

## BOTH LACK DEPTH

# Vikings and Buckaroos need some player help

By **DON KENDALL**

**Daily News Sports Editor**

Kelowna Buckaroos edged Vernon Vikings 5-4 in a sloppy B.C. Junior Hockey League exhibition game Tuesday in Enderby.

Neither team looked remotely ready for the regular season, which gets under way this weekend.

Veteran Gary Gassoff put Vikings in front at 5:31 of the opening period when he drifted a long shot during a powerplay. Scott Lang tied the game, at 13:53, with Vernon two-men short.

The teams exchanged second period goals as John Schmitz put Vikings back in the lead and Mike Wills, on a powerplay, tied the game at 17 minutes.

### **QUICK GOALS**

A brilliant one-man effort by Gary Gilchrist gave Vernon a quick 4-2 lead in the third. While killing a penalty, Gilchrist blocked a shot at the point, sped down ice on a breakaway, and scored at 1:33. Just 50 seconds later, with defenceman Gary Criss still in the sinbin, Gilchrist fired a wrist shot into the lower corner.

However, three quick goals by Bucks, midway through the period, decided the outcome.

Defenceman Doug Davis scored Kelowna's third powerplay goal at 11:39, followed by a goal from Brian Mathews at 13:34, and the winner from Wills at 15:06.

It was evident from the scramble play, both teams are about five players short of becoming a contender. Luckily for Bucks, help is on the way. Vernon may have to wait a little longer.

Kelowna was without high scoring forward John Olver, currently nursing a shoulder injury and top two defenceman on the club last year, Ian Malcolm and Ken Calder, are expected back from Saskatoon Blades' camp on Friday.

### **NEED HELP**

Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye told the Daily News he feels his club needs three forwards to balance the club, but four forwards and an experienced defenceman would probably better fill the holes.

Unfortunately for Vikings, Gilchrist will be leaving in 10 days for a tryout with Fort



**GARY GILCHRIST**  
... looked good

Wayne of the International Hockey League. The big winger dominated play while on the ice.

Top local prospect appears to be winger Bruce Green. Green, who has played defence throughout his career, was throwing his weight

around and looked at home up front.

### **SOLID HIT**

Sophomore defenceman Ken Oulton threw the best check of the night when he caught Kelowna centre Robbie Wright with his head down. The blow temporarily dazed the little forward.

Oulton, along with rookies Brad McDonald and Randy Wills, looked good on the blue line. All three handle the puck extremely well, despite their lack of experience.

One place Vikings don't appear to have a problem is in goal. Veteran Keith Ferner played the first two periods and showed why he boasted the best goals-against average in the BCJHL last year. Jim Andrews played 10 shutout minutes in the third period before giving way to Paul Patterson, who was beaten three times.

Randy Struch, Paul Savage, and Tom Loski split the net-minding duties for Kelowna.

The same two teams tangle tonight, at 8:30 p.m., in Vernon. Last year's season ticket holders can pick-up tickets at Ernie's Esso or by phoning 542-9931.