

LOSING STREAK CONTINUES

Bruins smash Vikings

By DON KENDALL

Daily News Sports Editor

BELLINGHAM (Special) — Bellingham Blazers dumped Vernon Vikings 4-1 before 970 fans in B.C. Junior Hockey League action here Sunday.

The loss extended Vikings losing streak to four games. On Saturday, Abbotsford Flyers edged Vernon 5-4 in overtime.

Blazers, with 11 Finnish players on their roster, took advantage of numerous powerplay opportunities and scored all four goals with a man-advantage.

Bellinghams European-style powerplay is a carbon copy of the one employed by Russia and Czechoslovakia with sound positional play, numerous drop passes and accurate shooting.

However, Blazers have another European trait it should not be proud of. They are extremely adept at hacking with their sticks. In fact, so good at it they frustrated the Vernon players into taking retaliatory penalties.

Vikings Coach Gerry Wenman said seven of his players received cuts from sticks.

Vernon opened the scoring at 12:18 of the first period when Ken Oulton beat goalie Harri Kari. Bellinghams first goal came at 7:06 of the second period, on a picture-passing play, finished off by Jaril Lindgren.

SAVES

Vikings pressed for several minutes, but Kari made several fine saves, particularly off Kelly Kaneda and Stacy Smeader.

Late in the period, Vernon found itself short handed for five minutes when Jack Lefley was assessed a fighting

major. With Big Jack banished, centre Tero Katynen scored two goals, seven seconds apart, to make the score 3-1.

Katynen, who stands six three and looks like Pete Mahovlich as he races down the ice, was the best player on either team.

Jari Viitala finished off the scoring at 5:19 of the third period with the Vikings two-men short.

Vernon was assessed 17 of 29 minor penalties, five of 10 majors, two of three 10-minute misconducts and two of four game-misconducts.

Vikings goalie Keith Ferner made 31 saves, several of the spectacular variety, while Kari blocked 24 shots.

Wenman said "even though we lost all three games on this road trip, we matured a lot. We've come a long way since our first game.

CONDITION

"We still need some help, especially at centre. And we're about three weeks behind in our conditioning."

On Saturday, Kaneda scored two third period goals to force overtime. Jim Sparrow and Kevin White scored Vernon's other goals.

Rick Greenwood scored three for Abbotsford, including the winner, with Flyers a man-short.

Defenceman Brad McDonald hurt his knee Saturday and could not play in Bellingham. However, he's expected to be ready for Vikings' next game Wednesday when they host Kamloops Braves.

One of the bright spots was Centre Darcy Wilkinson. In the three games, "Wilkie" scored one goal and added three assists. However, he started a tryout today with

Kamloops Chiefs of the Western Canada Hockey League.

In other weekend action, Maple Ridge Bruins proved easy marks for the opposition in British Columbia Junior Hockey League action on the weekend.

Penticton Vees smashed the Bruins 12-3 Sunday at Penticton after the Bruins were reeling from a 9-4 loss Saturday Kelowna Buckaroos at Kelowna.

In other games, Merritt Centennials took Kamloops Braves 4-1, Nanaimo Clippers downed Bellingham Blazers 5-3 and Abbotsford Flyers needed overtime to edge Vernon Vikings 5-4.

In Penticton, the Vees led 4-2 at the end of the first period and romped to a 9-3 margin at the end of the second.

Andy Turner scored four goals to lead Penticton and Gary Huth added three. Singles came from Darrell Becker, Gord McKay, Simon Learmouth, Bob Ditterle and Romeo Profeta.

Randy Irving scored two of the Maple Ridge goals and John Ogrodnick added a single.

Penticton outshot Maple Ridge 58-30. Maple Ridge took 10 of 18 minor penalties and each team had four fighting majors.

Merritt led Kamloops 2-0 at the end of the first period in Merritt Sunday, and 4-1 after the second.

Neal Beaman scored twice for Kamloops and Greg Aiken and Neil Robinson added singles. Murray Matheson scored for Kamloops.

Kamloops took six of 11 minor penalties, two of three fighting majors and a game misconduct. Each team drew a 10-minute misconduct.

Merritt outshot Kamloops 44-35.

Rick Benningshof scored three goals to lead Kelowna as the Buckaroos blitzed Maple Ridge 9-4 Saturday in Kelowna.

Mike Wills scored twice for the Bucks, which got other goals from Robbie Wright, Scott MacLeod, Doug Davis and Les Koch.

Robert Wagner, Evan Williams, Terry Kirkham and Gerry Galloway were the Maple Ridge scorers.

The teams were tied 2-2 after 20 minutes but the Buckaroos broke the game open with five goals in a six-minute span during the middle period and led 7-3 entering the third period.

The buckaroos fired 48 shots at Maple Ridge Goalie Richard Martens while John McKerrow faced 31 drives.

Rick Greenwood's third goal of the game, at 4:47 of sudden-death overtime, gave the Flyers a 5-4 decision over Vernon in Abbotsford on Saturday.

Jim Dobson and Lindsay Johnson were the other Flyers snipers.

Wheat Kings on undefeated trail

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brandon Wheat Kings may have forgotten what it's like to lose in the Western Canada Hockey League.

The Wheat Kings ran their won-loss record to 5-0 Sunday night, defeating Victoria Cougars 8-5.

In other games Sunday, Calgary Centennials beat Flin Flon Bombers 6-3, New Westminster Bruins downed Kamloops Chiefs 11-3, Winnipeg Monarchs blanked Regina Pats 9-0, and Lethbridge Broncos trounced Portland Winter Hawks 8-3.

At Brandon, Bill Derlago led the Wheat Kings scoring with

humiliating one for the visitors, as the Monarchs scored seven goals in the third period.

Tom Roulston led the rally with three goals and Guy Lash had a pair. Goalie Bruce Friesen blocked 28 shots to register his first shutout of the season.

New Westminster Bruins, defending WCHL champions who were supposed to lack scoring punch this season, had an easy time on home ice against the Chiefs.

Four players—Don Hobson, Brad Maxwell, Mark Lofthouse and rookie John Paul Kelly—had two goals

The SPORTS

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