

# Merritt's animal act destroys hockey game

By **DON KENDALL**

Daily News Sports Editor

Vernon Vikings strengthened their hold on first place in the Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League by blasting Merritt Centennials 10-2 before just 370 fans Wednesday at the Vernon Arena.

The win gives Vikings seven points more than second-place Penticton Vees, with four games-in-hand.

Prior to game time, Vernon officials were concerned about the small crowd. But, once the puck was dropped, Merritt displayed the kind of hockey no one wants to watch.

## BUSH-LEAGUE

Centennials came out slashing, hacking, and in general, playing bush-league hockey.

Even Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant, not known as a leader of angels, criticized the Merritt style.

Tennant said, "It looked like they were sending guys over the boards to start fights. It's hard for our kids to play good hockey against a bunch of hackers like that."

Merritt was assessed a total of 98 minutes in penalties while Vikings picked up 70 minutes, their highest total this year.

However, in fairness to the Vernon players, most of their penalties were in retaliation to actions by the Cents.

## QUICK GOALS

As far as the scoring went, Vikings scored four goals in two minutes and 33 seconds, mid-way through the first period, before Merritt got on the scoreboard.

Centennials trilled 4-2 at the end of the first period and 6-2 after the second.

Gary Gassoff and Grant Sidnick led Vikings' attack with two goals each while Rick Simpson, Brian Maser, Ken Oulton, Robbie Jacobsen, Terry Anaka, and Steve Danshin added singles.

Kirk Aulin and Bob Wasson replied for the last-place

Centennials.

Vernon netminder Darrell Furmanek turned in probably his best game of the season, turning away 38 shots. Merritt goalies Randy Struch and Brad Earp combined to block 31 shots.

Vikings brought up Jacobsen and Randy Merritt from their farm team, Grand Forks Border Kings, and they combined with Simpson to form Vikings' best line.

## GOOD LINE

Merritt, not known as an aggressive player, was hitting everything in sight, while his larger linemates were also doing their share of work.

Both players are slated to return to Grand Forks today but Tennant says that is not the last time Vikings' fans will see them.

Vernon played the game without Peter Poeschek, shoulder injury, Clyde Goodswimmer, charleyhorse, and Jack Lefley, broken jaw. Poeschek and Goodswimmer

may be back in time for Saturday's game against Penticton, but Lefley is expected to be out of the line-up for at least three more weeks.

Wednesday, on the coast, Nanaimo Clippers hammered Chilliwack Bruins 11-3 while Maple Ridge Blazers edged Langley Lords 4-2.

## SCORED TWO

The win moved the Coast Division leader, Nanaimo, three points ahead of the Lords.

In Langley, Sheldon Geary broke a 2-2 tie when his 100-foot shot went into the Langley goal off the glove of netminder Dale Nelsen at 18:58 of the third period. Geary added an insurance marker when his shot deflected past Nelsen, off a defender, with 17 seconds left in the game.



**ROB JACOBSEN**  
... scored one

# PIN POINTS

**WEDNESDAY MIXED 9-11**  
December 3

Women's high single, Doreen Larson 303; high triple, Marth Isobe 667; high average, Lori Kupryk 214.

Men's high single, Pat Williams 313; high triple, Pat Williams 738; high average, Shig Tabata 220.

Team high single, Assassins 1349; high triple, Assassins 3748. "300" club, Doreen Larson 303; Pat Williams 313.

## TEAM STANDINGS

Chilly Creek.....285 1/2  
Coldstream Hotel.....282 1/2  
Assassins.....276  
Summer Side.....257

**WEDNESDAY MATINEE**  
December 3

Women's high single, Carole Edwards and Lindsay Norton 267; high triple, Carole Edwards 645; high average, Doreen Chamberlain 199.

Team high single, Kit Kats 1271; high triple, Travellers 3624.

## TEAM STANDINGS

Jokers won the first third with 82 pts.

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