

OJHA Seek Reduction Of Suspension

The Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey Association executive will endeavour to arrange a meeting with the executive of the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association sometime in December to discuss and possibly reduce the severity of a suspension imposed on Kelowna Buckaroo defenceman Ken Kitsch.

This decision came about following a special meeting of the OJHA held here in Vernon Monday night.

The suspension in question was imposed on Kitsch for a year by BCAHA president Dr. Leo Margolis of Nanaimo after reading a referee's report concerning an incident in a Vernon-Kelowna junior hockey game when Kitsch swung his stick at a Vernon player in retaliation for a cross-check.

The OJHA executive also will give its full support to the handling and reporting of the incident by referee Tony Winichuk of Kelowna who has been unduly criticized by some Valley fans for this situation.

Those present at the meeting Friday unanimously agreed that a senior club should be formed. Consideration was given as to whether the club should play two periods per week or whether it would be better to confine it to one period for the commencement at least. Saturday afternoons, after some discussion, were set as the times to play, at least for the time being.

Considerable discussion was given the question of rink rentals and dues. Kinnard explained that the executive of the Vernon Curling Club was meeting at the same time and they were to give consideration as to what they could do insofar as charges were concerned.

He said there should be some small amount, at least, added to dues, over and above the rink costs, and particularly mentioned the desirability of members paying sufficient so that the Vernon Curling Club could affiliate the members of the Senior club, who were not also members of the regular club, within the B.C. Curling Association.

It was finally decided that Kinnard and Wallace, the latter being a member of the Board of the Vernon Curling Club, should discuss the question of fees with the directors, and report back at a later meeting.

For A Job Well Done

Dr. E. M. "Mac" Stevenson, president of the Okanagan-Mainline High School Football League, presents big, two-way tackle Roger Scales with the Most Valuable Player Trophy for his outstanding performance at offensive and defensive tackle for the champion Vernon Panthers who beat Penticton Golden Hawks 25-13 in the "Little Grey Cup" playoff final here. Scales, a four-year veteran with the Panthers, played his last high school football game Saturday.

Scorers Lead Too

Rockets Still Roaring Along Atop Junior League

Latest statistics show the Kamloops Rockets are threatening to run away and hide with the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League title.

In seven games played to date the Rockets have amassed an enviable six-win, one-loss record for a total of 12 points, four better than their closest rival, Kelowna Buckaroos, back in second with eight points on four wins.

Tailing the pack with a paltry two wins in nine starts are the hapless Vernon Blades who have suffered the sorry consequences of a slow start this season.

As in league standings so the Rockets lead in individual scoring. Winger Eric Shishido, at last count, had collected a league-leading 14 points on three goals and eleven assists with team mate Larry Roberge hot on his trail with 13 on five goals and seven assists.

There's a hot five-way competition for third place in point-collecting honors with Brian Fourt and Dale Sandyke of Kamloops sharing

their scoring prowess with John Strong and Terry Kasubuchi of Kelowna Buckaroos and Corky Agar of Vernon.

Kamloops' Harvey continues to hog goal-keeping laurels with a fine two-goal a game average, seconded only by standin Lee Simpson with 3.3.

League Standings

	W	L	T	G	F	A	P
Kamloops	6	1	0	43	19	12	
Kelowna	4	4	0	36	47	8	
Vernon	2	7	0	36	49	4	

Top Ten Scorers

	G	A	P
E. Shishido (Kam)	3	11	14
Roberge (Kam)	5	8	13
Fourt (Kam)	6	5	11
Kasubuchi (Kel)	6	5	11
J. Strong (Kel)	6	5	11
Sandyke (Kam)	5	6	11
Agar (Ver)	3	8	11
Richards (Kam)	4	6	10
Stein (Ver)	5	4	9
Stolz (Kel)	4	5	9

Goalkeepers Averages

Budarick (Kam)	4	8	2.0
Simpson (Kam)	3	10	3.3
Woodward (Ver)	9	49	5.4
Robinson (Kel)	6	36	6.0

New Gym Opening Friday

A new gym, located in the basement of Vern's Snooker and Billiards on Barnard Ave., will be opening for registration Friday night at 7 p.m.

The new gym, to be run by long time boxing coach Don MacDonald and known as Don's Gym, will be equipped with boxing, weight lifting and gymnastic equipment.

Assisting Don in the gym as weightlifting instructor will be well-known local sportsman Jack Wheelhouse.

Anyone wishing any information concerning the gym can phone Don at 2-3262. Everybody is welcome to register.

