



The SPORTS

DON KENDALL — Sports Editor
PHONE 545-0671

Page

VERNON VIKINGS' goalie Keith Ferner found himself unprotected on several occasions during Tuesday's BCJHL game in Kelowna. Buckaroos' captain Brad

Owens broke into the clear on this play, but Ferner robbed him. However, Owens scored two goals and the Bucks went on to thump Vikings 9-5.

(Daily News Photo)

Atlanta blows ch with third staleme

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vikings' road record takes it on the chin

Vernon Vikings continued their disastrous road show Tuesday in Kelowna when they were thumped 9-5 by the Buckaroos before 820 fans.

In their last three road games, Vikings have allowed 26 goals against, and had little trouble losing all three games.

For a team that is supposed

to be able to hit with any club in the B.C. Junior Hockey League, Vikings couldn't have broke an egg with their bodychecks Tuesday. As everyone knows, if you don't hit the speedy Buckaroos, they'll run you out of the rink.

NO DEFENCE

Vernon's defence helped the Kelowna forwards more than their goalie Keith Ferner. Several times Ferner must have felt he was in a shooting gallery as his blue line crops coughed up the puck.

Veteran defenceman Brian Griese lost the puck three times directly in front of his own net. But, the Vernon forwards didn't help much as the Bucks had numerous three-on-two and two-on-one breaks.

Kelowna deserves full credit for the win as they broke out of their own end as if they were shot out of a cannon.

Brad Owens, Rob Wright, and John Olver each scored two goals for the Bucks while Perry Schnarr, with his 50th of the season, Wayne Krebs, and Pat Severyn added singles.

Jim Misener, Drew Tumbach, Darcy Wilkinson, Jack Lefley, and Terry Anaka replied for Vikings.

Bucks led 2-0 after the first period and 6-4 after the wide-open second.

Kelowna was assessed eight of 15 minor penalties and one of three fighting majors.

Vikings outshot Bucks 47-38, but shots were not indicative of the play as many of Vernon's blasts were directed from well outside the blue line.

Vikings return to the friendly confines of the Vernon Civic Arena tonight, hoping for their 19th consecutive home-ice win, when they host the Penticton Vees. However, Vernon then

heads on the road for a three-game coast swing which may determine first-place in the BCJHL. Vikings now lead second-place Nanaimo Clippers by only six points, and both teams have 18 games remaining.

In other action Tuesday, Merritt Centennials scored two goals within 20 seconds in

the third period to edge Vees 5-4.

As a special feature at tonight's game here, Vernon Pee Wee Reps will be honored in a ceremony after the first period. Vernon is one of eight teams competing this weekend in the annual Winter Carnival Pee Wee Hockey Tournament.

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New York coach Al Arbour also was an unhappy man.

"Tonight I thought Atlanta outskated us all the way," he said. "They came out charged up and on top of the puck."

"They obviously wanted it more than we did."

The Canucks got third-period goals from John Gould and Harold Snepsts and solid goaltending from Gary Smith to extend their unbeaten streak to six games and open a seven-point lead over the Blues in the fight for second place in the Smythe Division.

Following a wide-open first period in which both Smith and Buffalo netminder Gerry Desjardins make big saves, the Sabres grabbed a 1-0 lead in the second period when Richard Martin scored with Vancouver's Tracy Pratt sitting out a minor penalty.

Gary Smith said he was lucky on a couple of shots.

"They hit the post on me twice (Richard Martin on both shots) when I was clearly beaten," he said. "The biggest save probably came off Gil Perreault in the second period with the score still 1-0 for Buffalo."

OTRA charter made dormant

Okanagan Track Racing Association charter has been placed in a dormant state.

OTRA members decided at an emergency meeting Tuesday the club will not operate in 1976, but the charter will be made dormant, not cancelled.

OTRA Vice-president Bruce Sigston told the Daily News if the situation ever arises that the club can again become useful, the charter will be made active again.

For the past five years Tillicum Raceway, near Vernon, had been the association's home track.

However, the track was sold in October and is being converted to a tennis ranch.

Penticton Speedway will be holding some races next summer for modified and hobby stock classes, while Inter-Valley Speedway, in Kamloops, will be running a jalopy class. However, most OTRA members have decided not to race this year.

Only four super stock drivers, Bill Donaldson and Vern Prochnal of Kamloops, along with Paul Dunbar and George Smith of Vernon, have indicated they will race in the NASCAR circuit.

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