

# Blades Sinking Down And Down

## Contention Hopes Falter With Double Weekend Loss

KELOWNA 7, VERNON 4  
KAMLOOPS 6, VERNON 2

Vernon Blades mired themselves deeper into the cellar of the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League on the weekend and it looks as if it could be a permanent resting place unless a sudden about-face is made in a hurry.

Looking less and less like the mighty team they were supposed to be on paper when the season started a month ago the Blades dropped their eighth and ninth decisions in 11 starts to Kelowna Buckaroos and Kamloops Rockets and in the process dropped farther out of OJHL contention.

Friday night in Kelowna they outplayed and outscored the Buckaroos in the first two periods, then blew a 3-1 lead in the final 20 minutes to end up 7-4 fall guys to the Cowboys who, by winning, extended their lead over the Blues by six points.

Saturday night before the hometowners they never blew any lead because they never got a lead they could blow. The visiting Rockets rocked them for four goals in the first period, then held fast for a 6-2 victory, their eighth in nine games which put them 10 points up on the Blades.

### Not Pleased

Needless to say coaches Jim Moro and Hap Schaefer were none too pleased with the situation as it stood following that Saturday night game here and they wasted little time letting the players know it.

They called a meeting of the players the following night at which it can be imagined much soul-searching was done by all involved.

Whether the obvious problems plaguing the Blades have been erased or are in the process of being erased fans may find out tonight when their junior hopefuls once again take on the Buckaroos at the Civic Arena.

Whatever the dilemma it can't be short of some immediate solution. That was evident enough for two periods Friday night when the Blueshirts had the Buckaroos on the ropes and desperately battling for survival.

They outshot the Cowboys 11-9 and 19-7 over those two periods and for the whole route an astounding 43-29.

### Stolz Scores Four

But a sad case of third period "shakes" and Buckaroo captain Harvey Stolz combined to dull and dent the up-to-then razor-sharp Blades. Stolz, in a truly tremendous personal performance, scored four times to lead a six-goal comeback in the 20-minute finale, taking full advantage of every Vernon let-down.

John Strong also came on "strong" for the Bucks with two goals and an assist, Marcello Verna fired in the other single marker and ex-Edmonton Oil King Richard Bulach again looked sharp, setting up two goals.

Wayne Wutzke was the big spark for Vernon and continued to show why he rates

a permanent spot on the club. The stringbean winger rattled in two goals to boost the Blades to their early 3-1 lead and worked hard all night.

Dale Sorochnik and Corky Agar scored the remaining two goals, Agar's marker coming in the third period after the Buckaroo barrage had done its damage. Bobby Stein, switched to center on this line, gave evidence that this could be a smart move by Messrs. Moro and Schaefer when he assisted on both goals.

As per usual the game was a penalty-filled frolic with 18 infractions caught by referee Johnny Culos, nine to each club. Gordie Nuyens collected four for Vernon.

### Caught Asleep

Saturday night the Rockets caught the Blades asleep 17 seconds after the opening faceoff when Eric Shishido tipped in utility defenceman-forward Eddie Begg's relay. When they finally awoke at 17:06 with Bobby Stein replying it was too late because in that interval Brian Fourn, Begg and Glen Richards had won the game.

Fourn connected from Richards at 3:01, Begg drove a bullet slapshot through Brian Woodward at 7:02 and Richards made it 4-0 with Larry Roberge assisting at 16:18.

Stein then drilled in a loose puck unassisted to close out the period but this only delayed the inevitable because in the middle session Rocket rearguard Bill Steinke popped in number five and to open the third Begg tallied again from Dale Sandyke and Eric Shishido.

Nuyens struck home with a shot from Agar to end the Blades' dreariest exhibition at 19:37.

The clash was the wildest between the two clubs yet with three fights taking place: Wilf Tantrum and Dale Sandyke, Nuyens and Fourn,

Ken Rodgers and Buck Sherk the prime combatants.

### Friday Game Summary

First Period: 1. Vernon, Wutzke (Nuyens, Sherk) 6:29. 2. Vernon, Sorochnik (Stein) 18:50. Penalties — Agar, Kivisto (roughing) 2:17; MacKay (elbowing) 3:40; T. Strong (hooking) 4:03; Nuyens (tripping) 12:20; Chisholm (holding) 17:28; Nuyens (cross-checking) 19:53.

Second Period: 3. Kelowna, J. Strong (Stolz) 5:25. 4. Vernon, Wutzke (unassisted) 17:02. Penalties—T. Strong (tripping) 9:10; D. Bulach (elbowing) 11:00; Sorochnik (charging) 11:29; Nuyens 18:33.

Third Period: 5. Kelowna, Stolz (unassisted) 0:39. 6. Kelowna, Verna (Kasubuchi,

R. Bulach) 1:25. 7. Kelowna, Stolz (R. Bulach) 5:28. 8. Kelowna, J. Strong (unassisted) 6:03. 9. Kelowna, Stolz (J. Strong) 8:45. 10. Vernon, Agar (Stein) 15:54. 11. Kelowna, Stolz (T. Strong) 18:28. Penalties—Nuyens (elbowing) 4:50; D. Bulach (tripping) 10:02; J. Strong (interference) 10:31; R. Bulach (cross-checking) 12:32; Stephen, T. Strong (roughing) 18:40; Sherk (roughing) 18:59.