2nd Round Of Pee Wee Slate

The second round of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association's Pee Wee schedule has been released and is as follows:

Saturday, November 9, 8 a.m., Canadians vs Maple Leafs; 9 a.m., Blackhawks vs Redwings.

Thursday, November 14, 5 p.m., Warriors vs Totems; 6 p.m. Panthers vs Stampeders; 7 p.m., Maple Leafs vs Blackhawks.

Saturday, November 16, 8 a.m., Totems vs Panthers; 9 a.m. Canadians vs Redwings.

Thursday, November 21, 5 p.m., Warriors vs Stampeders; 6 p.m., Maple Leafs vs Redwings; 7 p.m. Canadians vs Blackhawks.

Saturday, November 23, 8 a.m. Totems vs Stampeders; 9 a.m., Warriors vs Panthers.

Blades Face Crucial Task On Weekend

If Vernon Blades hope to remain in reasonable contending distance with the rest of the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League they'll have to start doing something about it right away.

And that means this weekend when they play both Kelowna Buckaroos and Kamloops Rockets in back-to-back contests.

The Blades are presently two games off the pace set by second place Kelowna and fully five games behind Kamloops who extended their league lead last night when they whipped the Buckaroos 7-5 in overtime.

Fortunately the Rockets stalled the Buckaroos' climb and left them within distance of the cellar dwelling Blues. But staying within distance is one thing and winning is another and the Blades have to do the latter Friday night in Kelowna or they'll be three games back.

Saturday night hometown fans will once again see Kamloops Rockets in action at the Civic Arena and another victory over the league leaders could alter standings considerably, contingent of course on the Blades' performance in Kelowna the preceding night.

Because two wins in a row would vault the Blueshirts into a tie for second, a highly desirable object but one that may not be lying in reach for long unless the Blades act now.

Game time for the Saturday clash is 9 p.m. at the Civic Arena. Programs will be on sale as usual.



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Bucks Profit On Blades' Laxity

Coulter Leads Locals In Fruitless Bid For Second

KELOWNA 6, VERNON 5

Failure to lock their back door securely cost Vernon Blades their seventh decision of the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League season Tuesday night.

The Kelowna Buckaroos, outplayed through most of two periods and outshot 28 to 18, nevertheless took advantage of a leaky Vernon defence and shaky goaltending by Brian Woodward to squeeze out 6-5 victory before a 300 odd crowd at the Civic Arena.

The win solidly ensconced the Orchard City Cowboys in second place in OJHL standings and at the same time dropped the Blades two games off the pace again. The Vernon juniors had a chance of grabbing a share of second going into Tuesday's action but muffed it.

All of which puts the Blades' remaining games this week in a decidedly crucial light. They replay the Buckaroos in Kelowna Friday and host league-leading Kamloops Rockets here Saturday and another pair of losses would just about sink them out of league contention for the remainder of the season.

Should Have Won

The Blues could, and should have won Tuesday but it was another case of mistakes outweighing whatever advantages they happened to exercise over their opponents.

Shoddy work by the defence accounted for at least two of the six Kelowna goals and Woodward, who obviously had one of his "off" nights as all goaltenders invariably do, "leaked" on another pair.

Not that the offence had much to brag about. Until the third period when it opened to full throttle the Blade scoring machine ran on only one cylinder—the Coulter-Litzenberger-Rogan line.

This, the smallest line on the club, manufactured three of Vernon's five goals and without a particle of doubt kept them in the ball game.

Ike Coulter, the pivot, scored two goals and assisted once in what was by far his best game of the season yet; rightwinger Ralph Litzenberger, a flyweight in size but a heavyweight in hustle, narrowed an early Kelowna 3-0 lead to 3-2 with a goal to open the third period and later set up Coulter on another crucial counter that put the Blades behind 4-3; Allan Rogan, the Blues' promising young rookie, helped engineer both these latter two goals from his spot on left wing.

Pretty Goal

The fourth Vernon goal, one of the prettiest scored, came off the stick of another Blade rookie, Wayne Wutzke. Riding the bench, for reasons unknown, for most of the game, Wutzke was finally allowed on the ice late in the third period and he was no sooner in the play than he had a goal, unassisted, to tie the game at 4-4.

Buck Sherk was credited with the fifth and final Blade tally, a hotly disputed goal

that, to most arena observers, never was a goal. However referee Don Jakes ruled otherwise, provoking the ire of Kelowna coach Don Culley in the process.

Terry Kasubuchi, the Buckaroos' speedster, newly signed import and ex-Edmonton Oil King Richard Bulach, and Prince George import Gordie Schnepf led Kelowna in scoring. Kasubuchi scored two goals, Bulach added another and two assists and Schnepf fired home the winner late in the third period as well as assisting twice.

