Vikings maintain first-place lead

Vernon Vikings drubbed Chilliwack Bruins 11-6 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Saturday in Vernon.

The win enables Vikings to keep two points ahead of second-place Nanaimo Clippers. Clippers, who beat Kelowna Buckaroos 5-3 Saturday, have one game-in-hand on Vernon.

Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant told the Daily News he is glad his club will decide who finishes first.

Tennant said, "If we win our seven remaining games, there is no way Nanaimo can catch us. I guess we'll find out in the next 10 days how much jam this team has."

TWO EACH

Saturday, Peter Poeschek, Grant Sidnick, Darrell Billsten, Rick Simpson and Darcy Wilkinson scored two goals each for the winners while Steve Danshin added a single.

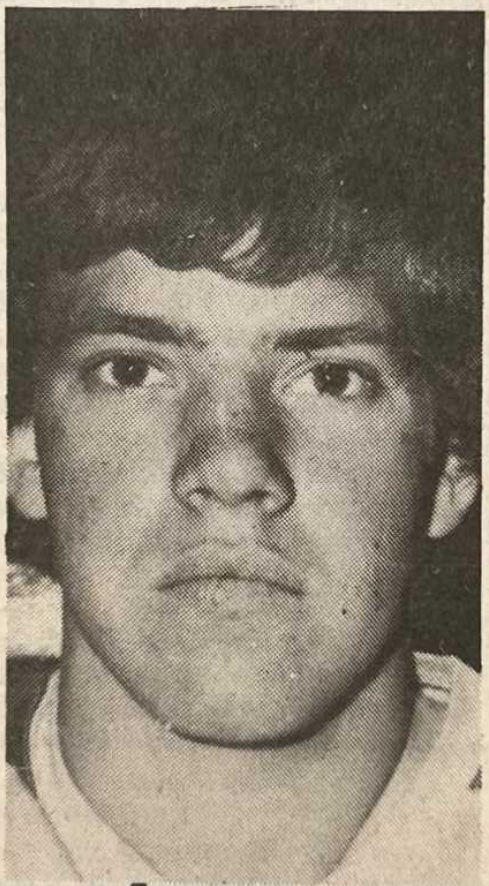
Scoring for the Bruins were Randy Irving, with two goals, Randy Takanaka, Warren Terry, Rich Fournier, and Terry Jocobsen.

Vernon led 5-0 at the end of the first period and 8-2 after the second.

Vikings' netminder Keith Ferner had one of his infrequent off-nights blocking just 19 shots. At least four of Chilliwack's goals were on bad shots.

Bruins' goalie Rick Nitschke blocked 51 shots.

In Nanaimo, Buckaroos lost more than a game. Veteran Pat Severyn was handed a match penalty for fighting with tape on his hands. A match penalty carries an automatic three-game suspension.



PETER POESCHEK
... hits 20

Clippers got all five of their goals on power-plays. Terry Graff led the Nanaimo attack with two goals while Brian Day, George Fritz, and Gary Lupul added singles.

Wayne Krebs, John Olver, and Rob Wright countered for Kelowna.

BLAZERS WIN

Bucks also lost Sunday, in Maple Ridge, 7-4 to the seventh-place Blazers.

Included in the seven remaining games is a head-on clash with the Clippers in Vernon, next Saturday.

Tennant said, "We will either win first ourselves, or finish second. We can't rely on anyone else to do the job for us."

Vikings travel to Merritt Tuesday to play the Centennials, and host Kelowna Wednesday.

GOALPOSTS: Leon Nowek of Vernon dressed as Chilliwack's back-up goalie Saturday. An injury to one of Bruins' goalies gave Nowek a chance to dress for his first-ever junior A game . . . the two goals Saturday gave Poeschek 21 for the season, the first time he has ever eclipsed the 20-mark. . . . Vikings' farm team, Grand Forks Border Bruins, are now tied 2-2 in the best-of-five semi-final series in the Kootenay International Junior B League playoffs. Bruins travel to Trail, to take on the Junior Smokies, in the deciding game Tuesday.

Can FBDB help

Frenchmen sweep semi-final series

Lumby Flying Frenchmen advanced to the Monashee Hockey League finals over the weekend by handing Grindrod Elks two losses.

The wins give Lumby a 4-0 sweep in the best-of-seven semi-final series.

Frenchmen edged Elks 3-2 Friday in Lumby. Andy Gilbert, Ray Misura and Robin Lacroix scored for the winners.

Bert Lundman and Rick Reilly countered for Grindrod.

Sunday, also in Lumby, Elks looked like they were going to stretch the series. After two periods Grindrod led 6-2, but Frenchmen came storming back with six unanswered goals to dump Elks 8-6.

Lacroix scored three goals for the winners while Jeff Shirley added a pair. Singles went to Brian Hunt and Wally and Willy Bevan.

George Fargher, with three, Sam Polson, Doug Wiffen, and Wayne Klassen scored for Grindrod.

Meanwhile, Salmon Arm Aces moved to within one game of winning their semi-final series by thumping Golden Rockets 8-2 Sunday in Golden.

Dave Caldow and Jeff Todd scored two each for the Aces while Roy Sakaki, Gary Criss, Ken Haller, and Gary Manson notched one apiece.

Roy Patrick and Bill Hartley got the Rockets' goals.

Saturday, also in Golden, Rockets edged Salmon Arm 5-4.

Angelo Viscosci, Pat Soles, Jim Manson, Duane Webber, and Patrick scored for Golden.

Sakaki, with a pair, Caldow and Todd replied for Aces.

TIED GAME

Rockets led 4-2 after the second period, but Salmon Arm tied the game early in the third. Webber got the winner before a capacity crowd.

Fifth game in the series is scheduled next Sunday, at 2 p.m. in Salmon Arm.