

Huth leading Vikings

Vernon Vikings' centre Gary Huth has served notice he plans on retaining his team scoring championship.

Despite missing two games at the start of the B.C. Junior Hockey League season, the slick 20-year old has a comfortable lead in the team scoring race.

Huth has collected 10 goals and 12 assists for 22 points, six more than second-place Jack Lefley.

Seven of the club's top 10 scorers were regulars last season. Only Bruce Green, Cam Torgeson, and Kevin White did not see steady action with Vikings last year.

Top scorers are:

PLAYER	GP	G.	A.	Pts
Huth	12	10	12	22
Lefley	11	7	9	16
Danshin	10	5	10	15
Wilkinson	13	3	8	11
Gassoff	12	3	8	11
Green	13	3	6	9
Torgeson	10	2	5	7
White	8	5	2	7
Oulton	14	4	2	6
Maser	4	3	2	5

four by St. Louis running back Terry Metcalf.

But though St. Louis lost possession on eight of those miscues, Washington coach George Allen noted: "We had all the opportunities to ice this contest early and we didn't do it. That's why I'm so proud of this team.

Blazers win in overtime

MERRITT, B.C. (CP) — Tero Kapynen scored at 3:55 of overtime Monday night to give Bellingham Blazers a 5-4 British Columbia Junior Hockey League victory over Merritt Centennials before 625 fans.

The goal ruined a comeback by the Centennials who tied the count 4-4 with 58 seconds left on a goal by Don Nachbaur.

Cal Roadhouse, on a power play, Martti Nenonen, Randy Hall and Pasi Virta were the other Bellingham marksmen.

Paul Chadwick led Merritt scorers with two goals, one on a power play, and Gary Sirkia got the other for the Centennials who trailed 3-0 after the first period and 4-2 after 40 minutes.

Football expanding



Just three years ago football was a forgotten sport in the Vernon area.

But, a group of local football fanatics, led by Fred McKenzie, would not let a sleeping dog lie. The result is the highly successful Vernon Minor Football Association.

During its first year of operation, the association ran six flag teams. Last year they expanded to four tackle and four flag teams, and this year the number of teams remained the same, despite an increase in registration.

More than 160 boys played football in Vernon this year.

Next year, tentative plans call for another step forward for the association. Next year it is hoped there will be eight tackle and four flag clubs.

The tackle groups would be divided into two four-team divisions, one for boys 15 and 16, the other for players 13 and 14.

McKenzie, the man who started it all, said the growth of football here has been very gratifying.

He said, "To run 12 teams next year we will need about 250 players and four new sets of equipment. We have already started raising funds for equipment, and if this year has been any indication, we will have no trouble getting the players."

Several clubs had to turn down boys this season when roster limits were reached.

However, one thing is still lacking in the football community — a high school team. Despite strong opposition from Vernon Senior Secondary School administration, the football-types in this area haven't given up yet.

When minor football was started here, the ultimate goal was to get it back into VSSS. And that is still the target.

GOSSIP TIME

... Former Vernon Vikings' netminder Kenny Holland has signed a pro hockey contract with Binghamton of the North American Hockey League. Kenny has already played two games, and both were victories.

San Diego Mariners, who own Holland's WHA rights, apparently have the little netminder in their future plans.

... Interior Lacrosse Association Commissioner Fred Williamson tells us Kamloops has already applied to get back into the ILA next season.

Kamloops dropped out of the ILA midway through last season due to player and financial problems. Apparently, the obstacles have been overcome and new management found.

... There are still tickets available for Saturday's soccer dance at the Vernon Lodge Hotel.

Music will be provided by the five-piece Harry Schnelert Band from Vancouver. All proceeds go towards minor and senior soccer.

Advance tickets are available at the Lodge or the Coldstream Hotel.

... Rick Simpson, who played centre last year for Vikings, is on the defensive corps for Medicine Hat Tigers this year, and improving rapidly. He picked up his second WCHL goal last weekend.