Marcello Verna and John Strong fired in singletons to wrap up Kelowna's goal-getting.

The game was the usual Vernon-Kelowna headknocker with roughness at a maximum and tempers at a minimum. However only 11 penalties were issued, the most serious being a 10-minute misconduct to Vernon's Gordie Kineshanko for protesting a two-minute summons to the box and twin five-minute levies on Sherk and Kelowna's Doug Chisholm for mixing it up in the corner late in the third period. No penalties figured in scoring.

At a Loss

As far as playing hockey went, the Blades were at a complete loss in the first period of Tuesday's game and the Buckaroos took advantage of their sad state to rap in a pair of quick goals.

The first one came at 10:24 when, with the Blades bottled in their own zone, Verna roared in front of the goalmouth to flip a short shot over the sprawling Woodward. Four minutes later Strong snagged a loosely cleared puck and rifled in a low sizzler.

Kasubuchi made it 3-0 for Kelowna early in the sandwich session when he backhanded a 15-footer from the left side that Woodward had no chance on.

Coulter ended what looked like a Buckaroo runaway at 7:09 when he lofted a high shot from just inside the blueline with Gordie Nuyens assisting.

Neither of the other two lines were able to narrow

the count and it was left to Litzenberger at 1:39 of the third period to put the Blades back into contention. He scored on a rebound off the right post, slapping the puck through a postage stamp hole.

Dropped Puck

Then came the first of Woodward's two "groaners." The young goaltender looked to have snared a hard shot by Bulach but the puck dropped from his glove and trickled through his pads into the net.

Back came Coulter and the Blades 40 seconds later to make it 4-3, the centre man neatly deflecting a pass from Litzenberger and Rogan.

This was the cue for Wutzke's entrance and a great one it was. Getting possession of the puck from a faceoff to the left of the Kelowna goal the lanky, awkward-looking forward stickhandled in beautifully on Dave Macklin and flammed the puck under his flailing body.

With the score 4-4 Kasubuchi suddenly stunned the cheering fans with another picture goal down at the other end and seven seconds after that Schnepf hung a high floater that caught Woodward looking.

Sherk's goal came at 17:33 although there was some doubt whether it was a goal. Culley screamed long and loud but his only reward was a bench penalty.

The Blades pulled Woodward in the final minute but failed to force overtime.

Game Summary

First period: 1. Kelowna, Vernon (R. Bulach) 10:24. 2. Kelowna, J. Strong (unassisted) 14:44. Penalties—Kineshanko, 6:54; Schnepf, 11:31.

Second period: 3. Kelowna, Kasubuchi (Verna, Chisholm) 2:35. 4. Vernon, Coulter (Nuyens) 7:09. Penalties—D. Bulach, 8:06; Tantrum, 10:26.

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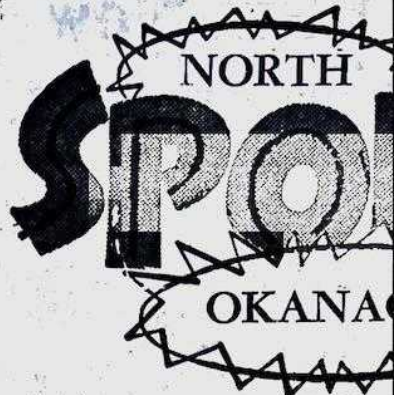
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Annual Booster Drive

The Vernon Minor Hockey Association's annual booster drive fell far short of expectations Wednesday night because only half the areas were covered.

Ladies' Curling Registration Deadline Soon

Anyone wishing to join the Vernon Ladies Curling Club are reminded that the deadline for entering rinks is Tuesday, November 12.

For registration please contact Mrs. Cliff Fee at 542-7518. The season opens Nov. 25 and ladies are asked to note that babysitters will be available at all afternoon sessions.

Third period: 5. Vernon, Litzenberger (Rogan, Coulter) 1:39. 6. Kelowna, R. Bulach (Schnepf) 12:09. 7. Vernon, Coulter (Litzenberger, Rogan) 12:49. 8. Vernon, Wutzke (unassisted) 16:01. 9. Kelowna, Kasubuchi (R. Bulach, Schnepf) 17:10. 10. Kelowna, Schnepf (unassisted) 17:17. 11. Vernon, Sherk (unassisted) 17:33. Penalties—Wildemann, 9:18; Kineshanko (misconduct) 10:31; Schnepf, Verna (bench penalty) 17:33; Chisholm, Sherk 18:59.

Shots:
Woodward 9 5 4-18
Macklin 8 8 12-28

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