

# Vikings rely heavily on veteran defenceman

By **DON KENDALL**

**Daily News Sports Editor**

Whenever Vernon Vikings get in trouble, Coach Joe Tennant looks down his bench and signals to two players to go over the boards.

Anyone who goes to Vikings' games knows those two are Terry Anaka and Brian Griese. Both veteran defencemen are in their final year of junior hockey and have spent their entire junior A career in Vernon.

Anaka, 20, came to the Vikings three years ago from Edmonton, where he was considered one of the top prospects in that city.

In his first season with Vernon, he ran into injury problems and totalled three goals and 19 assists. As one of the team leaders last season, Terry picked up four goals and 42 assists for 46 points.

## **MOST VALUABLE**

For his efforts, he was named Most Valuable Defenceman on the Vikings and chosen to play in the all-star game.

Anaka has never been known as a high-scoring defenceman, but this year seems to have found the net. In Vikings first 25 games, Anaka has eight goals and 21 assists, an average of more than a point per game.

## **FIFTH HIGHEST**

Those statistics rank him fifth in the league in scoring for defencemen. He trails Nanaimo's Greg Norbraten



**TERRY ANAKA**  
... last year

who has 44 points, Rick Hendricks of Merritt with 43, Dwayne Lowdermilk of Langley with 32, and Pat Graiziger with 30. However, Anaka has several games-in-hand on all four of the leaders.

As far as Tennant is concerned, he wouldn't trade Anaka for any of the other top scoring blue liners.

Tennant said, "His value to our club showed last week. Terry had his worst game of the year in Penticton and we lost 4-2 to the Vees. He bounced back Saturday, scored two goals, played a

great game, and we beat Nanaimo 7-4.

Besides playing every other shift on defence, Terry kills penalties, along with Griese, and usually plays the point on the powerplay,, again with Griese.

Needless to say, by the end of the game, Terry is a tired hockey player.

## **PRAISES COACH**

The stocky 180-pounder has nothing but praise for his coach.

Anaka said, "As far as I'm concerned, Joe is the best coach in the league. He treats everyone equally and gives everyone a good chance."

Terry would love to go out a winner and feels Vikings have the club this year to capture the league title.

Next year it will seem strange not to see the, "Little Bowling Ball," in a Viking uniform.



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