

Vikings slumping?



Vernon Vikings continue to roll along on their winning way despite an apparent drop in the team's play.

Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant said, "We haven't played a good game in three weeks. Every team has a slump and we're having ours now."

Looking at the team's record in the past three weeks, you wouldn't guess that Vernon is slumping. In that period they have won six of eight games, including a 2-1 victory over second-place Nanimo Clippers.

But, Vikings have not been playing well. The last superb team effort they had was three weeks ago when they thrashed the Kelowna Buckaroos 10-1. Since that time, Vernon has been winning, but not playing up to par.

Last Friday in Langley, Lords beat the Vikings 5-3 and Tennant was furious. He threatened the team with a workout at 3 a.m., on Monday, if they had another bad game on the coast swing.

Saturday they hammered Chilliwack 9-4 and Sunday afternoon, they edged Nanaimo. Against Chilliwack, Vikings didn't really have to extend themselves, and in Nanaimo, the win belonged to goalie Keith Fenner, who was unbelievable in the Vernon net.

However, Tennant was happy with the four points and didn't put his club on the ice when they arrived back in Vernon on Monday morning.

Of course Tennant isn't happy with the team's below-par play, but he says, "If this is the worst slump we are going to hit all year, we'll be okay." That has to rate as the understatement of the year.

In 41 games, Vernon has 31 wins and a tie along with just nine losses. If they continue at the current pace, they will shatter at least two league records.

The record for most points in a season is 92, and Vikings currently have 63. To break the record for most wins and most points, Vernon will have to win just 15 in their next 25 games.

Last year, in the entire season, Vikings managed only 64 points.

Another statistic which is very impressive is the team's won-lost record at home. Vernon has been beaten only once on home ice, back on Oct. 25, by Merritt Centennials.

With a slump like this, who needs a winning streak.

MOTHERS NEEDED

One of the hardest working organizations in Vernon is desperately in need of some new members.

Vernon Minor Hockey Association Mothers' Auxiliary is suffering from apparent lack of interest on behalf of the mothers.

Association President Gert Kashuba said only 18 women were at the last meeting, and for the group to operate properly, it needs at least 50 members.

Last year alone, the mothers' auxiliary turned over \$3,500 to minor hockey for the building fund, and kept another \$500 for the auxiliary's building fund.

Kashuba said, "I don't know if all the mothers realize it, but the work we do helps all the boys, whether they are active or not."

Some of the group's activities include running the canteen at the arena, selling booster buttons, and operating the concession facilities at the peewee hockey tournament.

She said, "There are so many things we could be doing to help the boys. But, we need members."

With the peewee tourney just around the corner, mothers are needed to man the concessions. If you can help phone 545-0268.

This is a good place for YOU to help.

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

Seven Clippers on coast team

Nanaimo Clippers placed seven players, including goaltender Steve Amiss and defenceman Greg Nortbratten on the first team, on the coast all-star team for the B.C. Junior Hockey League all-star game.

Completing the first team are Centre Mark Taylor and defenceman Del Parker of Langley Lords and wingers Randy Betty and Robbie Anderson of Maple Ridge Blazers.

The all-star game will be played Jan. 28 at Nanaimo.

Other Nanaimo players named in a league news release were defenceman Gord Genereux, centres Brian Day and Gary Lupul, and wingers Rod Guimont and Kim Hilkewich.

Completing the team are goaltender Al Wiebe and winger Errol Rausse of Langley,

Winger Randy Irving and defenceman Bob Dietterle of Chilliwack Bruins and forward Roy Wheaton of Maple Ridge.

Larry McNabb of Nanaimo was named to coach the coast squad.

The interior team, announced last week, will be coached by Joe Tennant of Vernon Vikings. Eight Vernon players were named to the interior squad.

Meanwhile, League President Bryan Couling announced several fines and suspensions today.

Morley Anderson, of Nanaimo, has been suspended until the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association rules on his case. Anderson was given a match penalty last Sunday for punching a linesman during a game in Nanaimo.

Maple Ridge Coach Lawrence Gingras was fined \$300 for taking his team to the dressing room during the first period of Sunday's game in Kelowna.

Rob Neeld, of Maple Ridge, has been suspended for two games for persistent fighting during that game.

Greg Agar, of Merritt, has been placed on probation for becoming involved with fans during a game last Friday in Kelowna.

Peewees Kelowna

David Abersek and Ken Morgan shared the shutout.

TIE GAME

Butcher Boys and Vernon Sport battled to a 2-2 tie.