

The SPORTS

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KENDALL'S KORNER

Dangerous little guy



Vernon Vikings' Coach Joe Tennant may be reconsidering a statement he made prior to last Saturday's B.C. Junior Hockey League playoff game against Penticton Vees.

Tennant said he planned no special attention for Vees' high-scoring winger Gord McKay. The Vernon coach said, "He hasn't done much against us all year and we have lots of guys who can stick with him."

Vees and Vikings battled to a 3-3 tie and McKay was one of the main reasons Penticton was able to stay with the league champion Vikings.

McKay, 18, scored 58 goals and had 105 points in his rookie season, last year, with Penticton. Despite his speed, desire, the NHL-style slap shot, Kamloops Chiefs felt McKay was too small for the Western Canada Hockey League.

So, the fiery little winger went back to Penticton and the Vees are certainly glad to have him. The Peach City boys did not enjoy a great 1975-76 season, but McKay can't complain.

GOOD SEASON

He scored 54 goals and collected 98 points this season, with a mediocre team. No longer are Vees mediocre though, they are now a playoff club to be reckoned with.

After upsetting Kelowna Buckaroos in the semi-finals, Penticton gave Vikings all they could handle in the opening game of the semis. A lot of the credit has to go to McKay.

He is a tireless performer and probably the most exciting player in the BCJHL. Every time he steps on the ice he is a threat and every goalie fears his wicked shot from the wing. Only several great stops by Vernon netminder Darrell Furmanek prevented McKay from scoring three or four goals, instead of one, last Saturday.

Langley Lords' Mark Taylor was selected most valuable player in the eight-team loop, but it would be tough to imagine Penticton winning many games this season without McKay.

DISPROVES THEORY

Kamloops Chiefs, Tennant, and just about everyone else has said that McKay can't take the rough stuff. But, he disproved that against Vernon when he took a couple of stiff checks and handed out a few himself.

He should be in the WCHL, but he isn't, so Vikings have to put up with him.

The little guy assassinated Kelowna almost on his own. Vees got great netminding from Pat Murphy and Dennis Ewanchuk, but McKay handled the offence.

Unless Tennant can come up with some method of stopping McKay, he might finish off the Vikings, too. He has already proven he can't be intimidated, so it will take a smart player to stop him.

For the sake of Vernon goalies Keith Ferner and Furmanek, let us hope McKay is checked in stride, a headless goalie isn't much good these days.

third place in the first play
round.

With only a week to go in the



JIM MORO
... leads Vernon



DON CULLEY
... from Kelowna

Tourney opens on Friday night

The first annual Oldtimers' Hockey Tournament, sponsored by the Vernon Oldtimers' Hockey Club, starts Friday at the Vernon Civic Arena.

First game is scheduled at 8 p.m., with the host club taking on Salmon Arm. Championship game will be played Sunday at 1 p.m.

Eight teams from throughout B.C. and Alberta will be taking part in the tourney.

Spokesman for the tournament, Chris Nelson, told the Daily News several old rivalries will be renewed. Nelson said, "a lot of local hockey fans will remember several players on the Vernon squad as well as the Penticton-

Kelowna team."

Penticton-Kelowna squad will feature numerous former senior stars including Bernie Bathgate, Don Culley, Pat Coburn, Mike Durban, and Buggy Jones.

Leading Vernon, from the old Canadians, will be Tom Stecyk, Don Jakes, Merv Bidoski, Art Davison, Jim Moro, and Jack Howard.

Advance tickets are available from any oldtimers' team member, or at the door, for \$1 per day.

Nelson said, "I think everyone will be very surprised when they see the way these guys still move around the ice. It should be a lot of fun."