

By TERRY  
STEWARD

# Sports ROUND-UP

Next game of the OMJHL semi-finals between Junior Canadians and Kelowna Buckaroos is to be played at Civic Arena Tuesday . . . about 15-hundred fans expected.

The contest is a must for Odie Lowe's Canucks, backed up against the wall two games to one in the best-of-five series. Tonight's practice session will see the locals drilled in clearing and organizing an attack from their own end. Canucks' defencemen seem to have no trouble stopping Kelowna attackers . . . trouble begins after they've been stopped.

\* \* \*

Nearly 1,000 persons turned out to Civic Arena Thursday night for the first home game of the semis and a lot of complaining was heard from the lineup outside the door. Seems they weren't getting in fast enough. Should be pointed out though . . . not even half that many persons were in attendance during any games of the regular season. The arena just wasn't prepared.

In the league's other half . . . OMJHL champion Kamloops Rockets and third-place Penticton Vees launched into semi-final action with the opener in Kamloops Saturday night. As was expected . . . Rockets downed the Junior Vees 4-1 but ironically Don Slater's Peach City crew won the Penticton game 3-1 Sunday afternoon to guarantee them at least one more home game.

\* \* \*

It's ironic because at the league meeting where playoff dates were set last month, Penticton officials were dead against the system which was finally voted in. In order that the semi-finals should be decided in best of five games rather than two out of three as originally planned, at least one home game had to be cut from the regular season schedule of each club.

Penticton officials were mad because as they pointed out: "We need that extra home game so we can make some money" In other words . . . the southerners did not even consider the chance that Vees could win one of the playoff games, therefore giving themselves another playoff contest at home which in all surety would be more financially stable than the regular league game cut from their schedule.

# Scoreboard

## OJHL Semi-Finals

**Saturday: Kelowna 4, Vernon 2**

(Kelowna leads series 2-1)

**Kamloops 4, Penticton 1**

**Sunday: Penticton 3, Kamloops 1**

(Series tied 1-1)

## Bantam Semi-Final

**Friday: Kelowna 4, Vernon 2**

**Sunday: Vernon 4, Kelowna 4**

(Kelowna wins series 8-6)

NOHI

# Semi-Final Extended To Limit With Decisive Canuck Victory

## Kowal Takes Series Scoring Lead During Canuck Show Of Strength

Vernon Junior Canadians extended the best of five Okanagan-Mainline Junior A Hockey League semi-finals to a fifth and deciding game with a convincing 5-2 defeat of Kelowna Buckaroos at Civic Arena Tuesday.

Odie Lowe's Canucks, down 2-1 in the series, gave home town fans a glimpse of what was probably their strongest show of strength this season as they pushed in five goals before Buckaroos hit the scoresheet.

Blues skated, shot and checked hard and were seemingly untouchable until a delay halfway through the final period slackened the pace, allowing Buckaroos two goals within 36 seconds.

Delay was caused by Kelowna netminder Sid Shussel injured on a breakaway by Canuck Bob Stein. Shussel stopped the attack but he, Stein and a Kelowna defenceman piled up to the left of the net.

The loose puck was picked up by Vernon winger Dale Sorochuk. Stein untangled himself and skated into position to take a pass from Sorochuk and fire

it into the net, with Shussel still spread out on the ice.

The injured goaltender was taken to the dressing room but returned ten minutes later to finish the game, suffering badly around an elbow.

### SHUTOUT SPOILED

The game being held up was enough to ruin shutout hopes of Canuck netminder Bob Jones.

Kelowna's Fred Thomas headed for Vernon territory, pulled at least three Blue defenders to the right of the net, carried on around, slipping the puck past Jones as he skated out on the left.

Although the smooth-skating Kelowna star deserved the goal, it shouldn't have gone in.

It was Thomas who was responsible for setting up the second Buckaroo goal a half minute later by laying a perfect

pass on the stick of defenseman Doug Hecko, playing his first game with the Buckaroos after being plucked from juvenile ranks to bolster the injury-riddled Orchard City defense.

Hecko fired a 20-footer that caught Jones sleeping as he attempted to catch the puck but only deflected it between his legs. Jones had previously in the game stopped about 10 shots of the same type without flinching, while turning in a brilliant goalkeeping performance.

He said afterward, "I guess I was a little disappointed about losing the shutout and I let myself relax, I won't do it again."

### TWO FOR KOWAL

Leading the Canuck was Dave Kowal with two, his third and fourth of the series for the scoring lead. Besides Stein, other marksmen were Gary Roland, becoming increasingly dangerous around the net, and Gordie Nuyens, who tallied one of the two big Vernon goals in the first game of the series.

Nuyens opened the scoring at 14:41 of the first period by slapping in a loose puck from a scramble in front of Shussel who had allowed a rebound on a shot by Stein.

