FERNER WAS GREAT

Vikings upset Vees

By DON KENDALL
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When a goaltender makes a big save, his entire team usually gets a lift. On Wednesday night, netminder Keith Ferner made 40 saves and gave his team a boost as Vernon Vikings defeated Penticton Vees 5-2 in B.C. Junior Hockey League action at the Civic Arena.

Ferner, an all-star in the BCJHL last season, had been playing below his capability so far this year. However, on Wednesday, he turned in a stalwart performance.

Early in the game he was particularly outstanding as his defence coughed up the puck three times in front of him.

The win was only Vernon's second in nine starts, but it was an encouraging step in the right direction.

Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye, who ran the bench in the absence of a coach, said he was pleased with the way his club played.

Dye said, "That was a lot better. The forwards were really coming back and helping the defencemen. And we're going to get better."

MASTER BACK

After the game, Dye had some encouraging news. he announced 216-pound defenceman Brian Master has agreed to report to the team.

Master toiled with Vikings last year, and besides being known as the toughest player in the BCJHL, is an outstanding defensive player. The burly blueliner made Medicine Hat Tigers' roster this year, but quit the team after training camp for personal reasons.

Gary Huth opened the scoring for Vikings at 48 seconds of the first period. That goal stood up until 11:54 of the second frame when Craig Berezowski tied the game.

At 17:53, winger Jack Lefley put Vikings back in front when he deflected Gary Criss' point shot past Penticton goalie Pat Murphy. However, before the period ended, John Uvegas made the score 2-2.

MAXWELL GREAT

Kevin Maxwell, one of Vees' few brightspots set up the goal when he beat Vernon defenceman Ken Oulton and slid the puck across to Uvegas. Maxwell, who could have played midget this season, also assisted on the other Penticton goal.

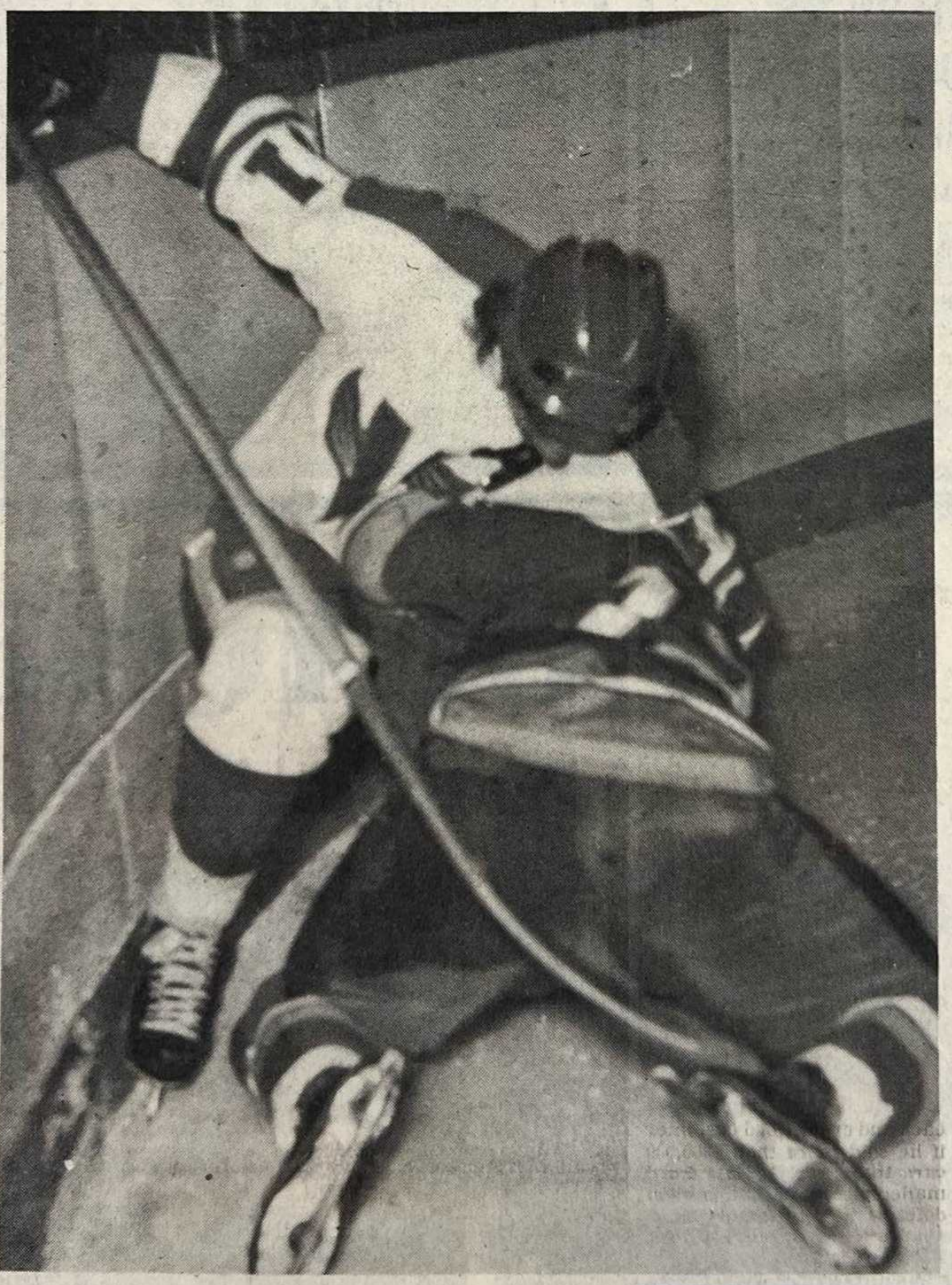
Oulton made up for his mistake at 1:46 of the third period when he fired a low shot from the point. Darcy Wilkinson was in front to screen Murphy and the puck went through untouched.

