

Short-Staffed Blues Thumped Quesnel 11-4

Caribou Jrs. Show Size, Spirit, But Far Below Local Calibre

VERNON 11, QUESNEL 4

A Cariboo junior hockey platoon, 16 strong, invaded Vernon on a reconnaissance expedition Saturday and experienced a decisive moment of truth.

The platoon, Quesnel Wongs, travelled more than 300 miles to discover they have another fair piece of distance to traverse before reaching the calibre of junior hockey played here in the Okanagan-Mainline circuit.

The Wongs were trounced 11-4 by the Vernon Blades in a lopsided exhibition encounter at the Civic Arena Saturday night before about 100 curious spectators out to see what the North could offer.

What they offered wasn't much, though it showed latent promise. They had the size and all the spirit and stamina to go with it but were hopelessly outclassed by the Blades in basic hockey fundamentals—passing, puckhandling and positional play.

Only Eight Juniors

And even then they didn't get a completely clear picture of average junior hockey strength in the OJHL. The Blades, who finished third in the league this year and were just recently eliminated from the semi-final playoffs, only had eight regular juniors in their lineup.

Missing were playoff stalwarts like goaltender Gary Holland, forwards Bobby Stein and Buck Sherk and defenceman Dave Mackay.

So coach Hap Schaefer used midget Dennis Taylor in goal and four juveniles including Wayne Wutzke, Bob Ouchi, Alan Rogan and Ted Palm out on the line.

It didn't seem to make too much difference. They clobbered Quesnel convincingly enough with their makeshift club, jumping to a 9-0 lead on five unanswered goals in the first period and four in the second before the Wongs could reply.

When they did it was fast and sudden as they rapped in four straight, one in the dying seconds of the middle frame and three to open the final stanza. Vernon, in fact, were outscored in the third period, countering only twice after the Quesnel barrage.

Only some sharp goaltending by the Wongs' Len Fox, especially in the later stages,

Curling Draws

Tuesday, February 26

Ladies afternoon curling.
1. Munk vs Forsythe; 2. Le-Blond vs Weir; 3. Davis vs Fee; 4. Ryall vs Rehill; 5. Thorarinson vs Henschke. (Maynard, Wells bye).

kept the Blades from adding to their 11-goal total as they outshot the visitors 47 to 19 and controlled almost all the play around the net.

Kineshanko Scores Four

Winger Gordie Kineshanko erupted for four goals and one assist to pace the Blade attack, Corky Agar bagged a brace and assisted once, John Macko scored once and set up three more while other single tallies went to Howie McNeil and juveniles Wutzke, Palm and Ouchi.

Defenceman Bill Fowler, nicknamed "Moose" and his size didn't lie, scored three of Quesnel's goals, one unassisted. Team captain Don Larson notched the remaining single while Lou Magnusson was credited with two assists, both on Fowler's goals.

The Wongs, by the average size of their players, must have outweighed Vernon by some generous poundage but never once did they exhibit any undue roughness. They appeared too busy trying to feel out their strange foe to do any hard knocking.

All four penalties called by referee Don Jakes went to Vernon. Captain Jim Stephen collected three of these, one in each period.

More than 10 minutes elapsed before Vernon hit the scoreboard full blast in the first period. John Macko started off their nine-goal string at 13:18 on a beautiful play, stickhandling through the entire Quesnel team and dumping it under Fox unassisted.

Then, with less than three minutes remaining, the Blades powered in four quick ones, Wutzke, Agar, Kineshanko and McNeil scoring in that order.

Applied Pressure

In the second period the Blues continued to apply merciless pressure and four more goals were counted up, thanks to Palm, Kineshanko, Ouchi and Agar.

Fowler opened for Quesnel late in the period, scored unassisted with a man advantage, 29 seconds into the third, and again at 4:17. In between, Larson counted at 2:22 with help from defenseman Thane Friesen.

Kineshanko scored shortly after Fowler's final goal of the night and wrapped up the game at 19:08 with a backhand from Macko.

While the Blades were

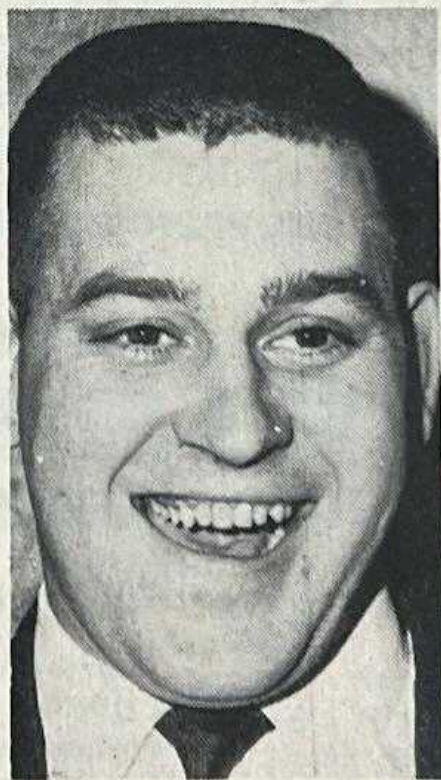
busy disposing of Quesnel, the Kelowna Buckaroos were soundly beating Kamloops Rockets 7-3 in the first game of their OJHL final in Kelowna. It was a rough opener with 22 penalties recorded in all.

Vernon goes on the road next Saturday when they visit Quesnel for a return match with the Wongs. Manager Bill Brown hopes at least 12 juniors will be able to make the trip.

Luckies Look To '63 Season With Day

Vernon Luckies will have some added and awesome power in their lineup for 1963 Okanagan-Mainline Baseball League season this year.

Joining the likes of the brothers Kashuba, Keckalo, Wheelhouse and so forth, is Lee Day, a 22-year-old slug-



LEE DAY
... power, utility

ger formerly of the Kelowna Labatts but now hanging his hat in Vernon.

Day, a big, beefy gent, wielded a mean bat for the Labatts last year, managing a more-than-respectable .350 average and swatting 10 home runs.

He doesn't just spell power, he spells utility too. During his 3½ years in the OMBL circuit, he has been a catcher, an outfielder and had stints at first base.

Also, and this really brings the smile to coach Vern Dye's face, he is capable of switch-hitting. In past he hasn't done much of it but this year he intends to give this rare ability more attention.

All in all a valuable player for the Luckies to have around when they set out in April to try and win back the league championship from Merritt.