Kowal's first marker culminated from a controlled series of passes in Kelowna territory by defenceman Dave MacKay and winger Wayne Morris at 15:15 of the first stanza.

Third goal was scored by Roland in position in front of the net to complete a play by Stein and Nuyens at 6:45 of the second. Kowal picked up his second at 12:57 on a three-way play with Ouchi and Reg Main.

### TANGLE AGAIN

Game was highlighted by a free-swinging duel between valuable Vernon defenceman Harry Wynnychuk and Kelowna's Don Culley in the second period. The same pair tangled similarly in the first game of the season and the results of the battle at that time were written on the scarred face of Culley.

They were given five-minute roughing penalties for Tuesday night's battle as well as an extra five minutes to Culley for kicking.

It didn't end there. Taunts by Wynnychuk prompted Culley to dive from his seat in the sin bin into the arms of referee Bill Neilson who wrestled him to the ice and sent him to the showers with a match misconduct. The case will be ruled on later by the league president.

The game even had its comical moments. About the six minute mark of the middle period, the contest was delayed when the puck disappeared near Vernon defenceman Warren Henry.

Henry, thinking it had become lodged in his pads, gave the customary hockey wiggle to free it. The puck was lodged in his pads all right, but no wiggle was going to free it.

### WELL HIDDEN

It took a full two minutes while Henry was searched and the black disc necessary to continue the game was found.

Ouchi's assist in the game put him among the top three point-getters in the series along with Sonny Herbst and Elmer Arrance of Kelowna.

Kowal follows as the high goal-scorer.

	G	A	Pts
Sonny Herbst, Kel.	3	2	5
Elmer Arrance, Kel.	2	3	5
Seiko Ouchi, Ver.	2	3	5
Dave Kowal, Ver.	4	0	4
Fred Thomas, Kel.	2	2	4
Bob Stein, Ver.	1	3	4



Tickets Selling Fast For Shriners Game

Tickets are selling rapidly for the Shrine All Star hockey game at the Civic Arena Saturday, February 24. Stars of the OSAHL will pull on the skates that night to aid Shrine charities. Shriners Red Lane and Jim Holt indicate a number of tickets are still available for this classic and can be had at various

stores around town. Heading the list of players taking part in the game are former Vernon coach George Agar and the illustrious Bill Warwick. Two hockey sticks, autographed by Montreal Canadiens will be drawn for at the game.

Vernon News Photo

## Free Ski School Postponed Until Next Sunday

Silver Star Ski Club has announced that Ernie's Esso Free Ski School has been postponed this Sunday because of the Okanagan Alpine Championships.

Ski school will resume the following Sunday, February 25, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

All skiers and any others tak-

ing part in the Skiers' torchlight parade Friday are asked to meet at the Travelodge at 6:45 p.m. Those participating should be in ski clothes.

The ski club's bean feed at the Allison begins at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. Movies will be shown and trophies presented following the feed.

## Buckaroo Forward Don Culley Handed One-Game Suspension

Kelowna Buckaroos will be without forward Don Culley when they host Vernon Junior Canadians in the fifth and deciding game of the Okanagan Junior A Hockey League semi-finals Saturday.

League president Bill Brown today suspended the Kelowna player for one game after studying a referee's report of his actions resulting in a match penalty during a game here Tuesday.

Culley was sent to the dressing room after diving from the penalty box and being wrestled to the ice by referee Bill Neilson in his attempt to carry on a scuffle with Vernon defenceman Harry Wynnychuk.

## Sports Digest

### OJAHL Semi-Finals

Friday: Kamloops at Penticton  
Saturday: Penticton at Kamloops (if necessary)  
Vernon at Kelowna (Series tied 2-2)

