

# Blues, Buckaroos Wage Boxing Day Bash' Em-Up

KELOWNA 11, VERNON 0

Peace on earth and goodwill toward men are bruited as traditional precepts to follow during the Yuletide season, but apparently Vernon Blades and Kelowna Buckaroos don't hear so good.

Because there was little of either in evidence when the Blades and Buckaroos met in post-Christmas rivalry Boxing Day afternoon in Kelowna.

Replacing peace with mayhem and goodwill with flying sticks and fists, the two clubs settled down to a good, old-fashioned, no-holds-barred brawl.

Oh, there was some hockey played, to be sure. That is, Kelowna found time to play, as they whumped the visiting Blades 11-0, the first shut-out posted by an Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League club this season.

## Accent on Violence

For the most part, however the accent wasn't on hockey but on violence. Of the generous total of 24 penalties called in the rock'em, sock'em bout there were four majors for fighting and six roughing minors. Plus assorted sentences for elbowing high sticking, slashing, charging and the like. Vernon served 13 of the 24 issued.

Even members of the spectator body threatened to celebrate Boxing Day by literally doing just that. Late in the third period Vernon's hard-rock musclemen Buck Sherk, one of the prime combatants in the afternoon free-for-all, had to have an honor guard to the showers when some of the more volatile Kelowna citizenry aimed a few fists in his direction while he was sitting out a fighting major in the penalty box.

Altogether, the not too

pacifically inclined Mr. Sherk collected 15 minutes in penalties: seven for elbowing and sparring with Kelowna's equally warlike defenceman Doug Chisholm, two for roughing with Chisholm's blueline mate Doug Bulach, four more for additional elbowing misdemeanors and two for interference.

In the other featured fist-fest of the day Blade rear-guard Dave MacKay went at it with Buckaroo captain Harvey Stolz. Not to be out-done Blade captain Jim Stephen "rassled" a spell with Buckaroos' fiery John Strong and Vernon's usually mild-mannered little forward Allan Rogan "unnecessarily roughed" with Kelowna's bespectacled blueliner Norbert Willemann.

Ah! tis the season to be jolly. Fa-la-la-lah, etc, etc. The Buckaroos, though they weren't averse at entering into the violent festivities, never lost sight of their main objective—winning.

## Rarely Challenged

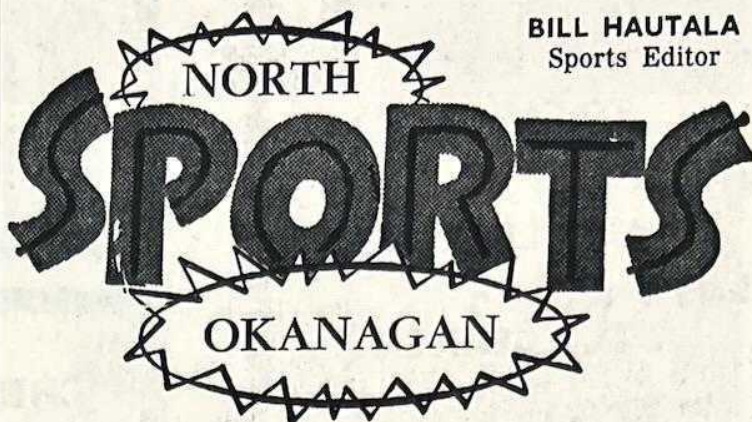
They were rarely, if ever, challenged by the Blades in reaching it. They jumped to a substantial 5-0 lead in the first period, extended their domination to 9-0 in the second period and gift wrapped the victory with two more goals in the third.

Terry Kasubuchi broke a long scoring slump to lead the Buckaroo gunnery, scoring three goals, all in consecutive order. Harvey Stolz scored twice and assisted three times, Terry Strong popped in two goals and set up another pair as did Richard Bulach, while Gordie Schnepf and Roy Ueda bagged singles. John Strong fattened his point total, picking up five assists.

Richard Robinson established himself as the first goaltender to post a shutout in OJHL play this season, kicking out 23 shots to do it.

Blade coach Jim Moro started Dennis Taylor in the nets but replaced him with regular Brian Woodward in the third period. Taylor stopped 23 shots, Woodward 10.

The win, Kelowna's 14th of the season, edged them them to within four points of the league-leading Kamloops Rockets who had 16 wins going into the Boxing Day action. The Buckaroos



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Sports Editor

## Bomb 'Bushers' 21-2

# Those Canucks Still Have It

VERNON CANADIANS 21, NOHL ALL-STARS 2

They might be way out of shape, their legs might be operating on one cylinder but if they've still got their savvy—look out!

