



Corky Cracks Through

Snagging a breakaway pass and streaking in on Penticton netminder Ron Spafford for his second goal of the night is Corky Agar, rookie forward flash of the Vernon Blades junior hockey club. Son of ex-Senior "A" Canadian player-coach George Agar, now with Los Angeles Blades, Corky scored two goals and assisted once to help Vernon to an 11-0 blasting of the Penticton Junior Vees here Saturday night. —Photo by Bill Hautala.

Buccos Sitting Pretty Beside Cooled Rockets

Standings in the Okanagan Junior Hockey League took on a new shape following action during the past week.

The Kelowna Buckaroos, with not-so-surprising 6-4 and 5-2 decisions over the Kamloops Rockets, grabbed a share of first place in the league, so long the sole possession of the latter club.

The Vernon Blades also resumed their climb out of the OJHL depths by winning two games from the rejuvenated but badly inexperienced Pen-ticton Junior Vees.

OJHL Standings

	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Kam.	14	2	2	142	55	30
Kel.	14	2	2	129	55	30
Ver.	5	13	0	60	87	10
Pent. ...	1	17	0	29	162	2

Howie Bombs Ex-Mates To Lead Blade Upsurge

Revamped Vees Show Spirit But Fall To Inexperience

By BILL HAUTALA

VERNON 5, 11; PENTICTON 2, 0

'Twas a black lament sung in the camp of the Penticton clan following hockey battle Saturday night.

They had just watched former kinsman Howie McNeil, now playing the role of a dashing Blade, lead the Vernon junior puck tribe to a pair of convincing back-to-back victories over them.

Ex-Junior Vee McNeil, a broth of a boy and a sharp-shooting center, wielded his stick like a deadly claymore to score four goals, assist on six others, and register 10 fat points against his forsaken brethren.

Friday night in Penticton he collected his first three for the weekend on a goal and two assists as the Blades took the Vees 5 to 2 in a wild, brawling affair. Then here at the Civic Arena Saturday he went berserk, recording a hat trick and setting up four other goals to pace Vernon to an 11 to 0 whitewash.

Explosive Power

McNeil's explosive display of scoring power along with that shown by other Blade forwards, Bobby Stein, Corky Agar, Gordy Kineshanko and Ike Coulter indicated the Blades are seriously striving to become a powerful and competitive force in the Okanagan Junior Hockey League.

Although some of their old and once disastrous mistakes cropped up occasionally the Blues by and large couldn't do a thing wrong on the weekend. Passing and puckhandling was clicking and positional play looked better than it ever has this season.

The defence showed cool heads when cornered in their

zone and checked well. The goaltending was competent though sometimes shaky.

Next weekend the Vernon juniors will test whether they have improved when they meet the Kelowna Buckaroos. The Buccos now hold down a share of first place after beating the Kamloops Rockets twice last week, 6-4 and 5-2.

Vees Show Spirit

During their Friday game the Vees demonstrated they had improved in one team essential—spirit. Yelled on by their volatile new coach Bill Barlee they gave the Blades a real fight in the early stages of the game before succumbing.

They held Vernon to a scoreless draw in the first period and then opened the game up early in the second with a goal. The Blades came back with three goals starting at the 13-minute mark, Agar, McNeil and John Macko scoring in that order.

Buck Sherk added another after one minute of the final stanza, Penticton countered thanks to Richard Smith, and then Dale Sorochuk put the game away for good with a hotly-disputed marker.

Despite the protests of Blade coach Bill Brown the game was played with one referee and one linesman, contrary to new league rules which state a head referee and two linesmen must be present.

As a result the game got completely out of hand and proved to be one of the roughest and chippiest this season. Eighteen penalties were handed out, split evenly between each club.

Fan Joins Fray

The most explosive moment was late in the final period when Sherk tangled with Penticton's Gil Goodman. Besides drawing five minutes for fighting Sherk got a misconduct and left the game. As he was stepping off the ice an enraged, unruly fan shoved at him and also started abusing other Vernon players.

No attempt was made by either the referees or the arena management to remove the fan and the situation came close to getting out of control. Brown said after the game he would protest to league president Don White.

Saturday night's game was a lopsided affair, Penticton icing only nine players and putting up no struggle except in the third period.

The Blades scored five goals in the opening period, four in the second and two late in the final frame for their second straight win.

Three Straight

Gordie Kineshanko potted three consecutive goals and aided another to pace McNeil, Corky Agar scored twice and assisted once as did Bobby Stein. The other Vernon marksman was centerman Ike Coulter who amassed a five-point total for the weekend.

Fans Saturday also saw the return of defenceman Gordie Nuyens to hockey action after sitting out two weeks with a chipped ankle bone. The hustling, hardhitting blueliner looked as if he had never been off the ice and played one of his better games.

Goaltender Dennis Taylor, though unsteady at times, came up with the clutch saves to record his first shutout in junior hockey play.