



AFTER SUNDAY'S NHL game in Vancouver, there was a small family get-together outside the St. Louis Blues' dressing room. Gary Gassoff, left, had a few minutes to talk with brother

Bob, while another member of Vernon Vikings, Jack Lefley, for the first time met his second cousin Chuck Lefley.

(Daily News Photo)

Vikings can end series with home-ice victory

Vernon Vikings have a chance to wrap-up their quarter-final series with Chilliwack Bruins tonight, at 8 p.m., at the Vernon Civic Arena.

Vikings currently lead the eight-point series 6-2.

Vernon Coach Joe Tennant told the Daily News his club is not taking tonight's game lightly.

Tennant said, "Bruins are playing good hockey and want to win badly. We were lucky to get out of Chilliwack last weekend with two wins."

THREE LINES

Vikings may go with just three lines tonight, instead of four as they have been employing all season. Gary Gassoff and Grant Sidnick are still sitting out suspensions and no Grand Forks Border Bruins are available tonight because of high school examinations.

Although Tennant would not commit himself, it is believed Darrell Furmanek will be in the nets for the third straight game. Furmanek was brilliant during the two games in Chilliwack and was selected first star on both nights.

SUSPENSIONS

B.C. Amateur Hockey Association is expected to make an announcement today on four suspensions. Besides Gassoff and Sidnick, Nanaimo's Greg Norbraten and Maple Ridge Blazers' Rob Neele, were assessed match penalties last week.

Gassoff, Norbraten, and Neele are expected to get three games for pulling hair, while Sidnick's suspension, for kicking, could be more severe. If Gassoff does get three games, he will be eligible to

play next time Vikings take to the ice.

In other games tonight, Penticton Vees can end their series in Kelowna when they take on the Buckaroos. Vees currently lead the series 6-2, but Bucks expect to have

league scoring champ Mike Wills back in the line-up.

Wills missed the last two games with a stomach disorder.

Merritt Centennials and Langley Lords, currently tied 4-4, meet tonight in Merritt.

Awards banquet on two nights

Vernon Minor Hockey Association will be holding its awards banquet, on two nights, this week.

Due to the large number of people expected to attend the banquet, it will be held Wednesday and Thursday nights, at 6:30 p.m., at the Village Green Inn.

On the first night, junior and senior pups, as well as pee wee tier two awards, will be presented.

Thursday night, pee wee, bantam, midget, and juvenile awards will be made.

Meanwhile, Vernon travelled to Rutland last weekend to compete in the Okanagan-Mainline Pup Hockey playoff tournament.

In five games, Vernon beat Penticton and Merritt, tied Kamloops, and lost to Rutland and Kelowna.

Keith Major and Donald Kindrachuk scored three goals each for Vernon in the series while Charlie Neil, David Monk, and Greg Moore scored two apiece.

Two exhibition games were played in the Senior Pup House League last weekend with

Bruins beating Lumby Key Line Trucking 5-2 and Lumby Whiskey Jacks outlasting Standard Oil 13-8.

John Peters scored twice for Bruins while Lenny Strand, John Sudol, and Robbie Houston added singles. Todd and Tony Romailer replied for Key Line.

Shane Reardon led the Whiskey Jacks' attack with five goals while Mark Holland added three. Ray Duley and Dean Freagh scored two each for the winners and Bob Edwards had a goal and three assists.

Darl Homeniuk and Darin Kirk countered with four goals each for Standard.

In the Bantam House League championship game Monday, OK Tire edged Goodwin-Burniston 7-6.

Trevor Page scored three for OK Tire while Joe Leschuk added a pair.

Kevin Poirier blinked the red light three times for the losers.

Slowpitch baseball with two new

Slowpitch Softball will be available, to male players, in three different leagues during the 1976 season.

The successful Senior Men's League will play this year at the cadet diamonds on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This league, designed primarily for players more than 35 years old, utilizes special rules to encourage participation and enjoyment. Individuals or teams wishing to enter the league should phone Al Early at 542-7778.

