

Dismal Display Staged By Blades

Buccos Explode In Third With Eight-Goal Barrage

KELOWNA 11, 5; VERNON 3, 1

Disaster, dressed in 14 red uniforms, struck Bill Brown and his faltering Vernon Blades full force on the weekend.

The Blades, palying anemic hockey, suffered their most humiliating defeat on home ice this season at the merciless hands of the Kelowna Buckaroos Friday night. The final score was a tragic 11-3.

Then Saturday night in Kelowna, though by a smaller margin, they were skated into the ice again and served a 5 to 1 beating to send them ever deeper into the Okanagan Junior Hockey League underground dungeons.

But the blows didn't end there. Friday night Coach Brown saw one of his defensive stalwarts, Gordie Nuyens, sickeningly crash feet - first into the boards and leave the game and hockey action for a month with a chipped heel bone.

Player Need

This, at a time when Brown is sadly in need of players to beef up a bench that fluctuates in size from game to game. The hunger cries that have been issuing from Penticton may be ringing familiarly in Vernon ears.

Now the hapless blue and whites, with hardly time to gulp a breath of air, must meet the league-leading Kamloops Rockets here Tuesday night. The Rockets will be arriving fresh from making mincemeat of the Penticton Junior Vees by twin 13 to 1 scores.

Friday, though outshooting Kelowna 31 to 25 and holding them close for two periods, the Blades undoubtedly played their worst hockey before home town fans this year.

Offensively they were ineffective or close to it. They could bottle up the Buckaroos in their zone but couldn't score on them. They could start rushes into Kelowna territory but couldn't carry the puck across the blue line. They could pass but there was no one there to receive.

Macko Missed

The defence was just as weak-kneed and suffered from the absence of ace blueliner John Macko. The old bugbear, inability to clear the puck, came back to haunt the Blades with vengeance.

Time and time again Buckaroo forwards fought and foisted their way into the corners, out to the points and in

front of the goal mouth to spray goalie Dave Groenhausen with shots.

Groenhausen's inexperience let some in but inept defencemen helped on others. At least four of the Kelowna goals were scored on loose rebounded shots that the Blade goalie stopped the first time.

Vernon goal scorers were Bobby Stein, Gordie Nuyens and Dale Sorochnik. Stein notched the first one of the game to give the Blades a short-lived lead, Nuyens and Sorochnik added the remainder in the explosive third period.

To claim their 11 to 3 win the Buccos scored three times in the first period and eight times in the final. They had a respectable 5 to 3 lead going for them midway through the period but then they lowered the boom with six unanswered goals to make it a debacle.

Gruber Hotshot

Buckaroos' team captain Bob Gruber had the fattest point statistics, chalking up three goals and three assists. Rookie John Strong showed good late period scoring power to pace Gruber with another hat trick and one helper.



Monday, December 3—

7 p.m.: Business Girls.
9 p.m.: Corner vs Kurbis; Adams vs Dobie; Mills bye; Foord vs Selody; Clark vs Green.

Tuesday, December 4—

7 p.m.: Tinkham vs Hall; Coley vs Briggs; Little bye; McCulloch vs French; Schmidt vs Westone.
9 p.m.: Churchill vs Jenner; Wetherill vs Bishop; Scott bye; Schell vs Ogasawara; McWilliams vs Stephen.

Wednesday, December 5—

All day: Rotary Bonspiel.
7 p.m.: Foord vs Clark; Kurbis bye; Dobie vs Mills; Corner vs Selody; Adams vs Green.
9 p.m.: Kinnard vs Mawdsley; LeBlond vs Ferguson; Shockey bye; Berry vs Marsland; Brisco vs Cail.

The game was another of the usual Vernon - Kelowna penalty marathons. Sixteen were had out for the night, eight apiece. The new OJHL system of refereeing was introduced, Tony Winichuk of Kelowna handling head referee chores assisted by local linesmen Alex Kashuba and Art Davison.

Stein made the Blades look good for a short time in the first period when he capped a pressure play with a neat shot from center to beat Kelowna's Dave Sharples.

Kelowna waited until the 10-minute mark to reply, Gruber forcing the puck in unassisted after being dumped on his first sortie on the Vernon net. Roy Ueda added another one shortly afterward as did Terry Kasubuchi to round out the first period.

Scoreless Period

The second frame was a scoreless see-saw affair highlighted only by six penalties, two for fighting with Gordie Kineshanko and Harvey Stolz as contestants.

The Blades struck back real early in the third to try and close the 3 to 1 gap. Fourteen seconds had elapsed when Nuyens aimed an unassisted slap shot from the left point that caught Sharples dead.

Then the Buccos flaunted some of their undoubted superiority with Don Evans and Ralph Kirschner scoring a quick pair to make it 5 to 2. Both were hard, quick shots that slipped through Groenhausen's left corner.

Sorochnik whistled the puck out of a scramble of players and into the netting to set the Blades on the scoring path again, with 15 minutes to play.

Six Goals

But the Buckaroos brought down their curtain with a clang as they ripped in six straight goals starting with Terry Kasubuchi's second counter at the 10-minute mark.

Strong applied the squeeze along with Thomas and Stolz to collect two goals and then Gruber notched his second to make it 9 to 3. With two minutes remaining Strong pounded in his third puck, leaving Gruber to complete his hat trick and end the nightmare in the dying seconds.

In the Saturday night game in the Orchard City Corky Agar got the lone goal for the Blades. Phil Larden, Ken Hamanishi, Harvey Stolz, Ron Lakes and Terry Kasubuchi countered for the victorious Buccos.

Rockets Hit Triple Figures In Goalgetting

The Kamloops Rockets continued their so far insurmountable dominance of the Okanagan Junior Hockey League over the weekend by lambasting the cellar-dwelling Penticton Vees twice by identical 13 to 1 scores.

Their goal-scoring prowess zoomed them into triple figures in the "total goals for" column. They now have 123 goals to 42 against.

The Kelowna Buckaroos kept pace by beating the hapless Vernon Blades 11 to 3 and 5 to 1 in two weekend meetings. The Blades have failed to win a single game against either of the front-running clubs and are slipping, along with the Vees, into deeper oblivion.

OJHL Standings

	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Kamloops	12	0	2	123	42	26
Kelowna	10	2	2	91	46	22
Vernon	3	11	0	42	72	6
Penticton	1	13	0	24	120	2