The North Okanagan Hockey League All-Stars got this message loud and clear Saturday night when they sought to upset a hastily gathered, creaky-kneed remnant of the former Allan Cup champion Vernon Senior Canadian team in a exhibition hockey game at the Civic Arena.

A partisan NOHL crowd of close to 700, hoping beyond hope that their cherished, All-Stars would at last humble the once mighty Canadians, saw the old, familiar Blue and White utterly disintegrate their favorites 21-2 and strike another blow for age and experience.

No, there was just no beating that old savvy that took the Canadians to the top of the senior amateur hockey heap way back in 1956. It was still there: the pinpoint passing, the dead-eye shooting, the fancy stickwork.

## Still Enough

Maybe not as polished as before and certainly showing signs of rustiness. But still more than enough to cope with the NOHL's best.

Among the former Canadians making another curtain call Saturday were Odie Lowe, Jim Moro, Art Davison, Walt Trentini, Merv Bidoski, and Hal Gordon.

Tom Stecyk and Don Jakes quite probably would have been in the lineup too but they were otherwise occupied with their respective Midget and Bantam teams at holiday tournaments.

Others bolstering up the Vernon roster included rugged homebrew Alex Kashuba, former senior Stan Mills, Ernie Poggemiller, who helped last year's local intermediate entry, and three recent junior hockey graduates: Don McCall, Ray Hamilton and Perry Romeo.

Facing the Canadians were six players from Lumby Fly-

ing Frenchmen: goalie Vern Smith, defencemen Don Roland and Pete Balkwell, and forwards Gary Altwasser, Gary Anderson and Merv Koski; from Grindrod Elks: defenceman Pete Gazeley and forwards Ray Anchikoski, Bob Umari, and Merv Humphries; from Armstrong Cougars: defenceman Marcel DeLeeuw and forward Don Ramsey; from Head of Lake Stampeders: forwards Willy Wilson and Ted Koski and defenceman Erwin Hoffman; from Grandview Warriors: forward Bill Graham.

## Fast Start

The Canadians were anything but slow in demonstrating their complete superiority Saturday night. Less than 50 seconds after the game got underway they had a 2-0 lead, Kashuba scoring at the 31-second mark and Trentini with 46 seconds showing on the clock.

They proceeded to rifle in four more before the period ended and hammered in another six in the second stanza to take a 12-0 bulge. In the third period they outscored the All-Stars 9-2.

The most productive line for the Canadians had McCall at centre, Moro, Mills and Davison working on the wings. McCall scored six goals to top this department while Moro picked up three goals and eight assists for 11 points, also tops. Mills triggered three goals and three assists and Davison helped engineer two goals.

The other big line had centre Lowe with Bidoski, Trentini and/or Poggemiller. Trentini fired in four goals and set up a pair, Lowe managed three goals and three assists, Bidoski failed to score but assisted on five and Poggemiller sniped a single.

Defenceman Kashuba was credited with the remaining Canuck marker.

Replying for the hapless All-stars were defenceman Pete Balkwell and pint-sized pivot Ted Koski. Koski's counter came with five seconds to full time.

Gordon played in the Vernon net for the first period only and was called upon to make three stops. Don Bock-Phillips took over from there, blocking five in each of the remaining two periods.

The Canadians outshot the All-Stars 42-13. Of the five penalties, three went to the All-Stars.

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**Vernon and District Division of the Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board**



# ***Can Blades Do It Again? Come And See!***

Can they do it four times in a row? That's the big question that has local fans in a tizzy while awaiting the scheduled battle between Vernon Blades and Kamloops Rockets New Year's afternoon at the Civic Arena.

To pose the question more concretely, can the Blades beat the Rockets on Vernon ice for the fourth straight time? Or is the bubble about to burst?

The answer is unanswerable. So throw all those predictions out the window. Don't bet on the Blades, one way or the other, you're bound to lose your money.

But do come out to the Civic Arena to watch the Blades in action New Year's day. They need all the support they can get. They may not be the winningest team in the league but they certainly are the most enigmatic and if your tastes lean toward the unexpected you shouldn't be disappointed.

Game time for the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League clash between the Blades and Rockets is 2 p.m. sharp. Programs will be on sale at the door as usual.