

TRAVEL TO KAMLOOPS

Hapless Blues Seek Elusive Win Saturday

Vernon Junior Canadians will make the usual changes in their lineup for the return game with Kamloops Rockets in weekend Okanagan Junior Amateur Hockey League action.

Coach Lowe said he expected the young Canucks to "keep plugging away for their first win" following a series of disappointments this season.

Winless Canadians came close to upsetting the OJHL leaders Tuesday night, losing a 5-4 thriller in overtime.

"The boys are improving every time out, and with a few breaks will be in the win column before long," Lowe said.

Canucks will probably be without several prominent players because of the usual Saturday night employment ties.

However, one bright spot could be the return of centreman Dave Kowal to the lineup. Dave is shortly due to enroll into a career with the RCMP, but plans to play a few more games before his departure.

Home Ice Hoodoo Licks Blues Again



Thursday, November 30

7:00 p.m.—1, Scott vs Coley; 2, Chesser vs McCarthy; 3, W. French vs Brown; 4, Ogasawara vs Clarke; 5, Sorenson vs Le-Blond.

9:00 p.m.—Business Girls.

Friday, December 1

7:00 p.m.—1, Schmidt vs Mills; 2, G. Green vs Kurbis; 3, Sammartino vs Marsland; 4, Brisco vs A. Green; 5, McDonald vs D. Browne.

9:00 p.m.—1, Berry vs Adams; 2, Churchill vs Tinkham; 3, Townsend vs Shockey; 4, Hall vs Kinnard; 5, Jenner vs Briggs.

Monday, December 4

7:00 p.m.—Business Girls.

9:00 p.m.—1, D. French vs Poggemiller; 2, Mullen vs Foord; 3, Nakoneckny vs Stephen; 4, Schell vs McWilliams; 5, Ferguson vs Bowes.

Sports Digest

NOHL

Saturday:

Armstrong vs Head of Lake

Sunday:

Armstrong vs Lumby

Head of Lake vs Grindrod

OJAH

Friday:

Kelowna at Penticton

Saturday:

Penticton at Kelowna

Vernon at Kamloops

Opsters Take Over Vernon

ENDERBY 56

Senior B Basketball action here y Merchants gain a narrow 56-50 d Vernon Merchants in the high

Vernon showed lack of conditioning and inaccurate shooting but a serious enthusiasm about the game.

George Beardmore was high point-getter for Vernon with 17 points. Lloyd Johnson dumped in six baskets for 12 points while Mert Bell and Bob Kent each hit on four occasions.

Kent ran into Reimer half-way through the game, suffering cracked ribs and a large blood blister underneath the rib tissue. Kent finished the game and it was not until early Monday that a medical examination revealed the extent of his injury. He is expected to be sidelined until after Christmas.

Warren Henry's Miscue Lets Rockets In For O'Time Win

JUNIOR CANADIANS 4, KAMLOOPS 5

Vernon Junior Canadians lost another one by the seat of their pants Tuesday night when the smooth-working Kamloops Rockets came from behind late in the third period to defeat the Blues 5-4 in overtime.

Okanagan Junior A Hockey League action at Civic Arena saw the Canadians, led by speedy winger Wayne Morris, chalk up a commanding 4-2 lead past the halfway point of the third frame, and seemed an almost sure bet to pick up their first points of the season.

Fans were kept on the edge of their seats all during the game as they witnessed a fast, exciting exhibition.

At one point, a faint chant rose from the 300 persons wanting a win as bad as coach Odie Lowe and his crew.

Rockets' victory gave them sole possession of first place, two points ahead of Kelowna Buckaroos. For the Canadians, it was the fourth heartbreaking one-goal defeat on home ice, three of them in overtime.

How did coach Lowe feel about the loss? "No complaints. The boys are skating better, shooting better and wanting to win more every game," he said.

"It proved one thing. Vernon can ice a team that will provide tough opposition for any OJAH club despite how the standings read." They read 10 losses in 10 starts for the Canucks.

Hat trickster Morris said, "We are still making mistakes and we have to brush up on our shooting." Only 32 potential goals were fired at Kamloops spare netminder Roy Hart while Canuck George Beck was called upon to turn aside 50. Only a tenth of them found their mark.

Defenceman Harry Wynnychuk thought "It was a tough one to lose. We had our share of breaks and it's rough when guys like Beck and Morris do such a fine job and we still can't win."

Morris was inserted in the line centred by hard-working Seiko Ouchi and left-winger Gary "Buck" Sherk. Ouchi's line has done its share, leaving Seiko as one of the elite in the league's top 10 scorers.

Ouchi's only comment on the game: "We wanted to win that one!"

Vernon was first on the score-sheet at 6:01 of the first. Merv Foster glided down the ice, dumping the puck into the corner. The rubber disc bounced from the boards, did a little hiccup, and barely moving, slid into the net.

Glen Madsen, with the first of his two-goal effort, tied it up at 11:01 but Vernon went ahead at

OJAH STANDINGS

	W	L	GF	GA	Pts
Kamloops	8	1	61	24	16
Kelowna	7	2	48	34	14
Penticton	3	4	31	46	6
Vernon	0	10	31	67	0

17:32 on Morris' first marker from Sherk.

Each club tallied in the second. Morris from Ouchi at 2:32 and Terry Shishido from Barrie Hunt at 7:02.

There was nothing matter of fact about Lowe's players as they skated on to the ice for the third. Sherk dumped a pass to Ouchi who headed for the corner, around the net and out front, dropping it to Morris. Morris stepped and fired an eight-footer over the prostrate form of Hart for the final Vernon tally.

At 11:02, Glen "Cowboy" Richards scored for the Rockets on a well-timed combination with Shishido, then Buck Crawford grabbed a loose puck at centre ice four minutes later to rush in on one Blue defender and lay a pass on the stock of Viv Minamide for the tying marker.

Rockets had the edge over a tired Vernon club in the overtime period. Beck was on the spot seven times and Vernon attackers were unable to organize.

It was during one of these organizational attempts, with little more than a minute to play, that Kamloops scored the tie-breaker.

Morris headed out over his own blue line, dropping a pass behind him for defenceman Warren Henry, one of Lowe's most valuable assets.

Henry misdirected a pass meant for Ouchi on to the stick of Madsen who rushed in alone and drove the winner past Beck.

First period: 1. Vernon, Foster (unass.); 2. Kamloops, Madsen (Nishimura); 3. Vernon, Morris (Sherk). Penalties: Sherk, Steinke, Colter.

Second period: 4. Vernon, Morris (Ouchi); 5. Kamloops, Richards (Hunt) 7:02. Penalties: Miller, Wynnychuk.

Third period: 6. Vernon, Morris (Ouchi); 7. Kamloops, Richards (Shishido); 8. Kamloops Minamide (Crawford). Penalties: Madsen (five minutes, fighting), Sorochnik (five minutes, fighting), Crawford, Main.

Overtime: 9. Kamloops, Madsen (unass.). Penalties: None.