

Bucks streak stopped by high-flying Vikings

Vernon Vikings put an abrupt halt to Kelowna Buckaroos five-game winning streak by thumping the Bucks 10-1 before 1,642 fans in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Friday in Vernon.

In other games, Penticton Veas outscored Merritt Centennials 10-7, Maple Ridge Blazers blanked Chilliwack Bruins 4-0, and Nanaimo Clippers slipped past Langley Lords 6-4.

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Vernon	33	25	7	1	51
Nanaimo	38	20	13	5	45
Langley	37	19	15	3	41
Penticton	37	16	17	4	36
Kelowna	32	17	14	1	35
Maple Ridge	38	15	21	2	32
Merritt	38	14	23	1	29
Chilliwack	35	9	25	1	19

Vikings have now won 20 and tied one in their last 23 games.

The largest hometown crowd of the season got its money's worth as Vernon skated and passed well, finished every check, and showed why they are in first place.

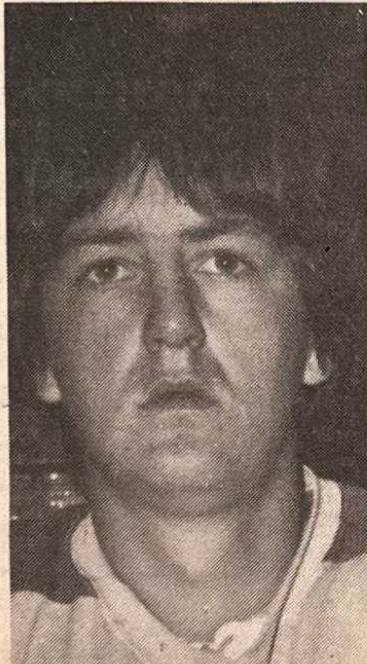
Prior to the game, Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant said if his club went to the body against the Bucks, Kelowna would fold. He looked like a prophet after the game.

TOOK LEAD

John Olver gave Bucks a 1-0 lead at 3:08 of the opening period, but that was the last time Kelowna was able to beat Vernon goalie Keith Ferner.

Rick Simpson tied the game for Vikings midway through the first period when he deflected in a shot from the point by Dean Pratico.

Second period Vikings came out flying and got two goals from Terry Anaka as well as singles from Grant Sidnick,



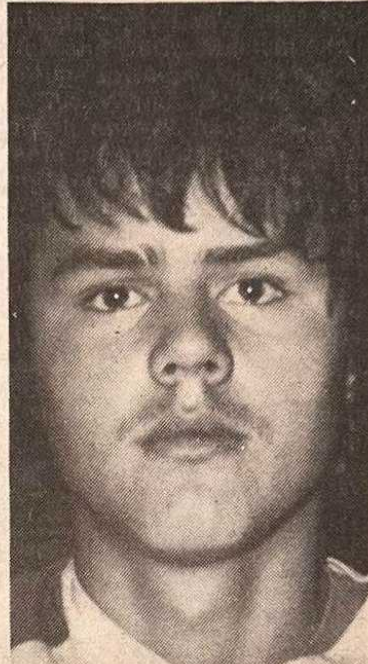
KEITH FERNER
... a standout

Gary Gassoff, Steve Danshin, and Ken Stroud.

In the final period, Stroud and Danshin each picked up their second markers of the night.

FIRST GAME

Ferner played a standout game blocking 29 shots while Kelowna goalies John McKerrow and Tim Coty combined to turn away 38



RICK SIMPSON
... scored two

shots. McKerrow was pulled with the score 6-1 and Coty got into his first BCJHL game, since being brought up from midget.

Vikings picked up 10 of 14 minor penalties, one of two majors, and the game's only misconduct.

Best line for the winners was Simpson between Peter Poeschek and Jack Lefley.

The line, averaging 196 pounds, hit everything in sight and controlled the play while on the ice.

LEFLEY RETURNS

Lefley, playing his first game in seven weeks since suffering a broken jaw, was a standout. Besides his aggressive play, which saw him hand out 11 stiff bodychecks, he had two assists.

Tennant was particularly pleased that his club stopped the league's hottest line, Mike Wills, Perry Schnarr, and Wayne Nelson.

Tennant said, "We didn't play a dirty game, we played a rough game. Wills and those guys just don't perform well in that kind of contest."

Bucks are back in action tonight when they host Penticton. Vikings travel to Kelowna on Sunday for return engagement.

BLANKED BRUINS

In other games, Richard Martens recorded his first shutout of the season for Maple Ridge against the lowly Bruins.

John Uvegas and Rod Zavaduk scored two goals each for the Veas against the slumping Centennials, while Nanaimo remained six points behind Vernon with its win over Langley.

Atlanta coach nervous prior to easy victory

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Atlanta Flames coach Fred

Seals came back with four consecutive goals in the