

# Blades Best Bid But Win Denied

## Penalties, Player Lack Hamper Strong Playmaking

KAMLOOPS 5, VERNON 4

The Vernon Blades beat the Kamloops Rockets on ice Tuesday night but drew their third straight zero on the win column.

In fact they gave local fans at the Civic Arena their best hockey display this season, outshooting and outthrusting their foes but failing to outscore them.

They hotly tailed the league-leading Rockets all the way, the equalizer always tantalizingly in reach. Their last goal was scored with 18 seconds left but time ran out, the scoreboard lights blinking with finality, Kamloops 5, Vernon 4.

Why did they lose? Three big reasons stick out sorely: costly penalties which killed or cooled off scoring rallies; a manpower shortage caused by the absence of Ralph Litzenberger, Gordie Kineshanko and Dave Groenhausen; fickle Lady Luck paying court to Kamloops.

### Best Of Play

The surprisingly powerful and spirited Blades dominated most of the game's play, roaming the Rocket end zone at will and peppering 33 shots at goalie Leroy Hart compared to the 28 given in return.

But this was all possible when at full strength. For a gross total of 20 minutes or one full period the Blues had men in the penalty box for various sinful escapades, the most serious being two fighting penalties and a misconduct levied against chippy defenceman Gordie Nuyens.

Coach Bill Brown admitted he could have used Litzenberger to fill out another front line. He also sorely missed Kineshanko, out with a bad charleyhorse.

Kamloops got the breaks when they needed them, especially in the final period. Both their goals scored in this frame came on gambled slapshots from the vicinity of the blue line—shots through a forest of players that Larry Pirnak couldn't see coming. Their lone goal in the second was via the same lucky route.

When Vernon tried it was a different case. Countless shots caromed off the pipes flanking Hart, off his pads, off his skates but rarely through.

### Frustrating Game

In brief it was hard knocking, fast, exciting hockey but frustrating to the nth degree.

Kamloops scored twice in the first, once in the second

and twice again in the final period to grab their win, the brothers Shishido and Eddie Begg topping the point-getting.

For the blue-sweatered Blades it was Buck Sherk who took the honors, scoring two goals and showing great hustle in his spot at center. Dave Mackay was the man to feed him the puck on both occasions.

Other goal gatherers for Vernon were Corky Agar and Jim Stephen, both giving good displays of speed.

John Macko did another outstanding job of policework and executed some fine offensive rushes.

### Nuyens Naughty

Nuyens was like the fabled little girl with the little curl. When he was good he was very very good, stopping Rocket rushes, getting the puck out of his zone, and handling general defensive duties. But when he was bad he was only a handicap to his club's great effort, cooling his temper on the sidelines with two majors.

For the greater portion of the opening period the Blades were settled in the Rocket zone with tent, cot and camp stove but couldn't achieve what they were there for—to score the icebreaker.

Instead the option went to Kamloops, Ron Pilkey backhanding the puck at close range during a scramble around Pirnak. The Blades snarled right back in 14 seconds, Sherk executing a dazzling play, streaking in on the left side and fooling Hart completely with a flick of the stick.

With 52 seconds left in the period Eric Shisido took a bulls-eye pass from brother Terry and caught Pirnak's right corner neatly.

Vernon had Nuyens and Macko in the penitent's pew when the Rockets went for their third. Macko had just returned to the ice and was streaking to the rescue when Terry Shishido snagged a loose puck and drilled it low and hard.

Six minutes had ticked by in the final session when Agar arched a backhand from the point to make it 3 to 2.

### Penalty Kills It

Then Bill Brown's proteges

really put on the squeeze. But Nuyens' second major for fighting on an encounter with Pilkey deadened things and the Rockets launched a return attack.

Ron Recchi, their barrel-shaped defenceman, went for insurance by lashing one high into the net from far out. A minute later Sherk replied, shovelling the rubber by the right corner to cap a spirited attack by the undaunted Blues.

Kamloops put the game way out of reach when Begg scored on a slapshot from center. The Blades valiantly fought back however, Stephen deflecting a pass from team captain Ike Coulter to make it 5 to 4.

Vernon has a return engagement with the Rockets, this time in the Hub City arena, Saturday, November 17.

### Game Summary

First Period: 1. Kamloops, Pilkey (Begg), 12:24; 2. Vernon, Sherk (Mackay), 12:38; 3. Kamloops, E. Shishido (T. Shishido), 19:08. Penalties — Roland (9:10).

Second Period: 4. Kamloops, T. Shishido (Madsen), 9:06. Penalties — Roland (2:17), Macko (6:51), Nuyens, McShane, Wright (8:09), Richards (8:24).

Third Period: 5. Vernon, Agar (Sorochnik), 6:03; 6.

## Mixed 'Spiel Kicks Off Curling Play

A mixed bonspiel to kick off this season's curling activity took place at the Vernon Curling Club on the weekend.

Here are the winning rinks of the four events:

A event: John Corner—Edith Forsyth, A. McDonald and Charles Swonek.

B event: Gordon Henschke—Sheila Henschke, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Fisher.

C event: Morris—

D event: Dobie—Connie, Dick and Mabel French.

Here are the draws for the coming week:

### Thursday, November 15

7:00 p.m.: Bishop bye; McWilliams vs Scott; LeBlond vs Ogasawara; Coley vs Marshland; Jenner vs Wetherill.

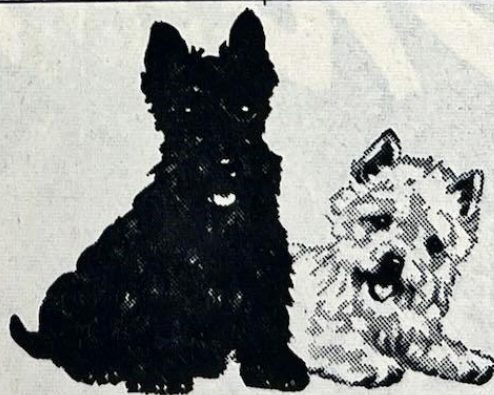
9:00 p.m.: Business Girls.

7:00 p.m.: Sammartino vs Berry; McCulloch, by; Ferguson vs Kinnard; Stephen vs Westone; Mawdsley vs Green.

9:00 p.m.: Shockey vs Schell; French vs Schmidt; Brisco vs Cail; Briggs vs Little; Churchill vs Tinkham.

Sat., November 17, Sun., November 18, 2x4 League 7 to 9 p.m.

Kamloops, Recchi (Richards), 15:40; 7. Vernon, Sherk (Mackay), 16:23; 8. Kamloops, Begg (Sandyke), 18:01; 9. Vernon, Stephen (Coulter), 18:48. Penalties — Pilkey, Nuyens (13:05), McNeil (14:49), Sandyke, Macko (19:35).



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