

# Blues A Distant 2nd As Bucs Tie For Lead

Weekend action in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League saw Vernon Blades take sole possession of second place but it's no cause for cheering.

Because second place is now 12 points and six games off the pace set by Kamloops Rockets and Kelowna Buckaroos. The Buckaroos were the Blades' closest rivals and occupants of second place until Saturday night when they dumped the Rockets 6-3 in Kelowna to grab a share of the league lead.

The brothers Strong led the Buckaroos to their lofty perch, John scoring once and assisting three times and Terry rifling in a brace. Marcello Verna, Ken Kivisto and Don Evans scored the other three. For Kamloops it was Glen Richards, Dale Sandyke and Brian Fourt with singletons apiece.

The Buckaroos and Rockets now have 16 points on eight wins apiece and the Blades are lagging far back in the dust with four points on a meagre two victories.

This week the Blades are again faced with a punishing four games in five days and

also faced with the opportunity of cutting down that 12-point spread.

But looking at their performance in the past five games it appears highly unlikely that the Blades will be up to the task. While the Buckaroos and Rockets have steadily improved with each game the Blades have progressed just as consistently in the opposite direction and it shows in the OJHL standings—two wins and 10 losses.

But maybe hometown fans will see something different Tuesday night when the Blues host the Rockets at the Civic Arena. The boys have had a week-long layoff in which to lick their wounds and give their ailments a close, hard look. So perhaps a miracle may occur and they'll win. Who knows, they've done it before.

Game time for Tuesday's game is 8 p.m. and programs will again be on sale. Wednesday night the Blades play a return engagement in Kamloops, Friday night they visit Kelowna and Saturday night it's the Buckaroos back here to complete the week's activity.