Bruins surprise Vikings in second playoff game

Vernon Vikings found out Saturday they are in a playoff series.

Last-place Chilliwack Bruins edged Vikings 6-5 to even their B.C. Junior Hockey League quarter-final series 1-1 before 705 fans in Vernon.

First-place Vernon had little trouble winning the first game, 10-2. However, Saturday Vikings lost more than a hockey game.

Two of the club's standouts, Gary Gassoff and Grant Sidnick, were given match penalties by Referee Eric Reimer. Gassoff, who was caught for pulling hair in a fight, and Sidnick, who kicked a Chilliwack player in a fight, will miss at least three games.

Randy Irving led the Chilliwack attack with two goals while Warren Terry, Murray Slezak, Randy Takanaka, and Jim Chesser added singles.

Sidnick scored twice for Vikings while Ken Stroud, Peter Poeschek, and Calvin Halasz notched one apiece.

STRONG GAME

Rick Nitchke turned in a strong game in goal for Bruins, blocking 41 shots. Vernon netminder Keith Ferner had one of his infrequent off-nights and managed to make only 30 saves.

However, it wasn't entirely Ferner's fault his club lost. Vikings' defence checked poorly and the forwards seemed reluctant to shoot at Nitchke.

Vernon Coach Joe Tennant told the Daily News his club was over-confident.

Tennant said, "We beat Bruins six times during the season and bombed them in the first playoff game. Our guys got a little too cocky. We're in a series now."

Despite an uncoordinated team effort, Vikings almost tied the game. With less than two minutes remaining, Bruins led 6-4. At 18:41 Stroud narrowed the gap to 6-5. Then, with five seconds left, Stroud won a faceoff in the Chilliwack end, and defenceman Brian Griese drilled a slap shot inches wide.

Tennant plans on calling up Blair Donnelly and Glen Merkosky, from Grand Forks Border Bruins, to fill the gap left by Sidnick and Gassoff.

Defenceman Brian Maser, who missed the second game with an ankle injury, will be ready for the third game next Saturday in Chilliwack. Fourth game is scheduled Sunday in the Fraser Valley city.

After weekend play, only Nanaimo Clippers hold an edge in their series.

VEES WIN

Penticton Vees evened their series 1-1 Saturday by dumping Kelowna Buckaroos 5-2. Gordie McKay scored twice for the winners while Darrel Becker, Gerry Thygeson, and Darrell Booth added singles.

Mike Wills and Perry Schnarr countered for Bucks.

In Langley Sunday, six third period goals lifted Lords to a 9-2 victory over Merritt Centennials, evening their series 1-1.

In Maple Ridge, Sheldon Geary scored a 6:06 of the third period to give Blazers a 1-1 tie with Clippers. Nanaimo now leads the eight-point series, 3-1.

Armstrong hoopsters win Revelstoke tourney

Armstrong Shop Easy took first place in the Revelstoke Senior Men's Invitational Basketball Tournament held over the weekend.

Armstrong was undefeated in the eight-team tournament. Other clubs taking part were Golden, Calgary, Vernon Art's Gulf, Kelowna, Salmon Arm, Revelstoke All-stars, and Revelstoke Grads.

Shop Easy dumped Kelowna 87-71 in the first game. Tony Wolcott was Armstrong's big gun with 31 points while Craig Siemens sunk 23.

Revelstoke All-stars were Armstrong's next victim as the Cheese City boys posted an 82-70 victory. Wolcott sunk 34 points.

In the championship game, it was Wolcott again, with 21 points, who led Armstrong to a 77-75 win over Calgary.

NAMED MVP

For his heroics, Wolcott was selected the tournament's Most Valuable Player and named to the all-star team.

Vernon lost its first two games to Revelstoke Grads and Golden, before beating Salmon Arm.

Meanwhile, in Vernon Men's Commercial Basketball League playoff action tonight at Vernon Senior Secondary School, Armstrong takes on Lumby in the consolation final at 7:30 p.m. The championship game, at 9 p.m., has Vernon against Winfield.

Rutland Packers win championship

By KEVIN MITCHELL
Daily News Correspondent

Rutland Packers captured the Okanagan Valley Junior B hockey championship Sunday night by defeating Vernon Canadians 9-6 before 440 fans in Vernon.

The win gave the Packers the best-of-three series in two

the services of three key players, were led by Jim Sparrow and Barry Dye who scored twice each, while, Gene Anderson and Willie Madden notched singles.

Rutland opened up a quick 2-0 lead in the first period, but — Canadians took advantage of several power play op-

CASPER A WINNER

PULA, Sardinia (Reuter) — Billy Casper of the United States beat fellow countryman Lanny Wadkins in a sudden-death playoff Sunday to win the $12,000 first prize in the Gran Premio of Molas golf tournament. The two finished

Dye leads Aces to Monashee title

Salmon Arm Aces captured their third consecutive Monashee Hockey League championship over the weekend by defeating Lumby Flying Frenchmen in back-to-back games.

Aces dumped Lumby 5-3 Saturday and 7-2, Sunday, to win the best-of-seven final series 4-0.

Wayne Dye did most of the damage for Salmon Arm. Dye, considered one of the best wingers to ever play in the B.C. Junior Hockey League, scored three goals Saturday, and added four more Sunday.

Gary McConnell and Jeff Todd scored Aces' other goals Saturday. Fred Johnstone, with two, and Graydon Brown replied for the Frenchmen.

On Sunday, Jeff Todd, Randy Williams, and Gord Manson tallied for Salmon Arm while Brown and Neil Herzog countered for Aces.



WAYNE DYE
. . . seven goals