OVER MEDICINE HAT

Sidnick leads Vikings to win

Grant Sidnick put on a one-man show Wednesday night as Vernon Vikings edged Medicine Hat Tigers 4-3 in exhibition junior A hockey action before 1439 fans in Vernon.

Sidnick scored three goals, but could have had five or six with a little luck.

Tigers' Coach Jack Shupe said this year's version of the Vikings is the best his club has played against.

Shupe said, "Vikings have a fine hockey team. No one player really stands out for them, they have a well-balanced club."

Tigers took the lead at 2:42 of the opening period when David Ross beat goaltender Darrell Furmanek.

Sidnick tied the game at 15:45 when he shoveled in Gary Huth's rebound past former Vikings' netminder Kenny Holland.

Then, just before the period ended, Jim Bertram scored a shorthanded goal to give Tigers the lead again.

TIED GAME

Darrell Billstein tied the game with the only goal of the second period on a power play. Tigers had done some excellent penalty killing until Gary Gassoff stole an errant pass, fired a shot on goal, and Billsten banged in the rebound.

Medicine Hat again took the lead early in the third period when Jim Nill made a great individual play to beat two Vikings, a slip the puck past goalie Keith Ferner.

Then Sidnick and his linemates, Gary Huth and Clyde Goodswimmer, went to work. The tying goal, at 7:54, was a picture play as Huth fed a perfect pass across the crease to Sidnick.

Then, in a scramble, Sidnick put Vikings ahead at 17:54.

Huth and Goodswimmer assisted on all three of their linemate's goals, and the unit turned in probably their best performance of the season.

Other standouts for Vikings included Billsten and Ken Stroud. Billsten had numerous scoring chances while Stroud played a strong two-way game.

VERY IMPRESSED

Shupe said, "I have no doubt that the players here are the ones who will be filling our holes next season. I'm very impressed."

Medicine Hat goalies Holland and Pete Peters combined to block 42 shots while Vikings' netminders Keith Ferner and Darrell Furmanek stopped 29 shots.

Holland, who was beaten only once, pulled off some sensational saves, particularly off Billsten and Goodswimmer.

The game was probably the hardest-hitting exhibition contest ever seen in this area.

There were some crunching bodychecks handed out and the teams certainly didn't take it easy on each other. Vikings' Gary Gassoff and his former defensive partner, Owen Lloyd, now a regular on the Tigers' defence, threw some punishing checks.

Although Medicine Hat's third and fourth line logged more ice time than they normally would in a league game, two of Sidnick's goals came against Tigers' top line, the highest scoring unit in the Western Canada Hockey League.

MISS DEFENCEMEN

Both teams were without their top defencemen. Terry Anaka is still suffering from a shoulder injury while Tigers' Cliff Lane sat out the game with a sore leg.

In B.C. Junior Hockey play Wednesday, Chilliwack Bruins upset Langley Lords 3-1 while Nanaimo Clippers thumped Maple Ridge Blazers 6-2.

In the Nanaimo-Maple Ridge game, Rob Neeld, of the Blazers, was handed a match penalty for butt-ending.

In games tonight, Merritt Centennials visit Vernon while Penticton Vees travel to Nanaimo.

Game time in Vernon is 8 p.m., with the winner capturing the Winter Carnival Cup.

GOALPOSTS: Sidnick, who has been playing only part-time since January because of school commitments, should be available for most games now . . . Fans on hand at Wednesday's game couldn't get over the size of Tigers' 228-pound defenceman John Hillworth. However, spectators at tonight's game will see an even bigger blue liner. Paul Cochrane, Merritt's friendly giant, stands 6'4" and weighs 240 pounds. . . Vikings will play Saturday's home game against Maple Ridge in Armstrong. Vernon Civic Arena is occupied by the Winter Carnival Ice Stampede.



THE FACES were familiar, but the uniform was different as Medicine Hat Tigers visited Vernon Wednesday. These six ex-Vikings are now members of the Tigers. From left, back row are Gary Gilchrist, Ron Areshnekoff, Owen Lloyd, and Don Murdoch. In front are Cliff Lane, currently injured, and goalie Ken Holland. For the second time in the last three years, Vikings beat Medicine Hat 4-3. Last year the game ended in a 7-7 tie.

(Daily News Photo)

aptures gold, for bronze

viet Union barely nosed out the nine judges, the Canadian

Vernon bowlers in zone playdown

Six Vernon bowling teams will be competing in Youth Bowling Congress zone playdowns this month.

Saturday, the junior playoffs will be held at Kobau Lanes in Osoyoos.

Members of the junior boys' team, coached by Paul Wendel, are Brian Dooling, Rod Koenig, Ronald Krause, Randall Krause, Scott Wilson, and spare Lyle Skidmore.

The girls' team, coached by Carol Skidmore, is made up of Allison Penner, Karen Keckalo, Lynn Jamieson, Michele Anderson, Lynn Hoekstra, and spare Valerie Storey.

Competing in the singles' competition will be Trevor Wilson and Lori Clapp.

IN KELOWNA

Bantam zone finals will be held Sunday, at 11 a.m. at

Gallon, James Wendel, Barry Koenig, Gord Wiffen, Karl Turnquist, and spare Bob Woodroff.

Coach Wilma Wendel has on her senior girls' team Tracey Watts, Debbie Woodroff, Mo Dinney, Cathy Darroch, Sandra Wiffen, and spare Heather Robb.

Rick McPherson and Peggy Turek have entered the singles' class.

Zone champions will advance to the provincial finals March 13, with the B.C. champs travelling to Regina for the national playdowns April 23 to 25.

Local team to shoot