

Vikings within a point of tying BCJHL record

Vernon Vikings closed to within one win of a British Columbia Junior Hockey League record for most points in a season with a 7-2 trouncing of Merritt Centennials Wednesday in Vernon.

Vikings, who won their seventh game in a row, have 91 points. The record was set by the 1970-71 Kamloops Rockets and 1974-75 Kelowna Buckaroos. Vernon has two games remaining in the regular season, both against Kelowna.

The Merritt loss helped Langley get back into a fourth-place tie as the Lords bombed last-place Chilliwack Bruins 15-4. In another game, Nanaimo Clippers edged Maple Ridge Blazers 5-4.

Gary Huth gave Vikings a 1-0 lead midway through the first period on an unassisted goal. That was the only highlight of the opening 20 minutes as both teams played sloppy hockey.

In the second, Vernon opened up a 4-0 lead on goals by Clyde Goodswimmer, Steve Danshin, and Huth, with his 40th of the season.

SPOILED SHUTOUT

Danshin scored his second of the night at 0:38 of the final period.

Greg Agar, on a power-play, spoiled Keith Ferner's bid for a shutout at 8:08. Seconds earlier referee Bruce Walker was fooled by Agar when the Merritt winger took a dive, and Walker gave Vikings' defenceman Brian Maser a penalty.

Drew Tumbach appeared to put Vikings in the lead 6-1 midway through the period, but for the second time this year Tumbach had a goal disallowed. Centennials requested a measurement of

Tumbach's stick, and after an illegal curve was discovered, the goal was disallowed and Vikings were penalized.

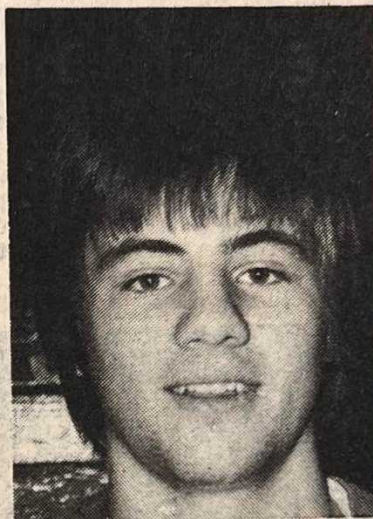
Calvin Halasz did stretch the lead to 6-1 on a blistering slap shot at 15:48, but Agar scored his second of the night, from a bad angle, while killing a penalty at 18:30.

THIRD GOAL

Danshin rounded out the scoring, with his third goal, at 19:42.

Ferner, who boasts the best goals against average in the BCJHL, has yet to record a shutout this season. The lanky Vernon netminder blocked 36 shots while Merritt goalie Brad Earp stopped 33 shots.

Ken Stroud, who had two



DREW TUMBACH
... two-time loser

assists, and Huth, who had two assists to go with his pair of goals, were among the standouts along with Danshin.

For Merritt, Agar and Bob Wassen were the only players who showed any hustle.

In the last four games, Vikings have outscored the opposition 33-7.

SEASON ENDS

Vernon rounds out its regular season with a home-and-home series Saturday and Sunday with the Bucks.

Vikings will open their quarter-final playoff series against Bruins, in Vernon, March 12. Second game will also be here, March 13, with the third and fourth games in Chilliwack, March 19 and 20.

Three western rinks tied for ladies' lead

WINNIPEG (CP) — Western rinks emerged the main contenders for the Canadian women's curling championship Wednesday but three eastern rinks were lurking in the shadows going into today's final two draws of the scheduled roundrobin competition.

A five-way tie for the lead was turned into a three-way battle between Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia following upset losses in the seventh round by Quebec and Ontario.

Joan Gregory of Pierrefonds, Que., dropped a 9-5 decision to Gwen Osborne of Dartmouth, N.S., and Dawn Ventura lost a 10-6 verdict to

Joan Mogk of Souris, Man., to drop out of a share of the lead.

In the other seventh-round games, Gale Lee of Edmonton defeated Sue Ann Bartlett of Labrador City, Nfld., 12-4, Lindsay Davie of North Vancouver coasted past Anne Orser of Bathurst, N.B., 8-5 and Delores Miller of Weyburn, Sask., scored a single in the 10th to edge Diane Blanchard of Charlottetown, P.E.I., 8-7.

In the sixth round earlier, it was Quebec 8 Alberta 4; Ontario 12 Newfoundland 9; Saskatchewan 10 Nova Scotia 2; British Columbia 8 Prince Edward Island 4; Manitoba 11 New Brunswick 5.

Alberta, B.C. and Saskat-

chewan all have 5-2 won-loss records, followed by Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia at 4-3, Manitoba and Newfoundland at 3-4 and Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick at 1-6.

While Alberta, B.C. and Saskatchewan continued to roll along, Quebec and Ontario were ambushed by killing four-enders.

Osborne, who upset B.C. 5-1 Tuesday night, delicately chipped out Gregory's shot rock and stayed to count four in the ninth end and break a 5-5 tie.

"I could see about three-quarters of her rock," Osborne said afterwards, "I just wicked it and stayed."