

# Vikings outplay Cents, but lose



Vernon Vikings dominated play, but came up on the short end of a 4-3 score against Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey league action before 520 fans Tuesday in Merritt.

Centennials were ahead throughout the game with period leads of 1-0 and 3-2.

Vikings outshot Merritt 43-31 but blew numerous scoring opportunities from point-blank range.

Vikings Coach Joe Tennant said, "Every time we got in on goal we either shot wide, or else hit their goalie (Brad Earp) in the stomach."

Darrell Zelinski, with two, Pat Dupuis and Greg Agar scored for the sixth-place Centennials.

Darrell Billsten, Rick Simpson, and Steve Danshin replied for Vernon.

## **PULLED GOALIE**

Vikings pulled their goalie in the dying minutes and the move paid off as Danshin narrowed the gap to 4-3. However, they were unable to get the equalizer.

Billsten was the best man on the ice for either team. The big winger, in his second year with the club, has been having a disappointing season with just 10 goals to date. However, Tuesday, he played his best game of the season and put



**DARRELL BILLSTEN**  
... strong game

linemate Drew Tumbach in the clear on four occasions. But, Tumbach couldn't put the puck in the net.

The same two teams are back in action tonight, in Vernon, at 8 p.m.

Tennant said, "We can't pass or forecheck any better, all we'll have to do tonight is score some goals."

## **BUCKS LOSE**

Meanwhile, in Penticton, the Vees upset Kelowna Buckaroos 10-5 before 610 fans.

Pat Severyn scored the 20,000 goal in BCJHL history, but it was not enough to help the Bucks. Severyn will be presented with a plaque at the league all-star game next week.

## **MacKAY GETS THREE**

Gord MacKay led the Vees with three goals and Darrel Booth and Howard Walker each added two. John Uvegas, Shawn Dineen and Gerry Thygessen each added singles for the Vees, who led 7-4 at the end of the second period.

Perry Schnarr picked up a pair for the Buckaroos, while John Oliver and Ian Malcolm had one apiece.

Kelowna goalies Vic Malli and Tim Coty faced 50 Penticton shots, while Dennis Ewanchuck for the Vees faced 30 Buckaroo shots.

Penticton took seven of 13 minor penalties and each team picked up one fighting major.

Vernon remains atop the league with 63 points, eight ahead of Nanaimo. Kelowna's loss keeps them tied for third with Langley at 47 points each.

Penticton and Merritt remain in fifth and sixth place, with 40 and 39 points respectively. Maple Ridge and Chilliwack trail with 34 and 21 points.