

High-Flying Bucs Here Tuesday

Kelowna Buckaroos play a return Okanagan Junior Amateur Hockey League match at Civic Arena Tuesday night amidst controversy that Vernon Junior Canadians are damaging the infant league with their poor showing to date.

League president Bill Brown declined to make a definite statement on the situation saying, "there's more to come."

Odie Lowe's Canucks, plagued with a player-shortage and having to utilize juvenile and midget material, have lost their first seven starts of the season.

Saturday night saw them suffer an 8-2 defeat at the hands of Brian Roche's Buckaroos in Kelowna. And there was talk, lots of it, by Kelowna fans asking why Vernon can't ice a stronger club.

Part of the trouble lies with Saturday night employment, the night when most road trips face the Vernon squad.

A minute part stems from North Okanagan Hockey League activities which some players of junior age prefer to in place of being party to the rollicking defeats suffered by the Canadians.

As Brown stated Friday, "our objective this season is to get the league rolling—one team is bound to lose."

But the questionable point which struck home Saturday "is a non-competitive club doing more harm than good to the OJHL?"

Lowe had a statement prepared for The Vernon News to be released at the completion of Saturday's game. It was probably blasting the lack of enthusiasm being displayed by players here.

Instead, Lowe told his boys, "Do your best. When they laugh at you back home, you can tell them that at least you were there!"

Lowe made no predictions for Tuesday's contest. "We're a much stronger club at home because there is no 'bush league' and no employment duties to contend with. We could easily catch the Buckaroos flatfooted."

HOCKEY OJAHL

Friday:

Penticton 3, Kamloops 5

Saturday:

Kelowna 8, Vernon 2

Kamloops 4, Penticton 3

NOV 11

Canuck's Skeleton No Match For Bucs

Seventh Consecutive Defeat For Understaffed Canadians

VERNON 2, KELOWNA 8

As somebody once said: "Ours is not to condemn, but to consider the facts."

And Odie Lowe with his 12-man squad of Vernon Junior Canadians cannot be condemned for their bruising 8-2 defeat by Kelowna Buckaroos in the Orchard City Saturday.

Of the 12 men in blue, four were junior age, four were juveniles and four were midgets.

Average age of the defeated club is barely 17, whereas good junior teams such as the Bucs, still without a loss, are comprised of 19 and 20 year-olds.

And it showed. Not only in the scoring department, but also in the corners where an extra year of hockey and any added weight is a great advantage.

Numerous whistles for icing, and penalties slowed the contest almost to a standstill at points. Referee Johnny Culos

MOOSE JAW CALLS

Outside Help Offered To Lowly Canucks

Outside assistance was offered the cellar-dwelling Vernon Junior Canadians Friday by Metro Presti, the Saskatchewan Junior Amateur Hockey League's Moose Jaw entry.

Presti contacted OJAH president Bill Brown by phone to offer a netminder to the lowly Canucks.

Brown declined the offer saying goalies were the only strong point in the Vernon club. Brown said, "Even if it was an attractive offer, the league constitution prevents any professional hookups."

He said, "our only interest this year is to get the league rolling and offers such as this have to be shelved . . . at least for this season."

Players in prairie leagues are mostly signed under the farm setup of NHL clubs, and owned outright.

Brown also disclosed he had been asked previously to scout the OJAH for the Detroit Red Wings. However, the president said, "any players we have, we're hanging on to this year."

He said the league had to have a chance to survive. "If our top prospects are re-routed through other junior leagues, we can never hope to come up to a par basis with these other leagues."

handed out 28 penalties, 16 to the Buckaroos.

As in previous games, Seiko Ouchi centred the productive Canadian threesome and his hard work was rewarded with two of the night's better markers.

Kelowna scored almost immediately after the opening face-off and had added two more before the game was five minutes old.

At 13:01, Buckaroos went four up when captain Bob Gruber broke from a centre-ice tangle to march in alone.

Soon after, defenceman Phil Lardin was sent off for interference giving Ouchi the incentive to rally his wingmen and war-whoop them into the first Vernon attack.

Buckaroo goalie Sid Shussel handled five shots before being caught flat-footed on a passout from Dale Sorochnik behind the net that Ouchi whirled around and back-handed in.

First period scoring ended on a play by Gruber that set up Wayne Horning for the tally.

KELOWNA SCORES AGAIN

Twenty-eight seconds after the second period faceoff, Kelowna scored again. Six penalties and countless faceoffs later, Gruber pushed his second marker past netminder George Beck to put the Bucs ahead 7-1.

Third period featured mostly penalties, five before Gruber again danced in alone on Beck to sew a hat trick into his impressive record with the Bucs.

Ironically, the Canucks scored the final goal while short-

OJAH STANDINGS					
	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
Kelowna	6	0	40	21	12
Kamloops	5	1	46	16	10
Penticton	2	4	25	44	4
Vernon	0	7	22	52	0

handed; the wrong man off at that.

Buck Sherk had dropped a Kelowna defender and was called upon to defend himself from another. In the scramble that ensued, Sorochnik, who had been innocently busying himself with picking up Sherk's stick, was called for charging. He uttered not a word but skated quietly, if not bewildered to the sin bin for a well-earned rest.

Seconds later Sherk passed from the exact spot where he had been reprieved, Ouchi picked it up and popped it into the net at 16:25.

EFFECTS TOO MUCH

But the effects of the game were too much for Canuck winger Ray Kineshanko. Someone stuck his gloved finger into Roy's eye and he, in good spirits retaliated. When called for roughing, he raised his hands over his head in a gesture of victory and danced around the outer edge of the ice to the enjoyment of Kelowna fans.

1st Period: Kelowna, Hainishi; Schaefer (Thomas, Haminishi); Thomas (Schaefer); Gruber (Horning); Horning (Gruber); Vernon, Ouchi (Sorochnik). Penalties: Herbst, Stevens, Ouchi, Haminishi, Sherk, Wishlow, Lardin, MacKay.

2nd Period: Kelowna, Pyle (Schaefer); Gruber (Horning). Penalties: Ouchi, Schaefer, Stevens, Haminishi, Pyle, MacKay, Culley, Ouchi, Lardin, Sherk, Evans.

3rd Period: Kelowna, Gruber (Horning); Vernon, Ouchi (Sherk). Penalties: Wishlow, Lardin, Wishlow, Lardin, Foster, Culley, Lardin, Sorochnik, Kineshanko.



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