

New Referee System Arises From OJHL Meet

A new system of refereeing Okanagan Junior Hockey League games will be instituted.

Instead of having a head referee and one linesman, from now on a referee and two linesmen will police all OJHL games.

The decision was made Sunday at a special meeting of the league executive, called to discuss the wrangle arising from the Lowe-Kashuba "rotten refereeing" episode.

A letter of formal apology will be sent to the "suspended" referees Odie Lowe and Alex Kashuba by league president Don White and they will now be allowed to officiate at games.

The new system will be installed throughout the league as soon as a referee-in-chief is appointed. The head ref will then appoint all referees and linesmen to operate in the league.

Blades Plagued By 'Vee Stings'

Hot Penticton Pucksters Get 1st Win Via Vernon

VERNON 5, 4; PENTICTON 6, 3

The Vernon Blades tried sitting on a buzzing "Vee hive" over the weekend and got some nasty stings for their trouble.

The Penticton Junior Vees with their best show of strength this season, stung the locals 6 to 5 Friday night in the Peach City to win their first game in Okanagan Junior Hockey League play.

And Saturday night here in Vernon, although only icing nine players, they led scoring for two and a half periods before bowing to exhaustion and to the Blades 4-3.

In other action over the weekend the league-leading Kamloops Rockets managed a 6-6 tie with the Kelowna Buckeroos in a game played Saturday night in the southern city.

Fired Up

There was no stopping the fired up Vees Friday night even though Vernon enjoyed a 5 to 1 lead at one point. In the third period they blazed in five goals, capitalizing handily on two 10-minute misconducts handed Blade players.

John Macko, ace defence-man, scored two goals for the losers, Dale Sorochnik and Corky Agar also in on pointgetting.

Saturday night it was almost the same story—almost but not quite. Down 3 to 1 in the third period the Blades finally woke up to the fact they were playing against 9 players and powered in three goals, Ike Coulter getting the winner.

The rule book sets 10 players as the bare minimum and anything below that as disaster, but the Vees didn't pay much attention. Although they were outshot 11 to 6 in the first and 20 to 8 in the second they outplayed and outscored the Blades in both periods.

At the end of the first frame they led 2 to 0 and going into the final encounter they still had a two-goal bulge at 3 to 1. They took advantage of Blade complacency and shaky goaltending by rookie Dave Groenhausen to take their lead and used hardhitting defenceman and pokechecking forwards to hold on to it as long as they did.

Smith Big Scorer

Richard Smith was their big point collector, scoring two goals and aiding one. Pint-sized puckster Charlie Cuzzocrea also gave an inspired performance, scoring and assisting once and tireless playing almost the full 60 minutes.

Their goaltender G. Marcellay was a busy man, stopping 46 Blade pucks.

Dale Sorochnik, Corky Agar, Bob Stein and Coulter took care of the Blues' scoring, three of the goals going in unassisted.

But it wasn't the forwards but the patrolmen that starred for the Blades. John Macko, Gordie Nuyens, and Dave Mackay all played good

two-way hockey and were instrumental in getting many power plays started.

Penticton opened the scoring at the six-minute mark of the opening frame when Smith slapped in a shot at close range unassisted. Then, with three minutes left, Cuzzocrea took a pass from Smith and lifted the puck from 30 feet out that Groenhausen flailed at but missed.

Sorochnik Gets First

Sorochnik finally put the Blades on the scoreboard midway through the sandwich session with a fine unassisted effort.

But the high flying green-shirts weren't through yet. While Buck Sherk was sitting out a hooking penalty, the Vees staged their biggest power play of the game which ended with Smith slipping in a backhander from Cuzzocrea and McAstocker during a goalmouth scramble.

The Blades had to wait till the middle of the third period before they could fight back. Agar, who is improving with every game, scored the beauty of the night on a sizzling deflection from the left point. Ralph Litzenberger provided the assist.

With the clock reading five minutes left, Stein let fly a high swooper that caught Marcellay by surprise. This tied the score and sent 200 fans into a frenzy of joy and excitement.

Overtime loomed two minutes away when Coulter

drilled a hard, short shot all by his lonesome to cap it.

Meet Kelowna

The Blades now confront the Kelowna Buckeroos for the third time this season in an attempt to get back into league competition.

Due to the Okanagan Figure Skating Championships here in Vernon Saturday and Sunday the Blades will meet the Buckeroos at the Civic Arena Friday night, travelling to Kelowna Saturday.

It will be the "Kiddies' Night" for the game Friday, all children under 14 years admitted free if accompanied by parents. Students will also get a bargain for this game, admission being 25 cents. Game time is 8:00 p.m. at the arena.