

Defeat Trail 6-4

Kamloops Rockets Sweep Series For B.C. Title

In the first year of existence, the Okanagan-Mainline Junior A Hockey League boasts a British Columbia representative for Memorial Cup competition.

And after many years of Senior A hockey with the Kamloops Elks and Kamloops Chiefs that city received her first provincial championship last night when the Kamloops Junior Rockets scored two goals in the final minutes to defeat Trail 6-4 and sweep the best of three series 2-0.

Rockets now meet the Alberta representative March 23. Edmonton and Calgary are battling for the Alberta championship.

OMJHL had a bye in B.C. playoffs this season. New Westminster travelled to Trail for the semi-finals and were sent home with two straight defeats.

Kamloops trounced Trail 8-3 in the first game of the finals Tuesday night.

In last night's game, backed by the sensational goaltending of Pete Sternig and led by Larry Bedard's hat trick, some 2,300 fans saw the Rockets take the B.C. title.

Kamloops' Bob Nishimura received a screaming ovation when he swept in for the winner at 18:06 of the third period to give the Rockets a 5-4 lead.

Bill Donaldson, firing from his own end, missed an open Trail net seconds later but a defence-man going back to pick up the puck failed to touch it before Donaldson raced in to sweep it out of the corner and make good the insurance marker with 50 seconds remaining.

