

Rockets Shot Down By Deadly Canucks

Blues Take Second Straight By Dumping League Leaders

Vernon Junior Canadians wound up regular OJHL activities in grand fashion here Tuesday with a decisive 5-2 victory over Kamloops Rockets, only team that had been unbeaten by the Canucks through the season.

Blues, in their second straight win, gave local fans a glimpse of a changed club. One that has been turning out to practice, one that will make it tough for any other in the playoffs and one that wants to win.

Odie Lowe's squad outshot league champion Rockets 33-26 as their attack gained speed and accuracy while the northern offense seemingly always had five back-checkers to contend with before being stopped by Bob Jones, playing a stand-out performance in the Vernon net.

PICKED UP TWO

Dave Kowal, in his most familiar spot on the forward line, after being stuck on defence due to lack of blue line candidates during the season, picked up two goals in aiding the winners.

Kowal centred the hard-work-

ing line of Alex McBride and Gord Kineshanko, two wingers usually playing with Bob Stein in the pivot spot. Stein injured his leg and was not dressed for Tuesday's game.

McBride assisted on two goals.

ALSO A PAIR

Also adding a brace to the winning scoring punch was Gary Roland, playing his first game since early in the season.

Roland took on left wing duties with Lowe's "rook" line of Jim Steven and Dale Soro-chuk, all juveniles, and all becoming increasingly dangerous around the net.

Steven grabbed a goal and an assist while Soro-chuk took an assist. Defencemen Warren Henry and Harry Wynnychuk also picked up assists.

Kowal slapped a low, hard drive at 4:06 of the first period to open the scoring, answered four minutes later when Kamloops' Buck Crawford eased from the side of the net to beat Jones.

Blues, however, finished the period one up on a marker by Gary Roland with 17 seconds remaining.

HELD SCORELESS

Power-laden Rockets held Canucks scoreless during the second period while notching one of their own on a counter by Glen Madsen to deadlock the contest going into the final period.

Many times this season, Canucks have been ahead or at least tied going into the last session but they have tired, become sloppy and mistakes have lost the game.

Those days are gone as has been shown in the last two games. Tuesday the locals scored three unanswered goals in the third period while hardly giving Rockets a chance to mobilize for final attempts. Only six penalties were handed out, five to Canucks.

PLAYOFFS START

Next game for the Blues is the semi-final opener at Kelowna against second-place Buckaroos. Teams return to Vernon a week today for the second game and a thriller is guaranteed.

1st Period: 1, Vernon, Kowal
1st Period: 1, Vernon, Kowal (McBride) 4:06; 2, Kamloops, Madsen (Hunt) 8:33; 3, Vernon, Roland (Stephen) 19:43. No penalties.

2nd Period: 4, Kamloops, Crawford (Cochran) 13:39. Penalties: Wynnychuk (3), Morris.

3rd Period: 5, Vernon, Kowal (Henry) 2:19; 6, Vernon, Stephen (Soro-chuk) 4:48; 7, Vernon, Roland (Wynnychuk, McBride) 14:18. Penalties: Nishimura, Nuyens (fighting majors).

Golfing School Proves Popular Here Thursday

Local golfers have a chance to brush up on their shots tonight in the second session of the golf

By **TERRY
STEWART**

Sports Round-Up

Canucks added gloss to playoff hopes Tuesday with a 5-2 upset of OJHL leaders in their final league game. Rockets were without a couple of their biggest guns; namely league scoring champion Jack James and runner-up Glen Richards. Even started game without regular goalie Pete Sternig. This of course was strategy . . . why risk injury last game before playoffs.

But the thing to remember . . . Odie Lowe's crew is playing better hockey now than at any time during season. Friday night Canucks travelled to Penticton for first win away. Peach City sportswriter Stan Kelly wrote up game as worst ever played by Vees. It might have been . . . but Canucks were to blame. In Tuesday's contest, I don't doubt the score may have been closer had Rockets iced their strongest possible contender. But the northerners who made the trip were just a little dubious as to what the outcome might have been. It would have been 6-2 for sure had spare netminder Dick Hart taken his head from blue-line patroller Harry Wynnychuk's deadly line of fire. It took some nine stitches to close gash near Hart's left eye. Shot wasn't high but the goaltender was crouched so low he couldn't duck out of the way.

Most of Canucks' new look is caused by second thoughts of players themselves. Before, when Odie could barely ice a full team at home, never mind away, there wasn't much interest. Now, with more confidence being shown by the juveniles that have been with the club all along, and a good portion of juniors turning out for practices of late, coach Lowe has something to work with.

Fans should remember date: February 8 . . . first home game of semi-finals against Kelowna's penalty-prone Buckaroos. Price of admission will be well worth it.

On the local scene . . . skip Tom Foord, lead Jack Carswell, second Boonie Sammartino and third Gerry Green are sharpening up shots in readiness to represent Vernon Branch 25 in this weekend's Legion Zone Playdowns here . . . and it's the same Gerry Green whose brother, Murray, was playing third man on Calgary's Nick Lashuk rink which knocked over world champion Hec Gervais at Edmonton's tourney of champions two weeks ago. Murray Green is former B.C. championship skip in high school ranks . . . Junior Olympic Training Plan, successful in its inauguration by Canadian Legion last year, will not allow use of track shoes during program this season. News release said question has been discussed fully and explanations will be published shortly. Seems it caused quite a bit of trouble . . . Business Girls' Curling League held election of officers at Monday General Meeting. Phyllis Churchill voted in as president, Kay Hunter as vice-president, Gladys Watson as secretary and Susan Stewart as secretary-treasurer . . . and as Don "The Voice" Warner says, "It pays to be a sport."