Shots: Robinson 11, 19, 13 —43. Woodward 9, 7, 13—29.

### Saturday Game Summary

First Period: 1. Kamloops, E. Shishido (Begg) 0:17. 2. Kamloops, Fourn (Richards, Roberge) 3:01. 3. Kamloops, Begg (E. Shishido) 7:02. 4. Kamloops, Richards (Roberge) 16:18. 5. Vernon, Stein (unassisted) 17:06. Penalties — Tantrum (roughing) 13:16; Tantrum, Sandyke (fighting) 13:16.

Second Period: 6. Kamloops, Steinke (unassisted) 1:30. Penalties — Stephen (clipping) 4:57; Nuyens (trip-

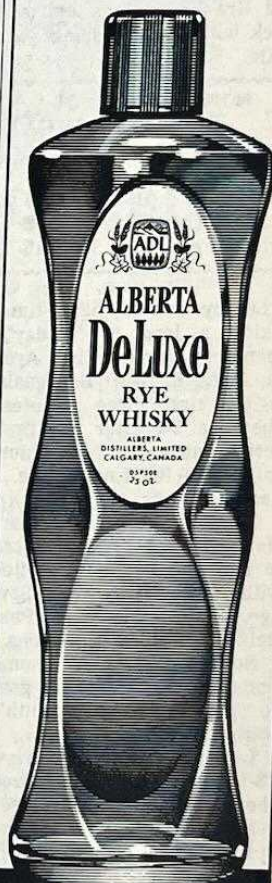
ping) 15:28.

Third Period: 7. Kamloops, Begg (Sandyke, E. Shishido) 8:50. 8. Vernon, Nuyens (Agar) 19:37. Penalties — Nuyens (hooking) 3:37; Nuyens, Fourn (fighting) 10:18; Roberge (high sticking), Sherk (charging) 10:46; Rodgers, Sherk (fighting) 14:05; Sherk (misconduct) 14:05.

Shots: Woodward 9, 13, 11 —33. Simpson 6, 16, 9—31.

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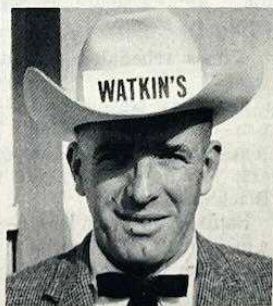
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# SPORT

## Buckaroo Upset Puts Blades 8 Back

Vernon Blades will be trailing Kelowna Buckaroos by eight points, not the six points they may have reckoned on, when they meet the Kelowna club tonight at the Civic Arena.

The Buckaroos in their biggest upset of the season yet, edged Kamloops Rockets, the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League leaders, 5-4 in an

## Juveniles Drop Opener To Summerland

Odie Lowe's Vernon Juveniles got off to an unofficial start Sunday when they fell 9-3 to hosting Summerland in the opening game of the Okanagan Juvenile Hockey League.

Summerland had the edge from the opening whistle and took period leads of 4-1 and 7-2.

afternoon game in Kelowna yesterday.

Which means they are four full games up on the last place Blades and only two behind the Rockets.

In that Monday game Harvey Stolz again was the big sharpshooter with two goals. Richard Bulach, Marcello Verna and Terry Strong added singles. Brian Fourn, Dale Sandyke, Larry Roberge and Eric Shishido replied for Kamloops.

Don Brown, manager of the Rockets, has indicated he will protest the game over a Kamloops goal called back on an offside.

Tonight's game at the Civic Arena is set for 8 p.m. Lucky number programs will be on sale at the door as usual.

Tibet, located to the northeast of India, has an average altitude of 15,000 feet above sea level.

## Brown Attacks BCAHA Over Holland Transfer

Bill Brown, president of the Vernon Blades, has accused the British Columbia Amateur Hockey Association of making it easy for other provincial branches to rob B.C. of its top junior players.

Irked at the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association's decision to allow the transfer of Vernon goalie Gary Holland to Flin Flon Bombers of the SJHL, Brown described the BCAHA as a "poor cousin to the CAHA alone in the west and feeling blue."

Holland's transfer ended a long wrangle which saw the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League fined \$500 and ordered to post a \$2,500 bond of good behavior after several clubs had been suspended for playing against the Bombers who persisted in using the goalie.

As a result Brown said B.C. junior clubs would continue to be "unpaid farm clubs" for the pro-sponsored prairie teams.

"Our junior hockey is good enough to help pay the salaries of professional scouts, but our players are only

good enough if they can get them free," he charged.

Brown also criticized the CAHA for granting Holland's transfer without contacting his club. "What's the use of signing a player if he doesn't require his release to play for another club," he asked.

"When a team takes your player, and then ignores you as far as the rules set out for his release are concerned, it seems the branch to which the player goes is given more consideration than the BCAHA.

"After all, junior teams in B.C. have to buy their equipment, but aren't rich enough to buy players. There would be no problem if we could get the same deal as Flin Flon. Maybe this is their way of keeping B.C. from ever having a Memorial Cup contender," he charged.

Brown said he would officially protest Flin Flon's playing of Holland without a transfer or release from the Blades. He said photostat information was being sent to the CAHA registrar, Gordon Juckes, of Melville, Sask.