### NOHL

Saturday: Head of Lake vs Grandview

Sunday: Armstrong vs Grandview

Grindrod vs Salmon Arm

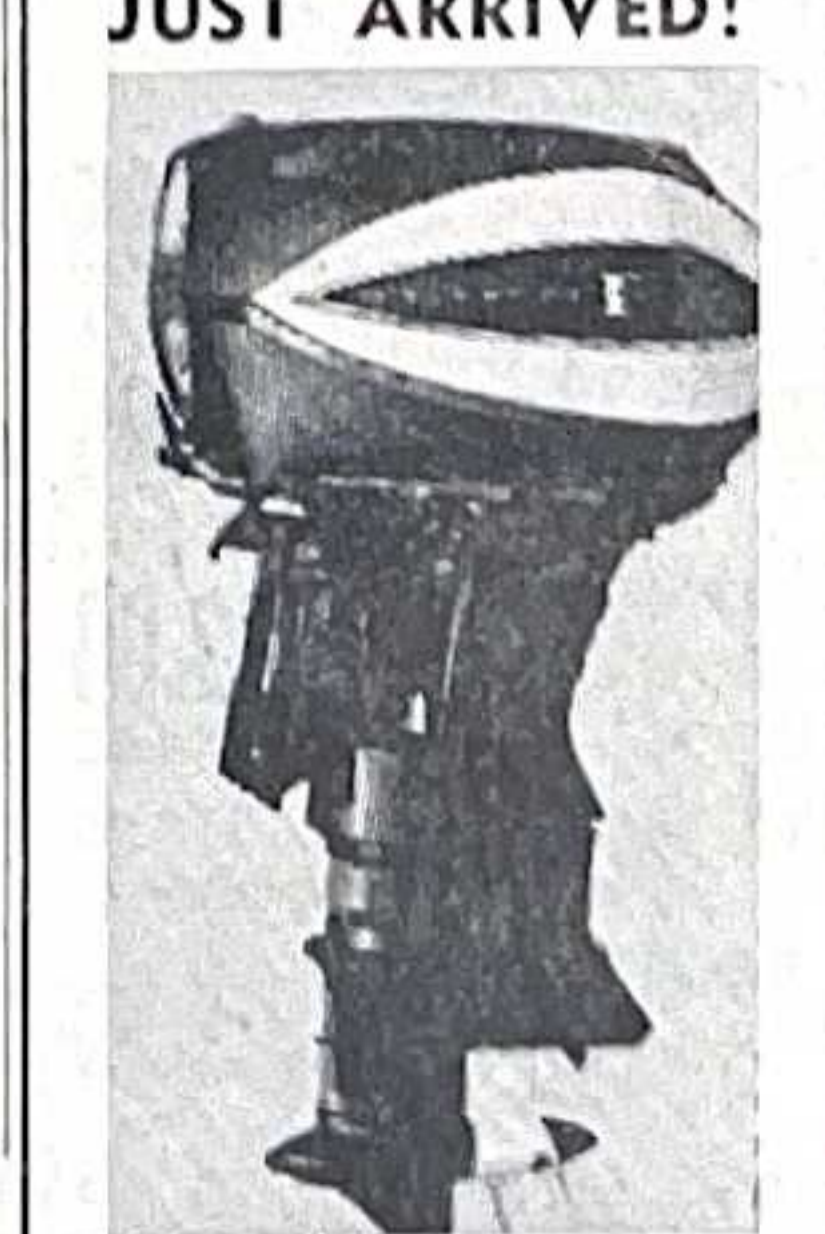
### CURLING

Valentine Bonspiel starts Friday.

### BASKETBALL

Friday: VHS hosts N. Kamloops

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Reg. \$14.98 Cruisers & \$19.95 Jackets  
Pure wool double cruisers and regular carcoats and casual jackets. Most sizes. **\$9.99**

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By TERRY  
STEWART

# Sports ROUND-UP

"His lack of foresight and apparent incompetence in handling league affairs has been the lone dark spot on an otherwise bright season of junior hockey" . . . these words directed to Bill Brown, OMJHL president, by Kamloops Sentinel sports editor Wally Cross.

Backing up this statement, Mr. Cross lists "the shoddy way in which publicity for the league's first All-Star team selection was conducted," and asks indirectly why there has been no official release of final statistics for league play.

Whatever the faults of president Brown, both points are hitting below the belt and because each question made my dander rise previously, I will attempt to enlighten our northern friend.

\* \* \*

It was decided that an all-star squad would be picked by each coach, manager and sports editor in the four cities comprising the league. Association secretary Len Miller sent out forms to each of these persons asking them to give a first, second and third choice of players for each position on the team.

First choice would represent three votes for the player, second choice would represent two votes and the third choice would give the player one vote. The three persons were asked not to vote for players on the home-town club.

However, on the date that these forms were to be turned in, none were received from Stan Kelly of the Penticton Herald or from Mr. Cross in Kamloops. At a league meeting on that date, officials were told by the Kamloops delegation that they might as well forget about hearing from Mr. Cross because to their knowledge he hadn't even attended a junior game in the northern city and wasn't very much interested in who made the all-star team.

Because of this, the forms that were sent in from Kelowna and Vernon newspapers were destroyed and only the votes of coaches and managers were used. Thanks, Mr. Cross.

\* \* \*

As for league statistics . . . league statistician Pete Munoz of Kelowna resigned more than a month ago. Therefore, no final statistics have been compiled and the league scoring champion has not been officially named.

Why did Munoz quit? Earlier in the year, vice-president Bob Taylor of Kelowna allegedly promised the league statistician remuneration for his efforts . . . to the tune of about \$100.

Because a motion to this effect was never put before the executive and was not even discussed at a meeting, the poor boy was never paid.

And why should he be paid? . . . at least three other persons volunteered to do the job for nothing when the league first opened. Right now, final compiling of statistics is open for bid. Would you like the job Mr. Cross? I think you'd find Jackie James did win the league scoring championship.