

Cents suffer final setback

B.C. Junior Hockey League's regular season ended Tuesday night with Kelowna Buckaroos defeating Merritt Centennials 10-7.

FINAL STANDINGS

TEAM	GP...	W...	L...	T...	Pts..
Vernon	66	47	18	1	95
Nanaimo	66	41	21	4	86
Kelowna	66	37	28	1	75
Merritt	66	33	32	1	67
Langley	66	32	31	3	67
Penticton	66	27	36	3	57
Maple Ridge	66	23	41	2	48
Chilliwack	66	16	49	1	33

Wayne Nelson, Brad Owens, and Mike Wills each scored two goals for the Bucks while Pat Severyn, Rob Wright, Jeff Norby, and Ian Malcolm added singles.

Greg Agar scored twice to pace Merritt which also got goals from Danny Rota, Dan Hlusko, Darrell Zelinski, Gord Cochrane, and Bob Wasson.

The loss left Centennials in a fourth-place tie with Langley Lords. However, Merritt is awarded fourth spot because of more victories.

BIG LEAD

Kelowna led 5-1 after the first period and took a 9-5 lead into the third.

Both clubs picked up a major penalty for fighting while Cents took nine of 17 minor penalties.

Quarter-final playoffs, which get under way this weekend, will have Vernon Vikings taking on Chilliwack, Nanaimo battling Maple Ridge, Kelowna meeting Penticton, and Merritt tangling with Langley.

The Vikings-Chilliwack series opens in Vernon, with games Friday and Saturday.

Canadians meet Rutland Packers

Vernon - Armstrong Canadians will take on Rutland Packers in Okanagan Junior B playoff action this week.

Packers will host the first game, in the best-of-three series, Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Second game will be Sunday in Vernon at 7:30 p.m., and the third game, if necessary, back in Rutland next Tuesday at 8:30 p.m.

Winner of the series advances to the provincial semifinals against the Pacific

Coast Junior B League champion.

Canadians' Coach Vern Dye told the Daily News he thinks his club can beat Rutland.

Dye said, "We have the players to do the job, but we've been hurt by lack of ice time. We haven't been able to get too many exhibition games."

However, several Canadians have been playing regularly in the Monashee and North Okanagan Hockey Leagues.