

Merritt leads league in penalty department

Merritt Centennials aren't winning too many hockey games these days but they lead the B.C. Junior Hockey League in another department.

Statistics released this week by the BCJHL show that Centennials have four players in the league's 10 penalty leaders.

Merritt's fiery winger Greg Agar leads the league with 184 minutes, 49 more than teammate Neil Robinson.

However, Agar will be spending a lot of time in the penalty box in the next 27 games if he hopes to break the league record set last season, by Don Hobbins, of Bellingham.

Hobbins, now with New Westminster Bruins, picked up 350 minutes over the 66-game schedule.

Vernon Vikings have no players in the top 10, and have only one in the top 20. Rookie defenceman Brian Maser is 18th in the league with 73 minutes.

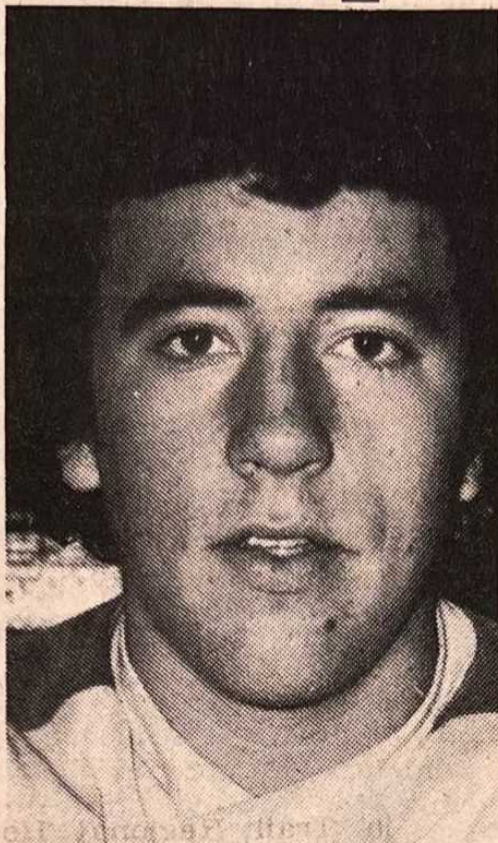
Penticton Veeps have the dubious distinction of having the most players in the top 20, with six, while Merritt has five.

Last season Vikings had two players in the league's top 10 and a total of eight with more than 100 minutes.

Vernon Coach Joe Tennant explained the change in his team's style by saying, "We had the kind of team last year that had to play rugged to be effective. We had lots of size, but not a heckuva lot of ability.

"This year is a different story. We've still got a big team, but they have plenty of hockey ability."

Vikings' style this year is a



BRIAN MASER
... 18th in league

complete reversal of the style Tennant has employed throughout his coaching

career, and the local fans seem to like the change. Crowds are up considerably this season.

Tennant said, "We're still hitting hard, but not fighting or taking stupid penalties.

"No one will push us around. We've got plenty of big guys who can mix it up as well as play hockey."

But, Tennant, the Vikings, and their fans, are content to leave the brawling to Penticton and Merritt.

Speaking of Penticton, Vernon travels to the Peach City tonight to take on the Veeps. Saturday night, Vikings host Langley Lords.

PENALTY LEADERS

PLAYER	TEAM	PIM
Agar	Merr.	184
Robinson	Merr.	135
Audycki	Kel.	132
Heck	Nan.	127
Zavaduk	Pen.	120
Chadwick	Merr.	119
Willison	Merr.	111
Dineen	Pen.	105
Anderson	Nan.	101
Larsen	Lang.	98

Miller finds himself four strokes off pace

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Johnny Miller's fantastic string of successes in the Arizona desert—he had led every round of every tournament in this state since Jan. 12, 1974—came to a wet and watery end Thursday.

In the gathering gloom of late afternoon, Miller went to that final tee needing a birdie to tie journeyman Gibby Gilbert at six-under par 66 to tie for the first-round lead in the \$200,000 Tucson Open.

"It was an easy seven," Miller said with a half-hearted reach for humor in a com-

pletely humorless situation.

"Not only did I hit it in the water, I had to three-putt on top of it," said Miller, bitterly disappointed, completely subdued, almost in tears and speaking just above a whisper.

LANDED IN LAKE

Miller pushed his drive to the right in the glimmering water of a man-made lake. He finished the hole with a triple bogey, a round of 70 and was four strokes back in the first competitive round of the 1976 pro golf tour.

Disastrous trip comes to an end

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lethbridge Broncos closed out a disastrous road trip in which they lost six straight games to British Columbia teams by bowing 9-2 Thursday night to Kamloops Chiefs in Western Canada Hockey League action.

	Western Canada Eastern Division					
	W	L	T	F	A	P
Saskatoon	24	11	7	220	157	55
Brandon	19	17	5	189	163	43
Winnipeg	14	22	3	171	197	31
Lethbridge	13	26	3	170	234	29
Flin Flon	11	22	6	153	239	28
Regina	11	22	4	147	185	26
Western Division						
New West	26	9	4	217	142	56
Kamloops	25	10	4	199	142	54
Medicine Hat	21	11	6	200	154	48
Victoria	19	14	6	177	165	44
Edmonton	13	20	4	164	181	30
Calgary	11	23	2	139	187	24

In the league's only other game, Medicine Hat Tigers humbled Regina Pats 12-3 in Medicine Hat.

The Chiefs exploded for six second-period goals—five of them in just over six minutes—on the way to their win over the Broncos, who have been outscored 51-21 on their road trip.

Allen Young, Don Moores and Rob Flockhart led the Chiefs with two goals each. Reg Kerr, Kelly Ferner and Larry Lestander had one goal

each, while captain Darryl Ferner picked up five assists.

Rick Collier and Willie Desjardins replied for Lethbridge in the game played before 1,735 fans.

Kamloops held period leads of 1-0 and 7-2.

Kamloops goalie Brian Henderson made 27 saves, while Lethbridge netminder Rollie Boutin turned aside 39 shots. Kamloops took 10 of 18 minor penalties, and each team had one fighting major.

In Medicine Hat, right winger Don Murdoch scored four times to lift his season total to 46 goals as he led the Tigers to their 11th straight win—a club record—before 2,650 fans.

Murdoch's linemate Morris Lukowich added two goals and centre Greg Carroll managed four assists to stretch his consecutive-game point string to 17.

Brian Hill and Ron Areshenkoff also had two goals each for the winners, while single goals went to Jim Bertram and Cliff Lane.

Medicine Hat netminder Ken Holland had his shutout broken in the second period by Drew Callander. Rob Tudor and Jon Hammond scored for Regina in the third period.