Vikings increase lead with win in Nanaimo

The chips were down, and Vernon Vikings came up like champions.

Vikings defeated second-place Nanaimo Clippers 4-2 Friday in B.C. Junior Hockey League action in Nanaimo, increasing Vernon's lead over the Clippers to six points.

After losing four of its last five games, Vikings appeared to have little chance to beat the red-hot Clippers in their arena. Nanaimo had won 15 of its last 16 games.

However, Vernon came out skating, played the body well, and dominated play.

Gary Gassoff, Darcy Wilkinson, Ken Stroud and Brian Griese scored for the winners.

John Gordon and Rod Guimont replied for Nanaimo.

ON POWER PLAY

Score was tied 1-1 after the first period and 2-2 after the second. Third period power-play goals, by Stroud and Griese, proved to be the difference.

Vikings outshot Nanaimo 53-34.

In other games Friday, Kelowna Buckaroos edged Langley Lords 6-5, in overtime, and Chilliwack Bruins defeated Maple Ridge Blazers 5-3.

A goal by centre Mike Wills, his third of the game, gave Kelowna its win. It came after 78 seconds of overtime.

Buckaroos were missing five regular players because of the flu, but four midgets filled in well.

Other Kelowna marksmen were Wayne Nelson, Rob Wright, and Perry Schnarr.

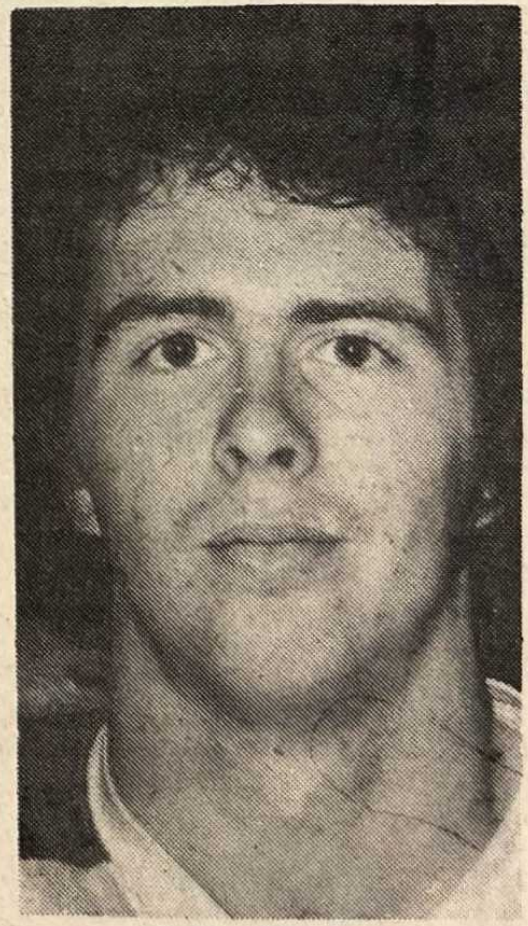
SCORED THREE

Brian Henderson, with three, Mark Taylor and Rob Jones replied for Lords.

The win gives Kelowna sole possession of third-place, two points ahead of Langley.

Chilliwack scored three unanswered goals in the third period to beat the Blazers in Maple Ridge.

Vernon plays in Chilliwack tonight while Langley travels to Penticton. On Sunday, Vernon is at Maple Ridge, Merritt at Kelowna, and Chilliwack at Nanaimo.



KEN STROUD
. . . big goal

Beairsto wins tourney title

Beairsto hammered West Vernon 9-2 in the championship game of the Grade 4 and 5 floor hockey tournament, sponsored by Vernon Senior Secondary School Community recreation students.

Clayton Adams and John