

Vikings winning without a coach

Vernon Vikings stretched their winning streak to three games with a 5-4 decision over Merritt Centennials in B.C. Junior Hockey League action Tuesday in Merritt.

The teams play a return match tonight at 8:30 p.m., in Vernon.

BCJHL STANDINGS INTERIOR DIVISION

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	Pts.
Kelowna	11	8	2	1	17
Penticton	12	7	4	1	15
Vernon	11	4	7	0	8
Kamloops	12	4	8	0	8
Merritt	10	3	7	0	6

COAST DIVISION

Langley	13	8	5	0	16
Bell	10	7	3	0	14
Nanaimo	11	5	6	0	10
Maple Ridge	12	5	7	0	10
Abbotsford	11	4	7	0	8

Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye must be wondering if his club needs a coach. When Coach Gerry Wenman resigned last week, the team had won only once in eight games.

Since that time, Captain Gary Gassoff has been running practices, Dye has been behind the bench, and the team is undefeated.

SCORED WINNER

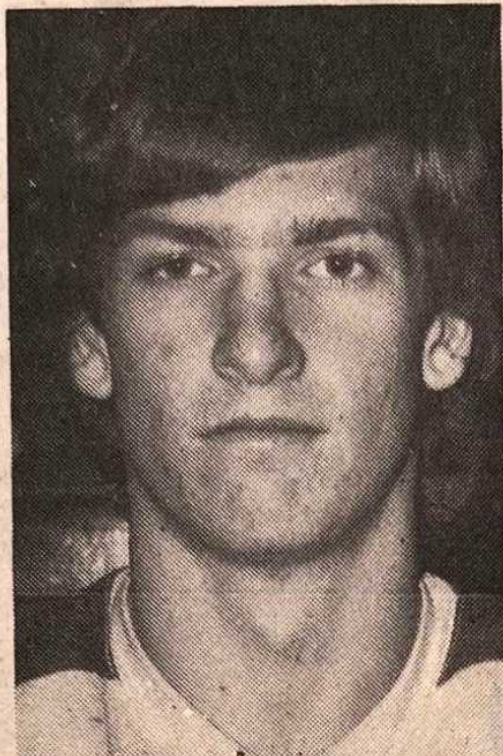
In Merritt, Darcy Wilkinson scored with less than two minutes remaining to push Vikings into third place in the league's Interior Division.

Gary Huth, Cam Torgeson, Jim Misener, and Steve Danshin were the other Vernon scorers.

Paul Chadwick, Lance Legouffe, Neil Robinson, and Bob Deschamps replied for Merritt.

BUSY GOALIE

Centennials' goalie Brad Earp held his club in the game with 51 saves. Vikings came out flying in the first period and took a 3-1 lead, despite 18 stops by Earp.



DARCY WILKINSON
... scores winner

At the other end, Vernon netminder Keith Ferner turned away 38 shots.

Merritt was called for eight

of 17 minor penalties and a misconduct.

Vernon was without Jack Lefley, still out of town on personal business. However, the big winger may be back for tonight's encounter.

Dye said, "We got off to a good start, but let down a little in the second period. Merritt has a good skating club and lots of size on defence.

"Our team is coming along well and all we need now is some fan support."

NEW CENTRE

Vikings will have a new face in the line-up tonight. Centre Lionel Gray, from Thompson, Man., arrived in town earlier this week and has looked good enough to warrant a tryout.

In other BCJHL games, Bellingham Blazers thumped Maple Ridge Bruins 7-2, Kelowna Buckaroos edged Kamloops Braves 6-4, and Langley Lords defeated Nanaimo Clippers 9-5.

