

Vikings earn tie with super rally

Vernon Vikings stretched their unbeaten streak to five games with a gutsy comeback performance Friday in Penticton.

Vikings overcame a 5-1 deficit and battled to a 6-6 overtime tie with Penticton Veeps before 739 fans.

Gary Huth gave Vikings a 1-0 lead early in the game, but by the five-minute mark of the second period, Veeps were on top 5-1.

Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye told the Daily News his club just wasn't hitting in the early going.

Dye said, "We decided we should hit Penticton and in the first period we only had four hits. In the second, we came out hitting and the tempo of the game changed. I'll tell you, Brian Maser sure rocked a few of their guys."

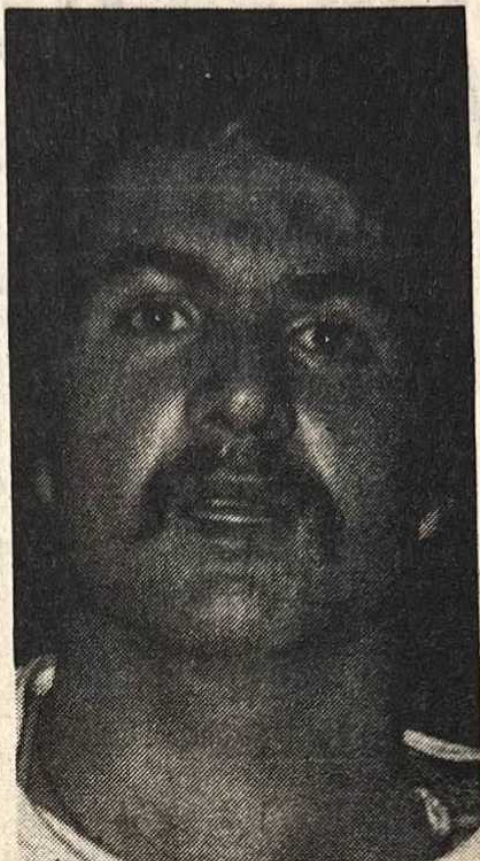
TWO EACH

Huth and Kevin White both scored twice while Jack Lefley and Bruce Green added singles. Green's goal came with less than three minutes remaining in regulation time and tied the game.

Craig Berezowski, Darrell Becker, Dino Sita, David Smith, Kevin Maxwell, and Bob Dietterle replied for Veeps.

Despite being short-handed for much of the overtime session, Vikings had several chances to win the game. Huth rattled a shot off the post and Lefley was hauled down on a partial breakaway.

Dye said, "It would have been just great to win that one after coming back the way the kids did."



BRUCE GREEN
... ties game

Vikings are back in action tonight when they host the Bellingham Blazers at 8 p.m. Blazers with 12 Finnish players in the line-up, were beaten 7-4 by Kelowna Buckaroos on Friday.

Dye said, "Blazers are an exciting team to watch and they have an awesome powerplay. The key to beating them will be keeping out of the penalty box."

If you go to tonight's game, be prepared for a thriller. In Vikings last four contests, three have gone into overtime and the other was decided by a single goal.

In other BCJHL action Friday, Maple Ridge Bruins scored six times in the third period to thump Nanaimo Clippers 7-3, Langley Lords downed Abbotsford Flyers 8-3, and Merritt Centennials edged Kamloops Braves 2-1 in overtime.

Riders hoping to clinch first

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Head coach John Payne of Saskatchewan Roughriders says he wants one last bit of inspiration from his old fullback, George Reed, on Sunday.

The catch is that Reed has retired as a player. He will be saluted at halftime of a game at Regina between the Roughriders and the potent Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Payne hopes some inspiration

need to get after them."

Winnipeg coach Bud Riley expects few, if any changes. Quarterback Ralph Brock is continuing to mature into a solid leader while Jay Washington and Steve Beard provide a balanced running attack and middle linebacker Harry Walters and safety Brian Haslan are keys to the defence.

The offensive line, buttressed by veteran Bill Frank,

Wheels turning



It was encouraging to hear this week that the North Okanagan Regional District's recreation committee is studying the ice facilities in the area.

A report, from Vernon Parks and Recreation Director John Mahler, suggests renovations to the present area and covering the Centennial Outdoor rink.

The renovations would certainly make the civic arena a much more desirable place to watch hockey. And covering the outdoor rink would increase its use by about 300 or 400 per cent.

But, one thing is alarming. So many people, and so many groups, in the area want more icetime that they may not be able to agree on the type of improvement needed.

Vernon Vikings would like to see a new arena. Vernon Lodge Tigers lacrosse club would like a new rink, but would probably be satisfied with a mass renovation program.

Minor hockey just wants more icetime, and figure skaters have the same request.

NUMEROUS OPTIONS

There are numerous options, but for various reasons, many of them are no longer practical.

Construction of a new arena would cost the regional district an arm and leg for property if constructed in the city limits. Kin Race Track, once considered a prime location, is now surrounded by houses and not enough land is available.

Property owned by David Howrie Sr., adjacent to the outdoor rink, has been placed in estate since Mr. Howrie died recently. It could take three years for sale of the land to be cleared.

Many people feel renovations to the old rink, and two ice surfaces under one roof on the site of the outdoor rink, would be the best idea. Those two surfaces would be used primarily for minor hockey and figure skating.

TEMPORARY WALL

Again a problem with the Howrie property. There is not enough space on the land, currently owned by the city, to build a double-rink. So, Mahler's report suggests construction of a temporary wall on one side of the proposed covered arena, to be expanded, if and when the Howrie property is acquired.

Vernon Civic Arena could probably be transformed into a pretty nice building with massive renovations. One problem there too. Any structural change and the building would likely be condemned.

Also, a fact that isn't too widely known; the arena is located on property not owned by the city. Why spend \$250,000 in renovations on a building that may only be there another 20 years?

The committee's next meeting is Nov. 1, and from that meeting a recommendation will be made to the regional district board. A referendum on the subject may only be a few months away, and before the question goes to the voters, a united group of sportsmen must push for a YES vote.

LOTS OF BLONDES

There will be more blondes at the arena tonight than at a Elke Sommer look-alike contest.

Bellingham Blazers, with 12 Finnish players, are in town to face the Vikings. The Finns sport long Scandinavian blonde locks, and play darn good hockey.

In fact, they are one of the nicest junior teams to watch that you'll see anywhere.

The

SPORTS

DON KENDALL—Sports Editor

PHONE 545-0671

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