

Crucial series starts tonight

Vernon Vikings travel to Kelowna tonight to take on the Backaroos in the first game of a crucial back-to-back B.C. Junior Hockey League series.

Second-place Kelowna leads the red-hot Vikings by only four points in the league's Interior Division. Vernon is currently on a seven-game unbeaten streak.

Vikings are healthy for tonight's game and General Manager Vern Dye says his club will be ready.

Dye said, "I don't think there is much doubt that the guys are really psyched for this one. We have to stop Kelowna from setting up their plays with effective forechecking."

WILLS GONE

Meanwhile, Bucks' offence was dealt a crushing blow last week when New Westminster Bruins called up BCJHL scoring champ Mike Wills.

Since Wills left, Kelowna's number one line has been a rookie unit, centered by Scott McLeod, with Rod Danchuk and Les Koch on the wings.

Bucks' biggest disappointment to date has been the defence. There are seven defencemen, including five veterans on the roster. Only Ken Calder and Bill Audycki have been playing up to par.

Tonight's game will be broadcast on CJIB.

The clubs tangle again Saturday in Vernon, with a special treat in store for the kids.

Vikings are holding a Hallowe'en Night and all children in attendance will be presented with a surprise.



SCOTT McLEOD
... on big line

In Thursday's only BCJHL game, Nanaimo Clippers edged Abbotsford Flyers 5-4, in overtime.

Meanwhile, New Westminster Bruins General Manager Bill Shinske announced today that Bellingham Blazers' Finnish-born centre Tero Kapynen has been called up by the WCHL club to play tonight against Brandon Wheat Kings.