre play, was one of the two best Vikings on the ice along with Billsten.

In total, Centennials picked up 65 minutes in penalties while the Vikings were assessed 57. Both teams had three game misconducts.

Tennant told the Daily News that his club has changed its style this year and the rest of the league doesn't seem to be accepting the change.

He said, "We come out to play hockey. We'll fight if we

have to but we're not going to go looking for it like those goons on Merritt did tonight."

ONE GOALIE

For Tennant and the Vikings it is lucky Ferner didn't get hurt. Vernon's other netminder Darrell Furmanek was unable to dress because of a cut on his hand, so forward Randy Merritt put on the spare goalie's strip.

Ferner blocked 29 shots while Randy Struch made 39 saves for the Centennials.

Meanwhile, Kelowna

Buckaroos moved into first place in the Interior Division with a 7-0 win over Penticton Vees.

The win, Kelowna's sixth in seven games, gives them 12 points, two more than Merritt and Vernon. Vees have only five points in eight games.

Perry Schnarr, Wayne Nelson, Mike Wills, Pat Severyn, Rob Wright, John Uveges, and John Olver scored for the Bucks.

In the only game tonight, Nanaimo plays at Chilliwack.

Rookie goalie superb as Toros blast Aeros

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rookie goaltender Mario Vien of Toronto Toros had a total of 14 minutes of professional experience prior to Tuesday night's World Hockey Association game against Houston Aeros.

However, it might have been difficult to convince the

Aeros of that fact after the defending champions dropped a 6-3 decision to Toronto Toros as Vien stopped 32 shots, including 14 in the first period.

In other games, the line of Marc Tardif, Real Cloutier and Christian Bordeleau collected five goals and nine assists as Quebec Nordiques

defeated Edmonton Oilers 8-5 and rookie Derek Haas scored twice to lead Calgary Cowboys to a 5-3 win over Indianapolis Racers.

Vien, a five-foot seven-inch, 150-pound netminder who was the most valuable player in the Quebec Major Junior League last season with Cornwall Royals, replaced Jim Shaw who has a back injury.

BEAT OUT BINKLEY

The 20-year-old Vien, who beat out veteran Les Binkley for the job with the Toros, said:

"I was just a little nervous about starting in the afternoon, but I slept it off in an hour."

Two goals by former Czech national Vaclav Nedomansky helped the Toros win their first game of the young season before 11,996 fans in Toronto.

Andre Hinse opened the Houston scoring at 2:28 of the opening period, deflecting a shot from the point past Vien.

Richard Farda, Nedomansky's Czech national team-mate, evened the score with 57 seconds left in the period.

Lions and Riders limping into game

OTTAWA (CP) — Scouting reports may prove of little use as Ottawa Rough Riders and British Columbia Lions prepare for their Canadian Football League game tonight because injuries have forced extensive changes to both lineups.

The Lions will be going without their star fullback Lou Harris while fullback Art Green may find himself spending most of the evening alone in the Ottawa backfield.

Harris suffered leg, back and neck injuries in B.C.'s 14-8

George Brancato has spent the season juggling his lineup and the Riders' two-point lead atop the Eastern Conference testifies to his success.

With five first-stringers already out for the season, Jim Foley is the latest casualty and it has been the burly halfback's blocking that has made Green's brilliant rushing possible.

But Brancato says he plans to insert another pass receiver rather than find another halfback although Joe Colvey may see some duty in the backfield.