

Vikings bombard Bucks

Vernon Vikings hammered Kelowna Buckaroos 8-1 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Wednesday before 840 fans at the Vernon Civic Arena.

BCJHL STANDINGS

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	Pts.
Vernon	61	42	18	1	85
Nanaimo	59	38	16	5	81
Kelowna	58	33	24	1	67
Langley	60	29	28	3	61
Merritt	60	29	30	1	59
Penticton	61	24	33	4	52
Maple Ridge	60	19	39	2	40
Chill	59	16	42	1	33

The win keeps Vikings four points ahead of second-place Nanaimo Clippers who hammered Chilliwack Bruins 6-2 in Nanaimo.

Vikings played their best game in more than a month, and only some excellent netminding by Kelowna goalie Vic Malli, kept the score from getting into double figures.

For the second consecutive game, the stars of the night for Vernon were Gary Huth and his new-found linemate Jack Lefley. Lefley, who has been in a miserable slump, was united with Huth Tuesday in Merritt, and the line, along with Gary Gassoff, combined for five goals.



JACK LEFLEY
... big night

12 POINTS

Against the Bucks, Huth and Lefley were teamed up with Grant Sidnick to score three goals and add nine assists. Lefley had a goal and four assists, Huth two goals and two assists, and Sidnick three assists.

Ken Stroud and Brian

Griese also had two goals for the winners while Rick Simpson added single.

Bill Audycki got the lone Kelowna goal midway through the second period.

Vikings led 2-0 after the first period and 3-1 after the second.

Lefley, a 195-pound winger, got off to a great start this season and emerged as a team leader. However, after getting a broken jaw in November, and missing five weeks of action, he didn't seem to get untracked again. However, with Huth, big Jack appears to be back on the track.

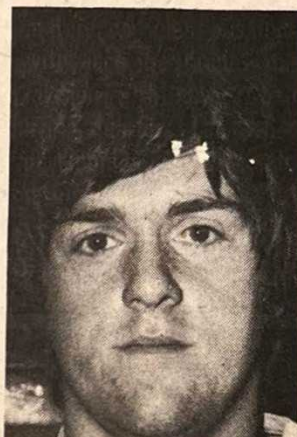
Besides getting five points, he threw numerous crunching checks and had the Bucks looking over their shoulders.

MALLI GREAT

Malli turned in a brilliant effort making 49 saves, including 21 in the second period. Vernon goalie Darrell Furmanek blocked 23 shots.

Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant told the Daily News the way to beat the Bucks is to check them close and finish checks.

Tennant said, "We did everything right. We hit them



BRIAN GRIESE
... scored two

well and didn't give them a chance to skate."

Although they scored five goals in the third period, Vernon was most impressive in the opening 20 minutes. During that time, they scored twice, hit two goal posts, controlled the play, and killed off a two-man penalty.

For Vikings, it was their

fourth consecutive win and set up a battle for first-place Friday, at home, against Nanaimo. Clippers have two games-in-hand on Vernon, so Friday's game is expected to decide the league champion.

In Nanaimo, George Fritz scored three goals for the winners while Terry Graff, Gord Genereux, and Kim Hilkewich added singles. Doug Derksen and Don Borno replied for Bruins.

In Langley, the Lords outshot Maple Ridge Blazers 48-26 but came up on the short-end of a 10-3 score. Len Daley and Randy Betty scored three goals each for Maple Ridge.

GOALPOSTS: Vikings' annual awards banquet is tonight at the Royal Canadian Legion... speaking of violence in hockey, there were only five minor penalties in Wednesday's game in Vernon. Vikings have five games remaining, including three against the Bucks... Darrell Billsten missed a great opportunity to celebrate his 19th birthday in style when he was robbed by Malli on a breakaway.

The **SPORTS** Page
DON KENDALL — Sports Editor
PHONE 545-0671

Maple Leafs hammer struggling Red Wings

By NEIL CAMPBELL
The Canadian Press
Coach Alex Delvecchio of Detroit Red Wings figures his goaltender couldn't handle many more nights like he endured Wednesday night.



McKechnie, Detroit's top scorer, limped off the ice in the second period.

Jim McKenny, back in the lineup after a two-month layoff with torn knee ligaments, Lanny McDonald, Ian Turnbull and Erroll