

# Vikings need YOUR support



Everyone in the Okanagan Valley is talking about the upstart Penticton Vees.

Vees placed sixth during the regular B.C. Junior Hockey League season and looked like anything but a playoff threat. However, funny things can happen in playoffs.

Penticton has been getting super goaltending, a great effort from all its players, and fantastic fan support — which brings us to Vernon Vikings.

Vikings, who set a handful of BCJHL records this season, now have their backs up against the wall. They have played well enough to win three of the four games to date, but find themselves trailing in the eight-point series 7-1.

Vernon could not have played better hockey than last Saturday, at home, but still lost 3-1. They completely dominated play, but a couple defensive lapses proved costly.

## SET RECORDS

Vikings set records during the 1975-76 season for most wins, most points, longest home-ice winning streak, most shots on goal in a game, and a few other less-important marks. They did all that with only limited fan support.

One of the few teams in the BCJHL which drew less spectators than Vernon was Penticton. A Vees' executive, when asked midway through the season what his crowds have been like, said, "He's been great so far, but don't get him mad or he won't come back."

Penticton fans have now jumped on the bandwagon. Sunday night in the Peach City, almost 2,000 fans flocked into the rink. Saturday about 500 spectators made the 70-mile trek to Vernon and almost blew the roof off the Civic Arena with the famous Penticton chant, "Go Vees Go."

"Go Vees Go," was the cry that was heard in Penticton during the glorious years of senior hockey there. Now, the town has become hockey crazy again. You can bet your bottom dollar, several hundred Vees' supporters will be here for the next game Wednesday night.

## NOT FINISHED

Now, getting back to Vikings, coach Joe Tennant said today his club isn't out of it yet.

Tennant said, "We have run up against one helluva hockey team. We have played well enough to win, but haven't. There are no excuses."

"Our players have a lot of pride. We're not going to go out without a fight. I have a lot of confidence in our team and I feel we can come back."

Right now what the Vikings need is **YOU**. A big, loud crowd would be a fantastic lift for the players. It must have been a little embarrassing for local fans last Saturday to be drowned out by a few hundred Penticton screamers.

Tennant said, "I won't promise a win Wednesday. But, with a good, loud crowd behind us, we'll be tough to beat."

Vikings were great ambassadors for Vernon all season and now need support. Advance tickets are now on sale at Ernie's Esso and OK Plumbing.

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# SPORTS

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# Cents even semi-finals

MERRITT, B.C. (CP) — Merritt Centennials humbled Nanaimo Clippers 12-4 Monday to move into a 4-4 tie in their eight-point British Columbia Junior Hockey League semi-final series.

Nine players scored goals for the Centennials, who held period leads of 4-1 and 8-3.

Greg Agar, Neil Robinson and Anthony Thomas each scored twice for the winners, while Kirk Aulin, Bob Wasson, Pat Dupuis, Paul Chadwick, Darrell Zelinski and Dean Wray added singles.

George Fritz scored twice and Gary Lupul and Terry Graff scored once each for Nanaimo.

# Minor hockey changes date

Vernon Minor Hockey Association has postponed its annual meeting to next Wednesday, April 14.

The meeting will be held in the Recreation Centre Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Association President Mickey McMahan told the Daily News the date was changed so everyone will have an opportunity to go to the Vikings' game this Wednesday.