

Penalties prove costly as Bucks thump Vikings

Vernon Vikings unbeaten streak came to an abrupt halt Friday when Kelowna Buckaroos handed the locals a 7-2 setback before 873 fans at the Kelowna Memorial Arena.

Vikings' General Manager Vern Dye was upset with his team's effort and particularly with the number of uncalled-for penalties.

Dye said, "I don't mind losing, you can't win them all. But, there is no excuse for losing a game like that. The penalties really hurt us."

Vernon's penalty-killers Gary Huth and Jack Lefley got off to their usual tremendous start, but tired midway through the game from overwork.

Vikings were assessed 77 minutes in the sinbin, including a near-record to forward Kevin White. White picked up five minors, two majors, a 10-minute misconduct, and a game misconduct, totalling 40 minutes.

The BCJHL record of 43 minutes was set by former Vernon player Bob Craig, in 1971.

Dye told the Daily News he

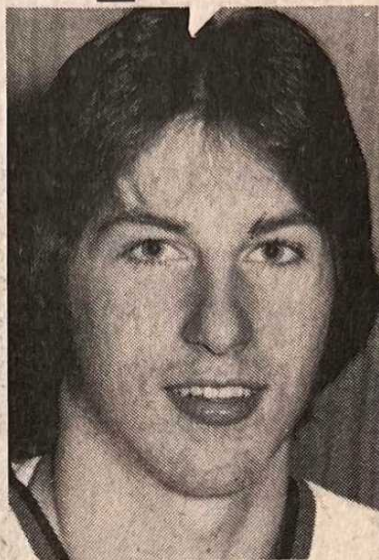
has not decided if he will sit out White for tonight's game, however, a ruling in the near future is expected from League President Ernie McLean. White bowed to the crowd after being ejected and McLean has been extremely tough on that type of action this season.

Kelowna picked up 47 penalty minutes, including two fighting majors and a misconduct.

Rod Danchuk opened the scoring for Bucks at 9:30 of the opening period on a three-on-one break. Vikings' best player Friday, Darcy Wilkinson, tied the game on a powerplay at 11:15 when he deflected Steve Danshin's shot past goalie John McKerrow.

Then at 15:42, Kelowna took the lead to stay when John Olver scored while Vikings were two-men short.

Lone goal of the second period appeared to change the tempo of the game as Kelowna's forechecking forced Vernon into several puckhandling errors. Rick Benningshof scored a short-handed goal to make the score 3-1.



JOHN OLVER
... got winner

Kelowna defenceman Bill Audycki opened the scoring in the third period with a beautiful piece of stickhandling, and Huth put Vikings back to within two goals at 5:11 with a slapshot from just inside the point.

However, from that point on, it was all Kelowna. Rob

Neeld scored at 6:46, Scott McLeod on a powerplay at 12:46, and Les Koch rounded out the scoring at 19:26.

Dye said, "Luckily we get a chance to redeem ourselves tonight."

HERE TONIGHT

Vikings host Bucks tonight at 8 p.m. and there will be special Halowe'en goodies for all children who attend the game.

The Vernon GM said, "We have to hit Kelowna to beat them, but they have to be good hits, not penalties."

Vikings hope to have veteran Grant Sidnick in the line-up tonight. Sidnick is working out-of-town until Christmas, but is available for some weekend games.

In other BCJHL action Friday, Penticton Vees hammered Kamloops Braves 9-1 and Maple Ridge Bruins edged Langley Lords 6-4.

