

Penticton narrows gap with win over Vikings

Penticton Vees moved to within six points of first-place Vernon by defeating the Vikings 4-2 Tuesday in B.C. Junior Hockey League action before 350 fans in Penticton.

However, Vikings still have four games-in-hand on their nearest rivals.

Vees came out fighting in the first period, and the numerous fights, combined with helter-skelter hockey, made for a boring game.

Penticton captain Gord McKay put Vees in the lead at 16:57 of the opening period while Vikings were killing a penalty.

Vernon forwards Darrell Billsten and Darcy Wilkinson were caught up ice and Penticton broke in with a four-on-two break.

TIED GAME

At 2:49 of the second period, centre Steve Danshin tied the score, also on a powerplay.

McKay then put Vees in the lead again with his 22nd goal of the year, while a delayed penalty was in effect to Vernon defenceman Terry Anaka.

Darrell Becker stretched the margin to 3-1 at 19:08 of the middle period when he was left unguarded in front of goalie Darrell Furmanek.

Jerry Thygeson made the score 4-1 at 8:23 of the final period before Rick Simpson narrowed the gap at 10:34.

Vikings Coach Joe Tennant had no excuses for his team's second loss in the last 13 games. He said, "You can't call that a hockey game. Our team was awful. But, you can bet they'll be working in practice the rest of this week."

Best of the Vikings were Furmanek and rookie defenceman Dean Pratico.

36 SAVES

Furmanek was called on to

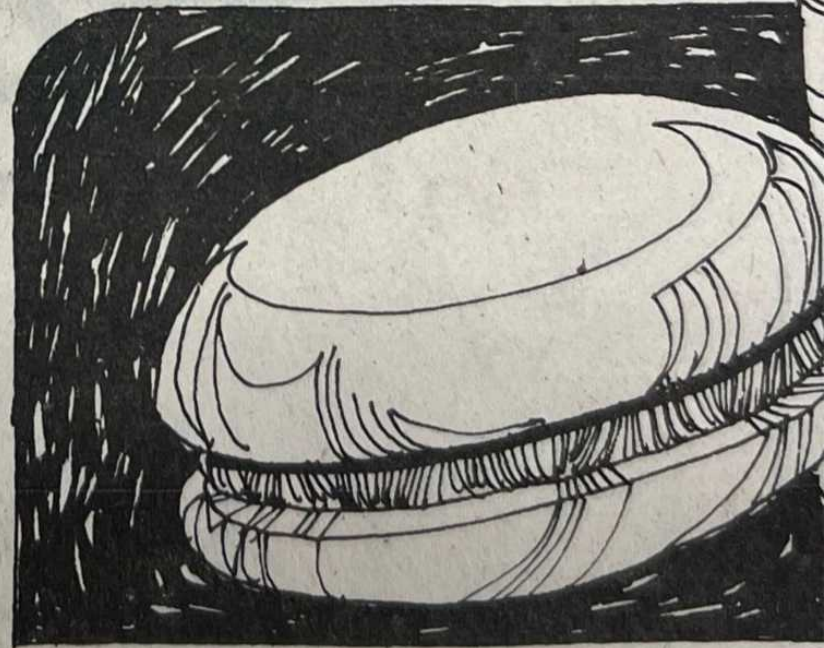
make 36 saves, including 15 in the first period. Pratico, somewhat a disappointment so far this season, turned in perhaps his best game of the year.

Penticton goalie Dennis Ewanchuk also had a good night blocking 31 shots.

Vikings were assessed 12 of 21 minor penalties and each team picked up six majors.

GOALPOSTS: Vernon played the game without Jack Lefley (broken jaw), Clyde Goodswimmer (leg injury), and Grand Sidnick (flu).

Without those three, Tennant had trouble finding wingers to fit in with centre Gary Huth. . . Kelowna Buckaroos released Mark Schnarr and John Uveges last week because of economic reasons. Uveges is now playing in Penticton and Schnarr went home to Burnaby. Due to the civic strike in Kelowna, Bucks are trying to cut costs and reduced their roster to 17. . . . After Tuesday's game, Bucks practiced in Penticton at 10:45 p.m. . . . The only BCJHL game tonight has Langley in Nanaimo.



FRI KICKW

homb

Canadians

dump Rutland

Vernon-Armstrong Canadians won one game and tied one in Okanagan Junior B Hockey League action this week against Rutland Packers.

The two clubs battled to a 2-2 tie and Canadians won 10-5.

In the tie game, Tom Connatty and Bruce Naka scored for Packers while Barry Dye and Bruce Green tallied for the Canadians.

In the other game, Willy Madden was top marksman for the winners with three goals while Dye and Pat Balfour added two each. Singles went to Jack Prokopetz, Jim Sparrow and Green.

Jerry Hopfe, Ken Schisler, Doug Olshi, Randy Naito, and Connatty replied for Rutland.