Vernon Department of Parks and Recreation is offering a new league this year that will feature standard slowpitch rules. This men's

Seals come back to clobber Blues

OAKLAND (CP) — California Golden Seals spotted St. Louis Blues the first goal Monday night and then roared back with seven straight markers for a 7-1 win in only National Hockey League game scheduled.

The Seals outshot the injury plagued Blues 30-27 as Rick Hampton and Bob Murdoch scored two goals apiece to lead the way.

The game had no effect on league standings. California is in the cellar of the Adams Division, 16 points behind Toronto Maple Leafs with only four games remaining. And the Blues are in third place in the Smythe Division, seven points behind Vancouver

Hampton scoring the game winner at 13:53 of the first period. His goal set a team scoring record for defencemen with his 46th point.

Maruk beat Blues goaltender Ed Johnston on a breakaway a little over a minute later to give the Seals a 3-1 lead.

Hampton and Murdoch added second-period goals 90 seconds apart and Wayne Merrick and Fred Ahern scored in the third period.

The Seals scored three of their goals while the Blues were shorthanded.

KENDALL'S KORNER

A weekend on the road



Travelling with a junior hockey team is usually about as well-planned a trip as possible.

Everything from departure times, to meals, hotels, and curfews are planned right down to the last minute. But, last weekend's trip with Vernon Vikings, to the coast, was a exception.

Because of a huge convention in Chilliwack, there were no hotel rooms available for miles around. So, the club was booked into a motel at Harrison Hot Springs, about 30 minutes by bus from the Chilliwack Coliseum.

Upon arriving at Harrison, the motel rooms looked like something you see in a sleazy hotel, on a late-night movie. Vikings usually stay in hotels with closets bigger than these rooms.

Taking into consideration that the club would be there only one night, Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant decided to grin and bear it.

Well, a good pork chop pre-game meal will make the players forget about the hotel! A short walk and we arrived at the restaurant where a turkey dinner was waiting for everyone.

TWO MEALS

Tennant is a firm believer that turkey is not a good pre-game meal, but what can you do when the restaurant received a different order and 22 turkey dinners are ready.

Just as everyone finished their meal, a shy waitress knelt beside Tennant and asked if there was another bus load of players from Vernon arriving soon. After a brief conversation, it was discovered that the pork chops were down the street, at another restaurant, waiting for the Vikings. How is that for a lack of communication?

Now back to the motel. The motel manager, who could have passed for one of the Snoop Sisters, informed Tennant that if the team wasn't checked out by noon the next day, they would be billed for an extra day's stay.

Harrison is a beautiful spot for summertime honeymooners, but what do 22 men do in the rain for seven hours. After Saturday's game, which Vernon won 6-1, Tennant decided it would be a good idea to take the team to the NHL game in Vancouver Sunday afternoon, between Canucks and St. Louis blues.

After telling the team they were going to the NHL game Sunday, so they could get away from their cubicles in the motel, Tennant discovered Sunday morning that every standing room ticket in the Pacific Coliseum had been sold. But, this part of the story has a pleasant ending.

Thanks to two great guys on the Canucks' executive, Babe Pratt and Greg Douglas, Vikings were able to get into the game. Although the game was not a classic, it was a thrill for the players, who for the most part, were seeing their first or second live NHL game.

SAVES DAY

As everyone knows, Canucks sold out every game and it is nice to know there are still some people around with a heart. Douglas and Pratt saved what could have been a disastrous day.

For Vikings' Gary Gassoff and Jack Lefley, the NHL game meant a little something extra. After the game, Gary got to talk with his big brother Bob, and ex-Vernon Esso. And Jack got to meet his second cousin, Chuck Lefley, who scored a goal in the game.

Then it was out to the Chilliwack Coliseum where Vikings beat Bruins again, 6-3.

It was a tired group of hockey players which arrived back in Vernon on Monday at 6 a.m., after busing all night.

Tonight, the story can have a happy ending as Chilliwack visits Vernon, and Vikings can wrap up the series.

Somewhere, there is a moral to this story.