

WITH 4-3 VICTORY

Vikings stretch streak to six



VERNON VIKINGS' netminder Keith Ferner slides out to make a tremendous

save off Bellingham Blazers' Jorma Mantere during Saturday's BCJHL

game. More than 1,000 fans were on hand to watch Vikings edge Blazers 4-3.

Vernon is back in action Wednesday when they host Merritt Centennials.

(Daily News Photo)

By DON KENDALL
Daily News Sports Editor
Vernon Vikings stretched their unbeaten streak to six games with a 4-3 victory over Bellingham Blazers in B.C. Junior Hockey League action before 1,082 fans Saturday in Vernon.

Largest local crowd of the season was treated to a tremendous hockey game.

BCJHL STANDINGS

INTERIOR DIVISION				
Team	GP	W	L	T Pts
Penticton	14	9	3	2 20
Kelowna	13	9	3	1 19
Vernon	14	6	7	1 13
Merritt	13	4	9	0 8
Kamloops	14	4	10	0 8

COAST DIVISION

Langley	16	9	7	0 18
Bellingham	13	8	5	0 16
Maple Ridge	15	8	7	0 16
Nanaimo	13	6	7	0 12
Abbotsford	13	4	9	0 8

Blazers, with 12 Finnish players in the line-up, came out flying and took a 3-1 lead. However, Vikings started hitting in the second period and wore down the speedy Finns with some crunching bodychecks.

SCORED TWO

Jari Viitala opened the scoring at 7:10 of the first period when he fired a wrist shot, from a sharp angle, past Vernon netminder Keith Ferner.

Then at 15:37, Viitala made the score 2-0 while Vikings had two men in the penalty box.

Vernon had several good scoring opportunities in the opening period, but Blazers' goalie Ben Shrey was outstanding with 20 saves.

Referee Bob Jones, from Kamloops, who drew jeers from the fans throughout the game because of some borderline calls, got in the bad books with Bellingham early in the second period.

Shrey froze the puck, and on a questionable call, Jones gave him two minutes for delay of game.

FROM POINT

Just six seconds later, at the 39-second mark, Brian Maser got Vernon on the scoreboard with a shot from the point.

Minutes later, Ferner made his best save of the game when

Viitala had a clearcut breakaway.

Jari Lindgren stretched Bellingham's lead to 3-1, also on a powerplay, at 8:29. Then, Vikings started hitting.

Centre Cam Torgeson banged the puck past Schey, in a scramble, at 12:07. Maser picked up his second powerplay goal of the night at 13:18, and Jack Lefley scored the winner, also with a man-advantage, at 16:24.

A play at 15:31, of the final period, almost sent Vernon into its fourth overtime in the last six games. Torgeson jumped Lindgren and was assessed a five-minute fighting major.

Just 10 seconds later, Viitala let a sizzling shot go off the crossbar. Gary Huth and Lefley did a great job killing off the next two minutes before Pekka Mekela grabbed Huth, was assessed two minutes, and eased the pressure.

Schey finished the game with 36 saves while Ferner blocked 19 shots.

Vernon was assessed 12 of 23 minor penalties and two of three fighting majors.

Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye was pleased with the win, and particularly with his club's powerplay.

Dye said, "I thought we played one helluva game. Our powerplay, which has been weak at times, got three goals."

In other weekend games, Bellingham edged Kamloops Braves 5-4 Sunday, Langley Lords lost to Nanaimo Clippers and Maple Ridge Bruins by identical 5-4 scores, Bruins bombed Abbotsford Flyers 8-2, and Kelowna Buckaroos were humbled 11-6 by Penticton Vees.

GOALPOSTS: Grant Sidnick played his first game of the year for Vikings and will be available for spot duty, until Christmas... Vikings assigned forwards Doug Berg and Lionel Gray to their farm team in Grand Forks... Winger Phil Logan, cut last week by Kelowna, has asked for a tryout with Vernon.

VSSS boys place third, while girls win tourney

By DALE MAJOR
Daily News Correspondent
Vernon Senior Secondary School's AA team placed third in the 18-team University of B.C. Invitational Boys' Volleyball Tournament over the weekend.

Vernon, the defending champion, lost its chance of

The SPORTS

club's most consistent player in the tourney. He also singled out setters Mike Kormos and Dave Schaefer, defensive stalwart Chris Sullivan, and hitter Jim Tilden.

Reid said, "I can see the potential is there, we just have to concentrate on mental attitudes."