

Big game in Sunday



One question often asked around the arena is, "where is he now."

After a young hockey player leaves the Vernon Vikings, often you never hear of him again. A few make it to the big time, some end up in tier one junior A with Medicine Hat, and others join the Western International Hockey League.

Ex-Vikings like Bob Gassoff, Bob Craig, Eddie Johnstone, and Tom Serviss, made it to the pro ranks. Eight ex-Vikings are playing this year with Medicine Hat Tigers. And numerous ex-Vernon players including Ernie Gare are playing senior in the WIHL.

But, one place which is becoming more and more popular for graduating junior players is the Monasheee Hockey League.

No less than eight ex-Vernon junior A players will be on the ice Sunday, at the Salmon Arm Arena, when Salmon Arm Aces take on the Monashee League All-stars.

The Monashee League provides a place for young men to play who weren't quite good enough to move up in the hockey ranks, or simply wanted to stay in the North Okanagan.

By no means is the league as competitive as the WIHL but it does offer a good style of hockey.

Should be a good game. Face-off is 2 p.m.

VIOLENCE ATTACKED

The novelty of violence in hockey appears to have worn off and people are becoming downright disgusted with hockey brawls.

Several hockey clubs, including Kamloops Chiefs and Victoria Cougars of the Western Canada Hockey League, have come under fire in recent weeks for their fisticuffs.

In fact, the Victoria mayor verbally attacked Cougars' Coach Pat Ginnell and said if he had anything to do with it, Cougars would never play hockey in the Victoria Memorial Arena.

Luckily for the Cougars, cooler heads prevailed after the game.

No longer do people want to go to games at 8 p.m., and get out of the rink at 11:15 p.m., because of a bunch of nonsensical fights.

Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant said he is even getting disturbed at the amount of fighting going on in hockey these days. And that statement, coming from a man with Tennant's reputation, is really something.

Joe, who has never been known to coach a bunch of angels, publicly criticized Merritt Centennials for their chippy play and fighting antics after they had fallen behind by a few goals last Tuesday.

Kelowna Buckaroos Coach Wayne Horning lashed out at Penticton Vees for the same type of thing this week. After Bucks got ahead by a few, Vees turned on the goon act.

Perhaps it is time BCJHL President Bryan Couling cracked down on this type of garbage. Everyone knows fighting is part of hockey, and you can't back down or the opposition will run you out of the rink.

But, there is never any need for 150 or 200 minutes in penalties in a game.

BCJHL ACTION

Kelowna swamps Chilliwack 7-2

By CANADIAN PRESS

A brilliant solo dash by Eddy Lebler resulted in the winning goal as Langley Lords defeated Merritt Centennials 4-2 Friday night in a British Columbia Junior Hockey League game at Langley.

In the only other game, Kelowna Buckaroos won their sixth straight by swamping Chilliwack Bruins 7-2 in Penticton.

Lebler broke a 2-2 tie in the second period when he intercepted a Merritt clearing pass and scored a breakaway goal with a backhand shot at 12:01.

Errol Rausse added an insurance goal for the Lords in the third period before about 800 fans. Leonard Dies and Mark Taylor scored the other Langley goals.

Rick Hendricks and Danny Rota scored for the Centennials.

Merritt goaltender Randy

Strutch had a busy night, making 33 saves, while Langley netminder Al Wiebe blocked 17 shots.

GAME SHIFTED

The Kelowna-Chilliwack game was played in Penticton because of a civic workers strike in Kelowna.

The Buckaroos led 1-0 after the first period and 3-0 after the second as they continued their exceptional play.

Wayne Krebs and Brad Owens each scored two goals for Kelowna while Rob Wright, John Olver and Perry Schnarr added one each.

Chilliwack got goals from Tim Hollett and Don Borno as the Bruins were outshot 43-24.

Two players—Rick Benignshof of Kelowna and Randy Irving of Chilliwack—were given major and match penalties after a hair-pulling episode in the second period.