Jim Sparrow made the score 4-2 with a wicked slapshot at 6:10, and a short-handed goal by Gary Gilchrist, at 19:28, put the game on ice.

Huth assisted on his linemates' goals, (Lefley and Gilchrist), and controlled the play completely while on the ice. Other standouts for Vernon included Steve Danshin and defenceman Ron Rogers.

Danshin set up his wingers, Darcy Wilkinson and Gary Gassoff, several times with perfect passes, while Rogers, who has been with the team only a week, hit everything in sight.

Vikings were assessed seven of 10 minor penalties and one of two majors. Vernon is back in action, at home, Saturday when they host Abbotsford.



VERNON VIKINGS' winger Jack Lefley gives Penticton Vees' Dale Overt a rough ride to the ice during Wednesday's BCJHL game in Vernon. Lefley and his linemates scored one goal each to help Vikings dump Penticton 5-2. The loss was only Vees' third in nine games.

(Daily News Photo)

Royals even series

NEW YORK (AP) — Having beaten New York Yankees ace Catfish Hunter in the game they had to win to stay alive, Kansas City Royals go after their first World Series berth tonight against Ed Figueroa.

The Yankees, hoping for their first American League pennant in 12 years, tried to wrap it up with Hunter on Wednesday. But the bid backfired when the Royals knocked out Hunter early.

That left Figueroa, a 19-game winner during the regular season but the loser in the second game of the best-of-five playoffs, for tonight's deciding game.

The Royals forced the championship series to its limit by beating New York 7-4 Wednesday with a barrage of extrabase hits that included a double and triple by Hal McRae.

That overcame a pair of home runs by Graig Nettles of the Yankees and sent the two division champions back for one more game in this see-saw series.

McRae, who broke out of a slump that had left him hitless in the first three games of the series, thought that beating Hunter on Wednesday would give the Royals the edge tonight.

WHEEL