

# Bucs Nab 2-Game Edge In Playoffs

## Score Four Goals In Third Before Large Arena Crowd

KELOWNA 5, VERNON 2

Kelowna Buckaroos may have sown seeds of doubt as to their winning fair and square on home ice last Saturday but here in Vernon Tuesday night they made plenty sure they skated away with a convincing victory in tow.

Held tight for two periods by a stubborn and stiff-checking Vernon Blades defence and a seemingly impregnable goaltender, they broke loose for four goals, three unanswered in the third period, to emerge on the fat end of a 5-2 score.

The win put them two games up on the Blades in the scheduled best-out-of-seven Okanagan Junior Hockey League semi-final series. They had earlier beaten Vernon 6-5 in a hotly disputed overtime game in the Orchard City last Saturday.

Whoever takes the semi-final will meet the Kamloops Rockets, conceded winners after two games of their series with the Penticton Junior Vees.

### Largest Crowd

Vernon Civic Arena had its largest crowd of the OJHL season Tuesday night. Approximately 1,000 boisterous fans, both hometowners and Kelowna rooters, raised the roof beams with chants of "Dig, Vernon, Dig" and "Go Bucks, Go."

Proceedings were enlivened and play was stopped at one point in the first period when a fight broke out, not between players as expected, but between opposing fans.

Police were called to eject the disturbers and stayed to protect the Buckaroos from needling backbenchers. Eggs were thrown during the third period and scraper-boys were busy removing frozen omelets off the ice. All in all a bing-bang affair in true playoff tradition.

Vernon Blades, except in fits and starts, never lived up to the playoff spirit emitted by their fans. They weren't the team that had the Buckaroos clawing for life last Saturday.

Though jumping to a 1-0 lead early in the first period they couldn't keep a sustained attack working against Kelowna. This was especially evident during moments when they had a man advantage and ample opportunity to score.

### Holland Impressive

The Bucks were able at times to bottle them up quite badly and through most of the second period rained a hail of pucks at Gary Holland, collecting only one goal, however, thanks to his impressive gymnastics around the net.

Vernon got some good shots away on the Kelowna goal too, but Sid Shussel played equally as well as Holland.

The third period and Bob Gruber decided the issue firmly for the Buckaroos. Gruber broke a 2-2 tie early in the final period with what turned out to be the winning goal, then assisted on the fifth and last marker.

Vernon's defence, which had effectively shattered most of Kelowna's line rushes through the first two periods, loosened up and you can't loosen up against a club like Kelowna, especially in the third period. They'll break you every time and they did.

Blade blueliners, probably through over-enthusiasm, started forechecking too deeply, leaving no bodies back. As a result Buckaroo forwards reached Holland at better range and picked up three soft goals.

Penalties didn't help the Blades in the third either. They picked up four to the Bucks' two which hindered comeback attempts. Fourteen altogether were assessed by referee Tony Wynnychuk, eight to Vernon.

### Shots Equal

Shots on goal ended up equal, 28-28. Vernon outshot Kelowna 8-6 in the first, were bested 12-9 in the second and, not counting goals scored, had an 11-10 edge in the last period.

Big winger Howie McNeil, who played a good, hard-hitting game all night, put the Blues out in front at 1:45 of the first period, lashing a drive high into the net over Shussel's shoulder. Defenceman Dave MacKay assisted.

They had a few more good chances in that period, Bobby Stein and Buck Sherk coming very close to getting shots past Shussel.

At about the six-minute mark of the middle session Kelowna's Gord Odegard tied it up, slamming in a rebounder off a sprawling Holland. Ralph Kirschner made the scoreboard read 2-1 at 7:44 into the third when he scooped up a Fred Thomas pass near the goal mouth and slipped it in.

Defenceman John Macko, who hasn't had a goal in some time, picked up a beauty to lock the count at 2-2. He caught Stein's rebounded pick in mid-air and batted it in.

Within a minute Gruber put the Bucks out in front to stay, blasting a Stolz-Thomas pass from the point that got through Holland's pads. Another 60 seconds ticked away and Ron Lakes scored a questionable goal from within the crease. Terry Kasubuchi ended scoring at 17:35, his shot deflecting off Corky Agar's skate through an open corner.

Hap Schaefer and his Blades will be seeking to narrow the Buckaroo's playoff edge this Friday in Kelowna,



JOHN MACKO

... scored a beauty

returning here Saturday for the fourth game of the semi-final. Game time is 9:00 p.m. All Vernonites are urged to fill up the arena and support the hometown juniors.

### Game Summary

First Period: 1. Vernon, McNeil (MacKay), 1:45. Penalties: Gruber (1:50), Sorochuk (12:10), Kasubuchi (17:04), Sherk (19:36).

Second Period: 2. Kelowna, Odegard (Kirschner, Chisholm), 6:21. Penalties: Stolz (6:48), Macko (11:25), Wishlow (14:23), Nuyens (19:40).

Third Period: 3. Kelowna, Kirschner (Thomas) 7:44. 4. Vernon, Macko (Stein), 12:06. 5. Kelowna, Gruber (Thomas, Stolz), 13:02. 6. Kelowna, Lakes (Ueda, Kasubuchi), 14:25. 7. Kelowna, Kasubuchi (Gruber), 17:35. Penalties: Wishlow (10:06), Sherk (11:47), McNeil (16:00), Thomas (17:35), Nuyens (17:35), Nuyens (19:57).

## Valentine 'Spiel Changes Draw

Because of the Valentine Bonspiel being held Friday, Saturday and Sunday of this week, regular curling club play will be postponed until Monday.

In addition the Ladies' Afternoon Curling Club, whose regularly scheduled draw is this Friday, will resume action Tuesday.

**TIRES  
BATTERIES**

**Accessories**

**LARGEST STOCK IN  
THE INTERIOR!**

**VALLEY TIRE**

**Service Ltd.**

**3505 31st Avenue**

**Phone Linden 2-4245**

**DO IT NOW**

**at Every Day Low, Low Prices**