

More Vees Mean Added Troubles

Blades Held To Four Goals By Strengthened Penticton

VERNON 4, PENTICTON 3

When the Vernon Blades first stepped on the ice Tuesday night to do battle with the Penticton Junior Vees they found more than the usual number of green-sweatered bodies confronting them.

And after sixty minutes of hockey they more than knew it.

Starting the game with the probable intention of scoring fast and loose over the Okanagan Junior Hockey League's doormat the Blades ended up fighting tooth-and-nail to hold on to a 4-3 decision before a small coterie of surprised fans sprinkling Vernon's Civic Arena.

From the way they played and the score they managed it was quite evident the local juniors had a colorless night.

Though still showing many weaknesses, the Junior Vees on the other hand, put sharp teeth into a warning voiced by their coach Bill Barlee last week.

Barlee had said his meagre club would have a full quota of competitive players, at home and on the road, for the remainder of the year and henceforth would give the rest of the OJHL troubles.

And troubles the Blades got, thirteen of them.

Though outshot 41-17 and bottled in their own zone most of the time the Vees still found occasions to break out and score. At the end of the first period they led 1-0, allowed four Vernon goals in the second, and then dominated scoring in the third with two more.

Any bad slip by Blade defencemen such as occurred in the Kamloops game Saturday or any failure on the part of substitute goaltender Dave Groenhausen and Penticton could have tied or won the contest.

It was only Vernon's superior positional play coupled with their angry determination not to fall victim to a weaker club that spelled the difference.

The Blades had umpteen opportunities to add to their four-goal count but failed, largely through badly-timed passing and shooting and the alertness of a much-improved Ron Spafford, the Penticton netminder.

They also seemed to forget there was a blue line between center ice and Spafford and were called innumerable times on careless off-sides.

It was only in the middle period that they clicked consistently, scoring four unanswered goals to wipe out Penticton's early lead.

Gordie Kineshanko was the Vees' nemesis again, collecting two of the four goals. Buck Sherk and Ralph Litzenberger who rarely ever have poor nights, notched the other couple.

With his goal Sherk extended his scoring streak to seven straight games. The last time he was blanked for a full 60 minutes was back on December 22 against Kelowna, so it appears he may be heading for a record.

Bob Stein, Ike Coulter, and Dave MacKay all collected two assists apiece for the Blades.

For Penticton it was Mike McAstocker, Terry Wilson, and Gil Goodman who handled goal-getting. Wilson also got an assist.

Absent from Vernon's lineup were goaltender Gary Holland and winger Dale Sorochnik. Groenhausen, called up at short notice to replace Holland, played gamely but shakily between the pipes.

To cover the hole left by Sorochnik coach Hap Schaefer did some line shuffling. He used regular defenceman John Macko up front and also put Jim Stephen on the wing for power plays.

The game turned out to be one of the cleanest of the season, referee Art Davison issuing only six penalties divided evenly between the two clubs.

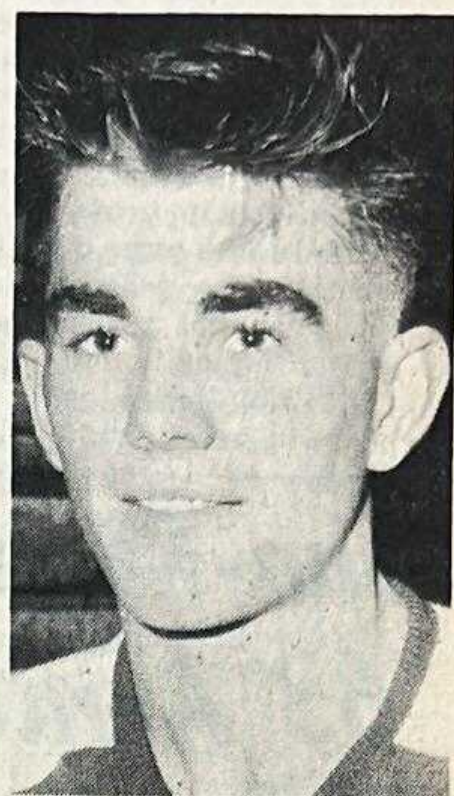
McAstocker opened scoring for Penticton in the first frame, sweeping in on Groenhausen with a Wilson pass that he couldn't cover.

Twenty-two seconds into the middle frame Sherk tied it up with a short, hard drive past Spafford's left corner. Kineshanko clicked a minute later with a Coulter pass on the point and then got number two on a neat deflection from MacKay at center ice.

The game's dazzler was left to be scored by the hustling, heady, Litzenberger who backhanded the puck from a difficult angle to cap a determined effort.

Wilson flashed in on the Vernon net six seconds after the opening third period faceoff for Penticton's second goal and then at the five-minute mark Goodman launched a long dribbler that Groenhausen misjudged.

Saturday night the Blades pay their last visit to Kam-



BUCK SHERK

... seven-game streak

loops in the regular season, hoping to collect one more win from the powerful Rockets. The following weekend they end the shortened schedule with back-to-back clashes with the Kelowna Buckaroos.

Pee Wee Reps Play During Hockey Week

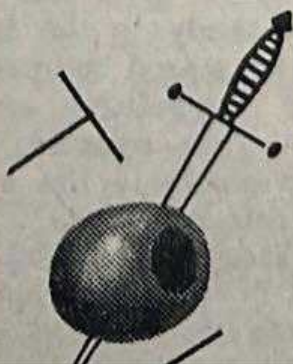
The Pee Wee Rep team, coached by Fred Worth, will travel to Kelowna, Sunday, January 27 to play an exhibition game with the Kelowna Pee Wee Reps.

On Saturday, February 2 the Vernon Reps take on the Penticton Reps in another exhibition tilt in Penticton.

Game time for the January 27 meeting with Kelowna is 5 p.m., the team leaving at 3:15 p.m. The game at Penticton is at 7:30 p.m. and the team leaves here at 5 p.m.

Transportation arrangements have been made with the parents of the players for both games. An invitation to watch the Reps play is extended to all parents as both games are in conjunction with National Minor Hockey Week.

Veteran quarterback Y. A. Tittle of the New York Giants threw 33 touchdown passes during the regular 1962 season to establish an all-time National Football League record.



Longer OJHL Playoff Series For Hockey Fans This Year

Okanagan junior hockey fans will see more playoff action this year.

Instead of two best-out-of-five semi-final and final series there will now be two big best-out-of-seven series for each.

As a result the regular Okanagan Junior Hockey League season will be cut by eight games with final action ending Saturday, February 2.

This was the unanimous decision taken by league officials at the regular executive meeting held Sunday morning here in Vernon.

The change was made to give each city in the OJHL loop a more equal share of playoff games and so increase attendance and gate receipts.

It was felt that a five-game series would give one particular city a distinct advantage in this respect and an ex-

tended playoff would help everybody in the league. Last year's high attendance during the playoffs largely sparked the change.

The playoffs are scheduled to start shortly after February 2, final dates being decided as soon as the league winner is known. The OJHL playoff champion must be declared by March 11.

Other business dealt with at the meeting concerned the payment of referees and executive moved to assess each club \$25 to cover payment during the playoffs. Referee-in-Chief Blair Peters was given authority to choose all referees working in the playoffs.

One or possibly two exhibition games between Father Bauer's UBC hockey squad and a team made up of OJHL all-stars excluding the league champions may also be in the offing.

A committee was formed including Carl Sorensen, Bob Giordano, Tom Wilson and Don Brown to study the matter and arrange some games after the playoffs are over.

Untouchables Still Lead Bantam Race

Team standings in the