

Vikings drop to third after weekend losses

Vernon Vikings dropped to third-place in the B.C. Junior Hockey League's Interior Division after losing a pair of weekend games.

Last Friday in Penticton, Vernon lost 6-5 to the Vees and Saturday, at home, Vikings dropped a 5-3 decision to Merritt Centennials.

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Kelowna Buckaroos hung onto first place by dumping the Cents 6-4 in Merritt on Sunday.

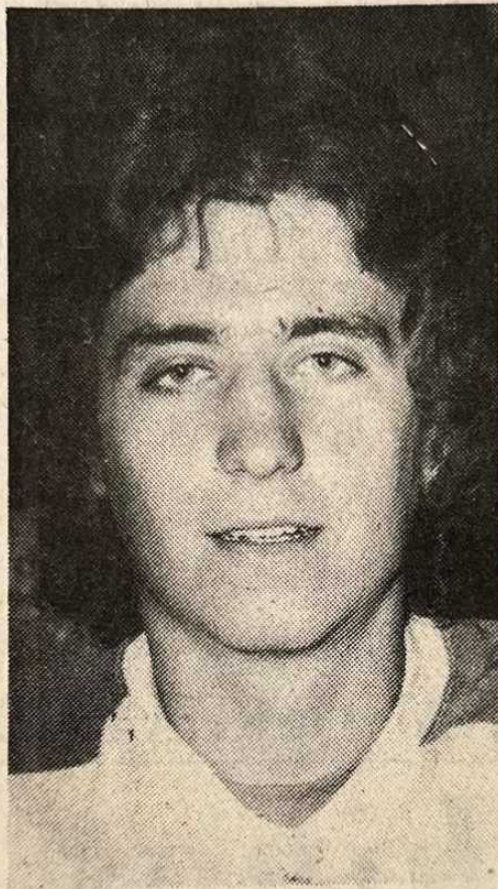
Bucks have 16 points, Merritt 14, Vernon 12, and Penticton nine.

Vikings simply didn't deserve to win on Saturday. They were outskated by Merritt, the defence was erratic, and goalie Darrel Furmanek was beaten by a couple bad shots.

Anthony Thomas, Dan Hlusko, Rick Hendricks, Neil Robinson, and Darrell Zelinski scored for the Centennials.

Gary Huth, Randy Merritt, and Steve Danshin replied for the Vikings.

The score was tied 1-1 after the first period but Merritt led 4-3 after the second.



STEVE DANSHIN
... one goal

Cents' win was even more impressive considering they were missing two of their top forwards, Danny Rota, injured, and Greg Agar, suspended.

Vernon outshot Merritt 48-35. Vikings took five of seven minor penalties and the team was assessed a major penalty.

Sunday in Merritt, Wayne Nelson scored two goals for the Buckaroos with singles from Rob Wright, Mike Wills, Perry Schnarr, and Pat Severyn.

Wade Jowett scored twice for the Cents with singles from Hendricks and Perry Wray.

In weekend games on the coast, first-place Nanaimo Clippers lost 10-5 to Langley Lords but bounced back to beat Maple Ridge Blazers 4-2 on Sunday.

Blazers had beaten Chilliwack Bruins 2-1 on Saturday.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

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