

Vikings minus two regulars

Vernon Vikings will be missing two regulars tonight when they travel to Merritt to take on the Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.

BCJHL STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Vernon	59	40	18	1	335	226	81
Nanaimo	58	37	16	5	355	234	79
Kelowna	56	32	23	1	295	249	65
Langley	59	29	27	3	303	260	61
Merritt	59	29	29	1	286	302	59
Penticton	60	24	32	4	276	308	52
Mpl. Ridge	59	18	39	2	197	324	38
Chilliwack	58	16	41	1	207	351	33

Wingers Grant Sidnick and Clyde Goodswimmer won't be in the Vikings' line-up. Sidnick is studying for a college examination while Goodswimmer is sitting out the second game of a three-game suspension for spearing.

Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant told the Daily News he is going to have to go with three lines for one of the first times this season.

He said, "I don't really know what kind of game to expect. Merritt has been tough to beat lately, especially in their own building."

Centennials have beat Vernon the last two times the clubs have met.

TOP 10 SCORERS

PLAYER	G	A	Pts
Wills, Kel	34	76	110
Lupul, Nan.	44	59	103
Zelinski, Merr.	44	58	102
Taylor, Lang.	43	58	101
Schnarr, Kel.	55	42	97
Day, Nan.	39	54	93
Mackay, Pent.	47	41	88
Norbraten, Nan.	18	61	79
Aulin, Merr.	42	35	77
Huth, Ver.	34	43	77

VERNON SCORING

PLAYER	G	A	Pts
Huth	34	43	77
Danshin	29	41	70
Halasz	26	40	66
Stroud	26	37	63
Anaka	23	36	59
Wilkinson	23	36	59
Griese	17	34	51
Sidnick	16	32	48

Police step in



It was only a matter of time until someone was seriously injured in the Western Canada Hockey League this season.

The Goon Loop, disguised carefully as the WCHL, has been filled with more violence this year than probably all other hockey leagues in Canada put together.

It took a serious eye injury to Saskatoon Blades' Bryan Baron last week to wake everyone up to just how dirty the WCHL has become.

Hockey executives' favorite saying, "We can police ourselves," obviously isn't true in the case of the WCHL.

Saskatchewan Attorney-General Roy Romanow says if the league won't police itself, the law will do it for them.

Romanow said, "It is obvious the WCHL can't, or won't, control its players."

The trouble in the WCHL started in a pre-season game, back in September, in Victoria. The mayor of Victoria walked out of the game when a brawl erupted and told Cougars' owner-coach Pat Ginnell he would lock the door on the arena if that type of play continued.

While the door hasn't been locked yet in Victoria, it was locked Sunday in Saskatoon.

LOCKED DOORS

City council there decided, at an emergency meeting, that it would be in the best interest of everyone involved to postpone the scheduled game between Saskatoon and Victoria.

Since the incident last week, four Cougars have been suspended and Ginnell has resigned as coach.

Criminal charges are pending against at least one of the Cougars, and that may be the only way to clean up the WCHL. Scare them.

Cougars are far from the dirtiest team in the league. When you've got Ernie McLean and his New Westminster Bruins on hand, a pack of hungry lions looks tame.

League commissioner Ed Chynoweth has handed out numerous fines and suspensions this season, but they appear to have done no good. It is a shame to see criminal law become involved in hockey, but in this case, it is probably the only answer.

Detroit Red Wings' Dan Maloney has been ordered to stand trial for an incident earlier this season involving Brian Glennie of Toronto Maple Leafs.

Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry said his office will launch criminal action against any hockey player, in Ontario, who deserves that treatment.

BEHIND BARS

I'm afraid if New Westminster Bruins played in Ontario, the whole team would be behind bars. The Maloney-Glennie incident is a pillow-fight compared to some of the things that go on in the WCHL.

Few boys 16 to 19, the age of players in the WCHL, have the animal killer instinct when they arrive in junior A hockey. So, someone must be installing hatred in the players.

Perhaps it is the coaches and team executives that deserve the long arm of the law: It is hard to believe a well-mannered, good looking 18-year-old would go up to another boy and high-stick him in the eye. Somewhere along the line, things have got out of hand.

Fighting is part of hockey. Everyone likes seeing a few fisticuffs in a game every now and then. But, no one likes seeing an ugly incident. Contrary to the belief of some junior hockey officials, people do not go to games to see brawls. Saskatoon's booster club would have boycotted last Sunday's game, if it hadn't been postponed. Further action like that, by fans, might wake up the team officials.

If the fans don't stand up and be counted, there seems to be only one other way to make the clubs play hockey. Let the law step in.

Fortunately there are no incidents like that in the B.C. Junior Hockey League. Certainly, Vernon Vikings are involved in their share of fights. But, they don't act like a group of hoodlums on the ice.