

Blades Face Bucks Twice This Week

Vernon Blades will get two chances at putting the skids to Kelowna Buckaroos on Civic Arena ice this week.

The lowly Blades host the Orchard City club twice this week, Tuesday night and Saturday night, due to a change in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League schedule.

A game earlier set for Christmas Eve in Vernon between the two clubs was re-scheduled to Tuesday, January 7 which is tomorrow night. The Saturday contest is in the regular OJHL schedule.

So the Blades will be seeing lots of the Bucks this week, a team that so far this season they have only managed to beat once—on home ice. This sharply contrasts with the record the Blades have compiled against the league-leading Rockets who they have mastered four out of seven times at the Civic Arena.

Needless to say the Buckaroos would dearly love to pick up another pair of victories right about now, what with the regular season fast drawing to a close and first place still temptingly out of reach.

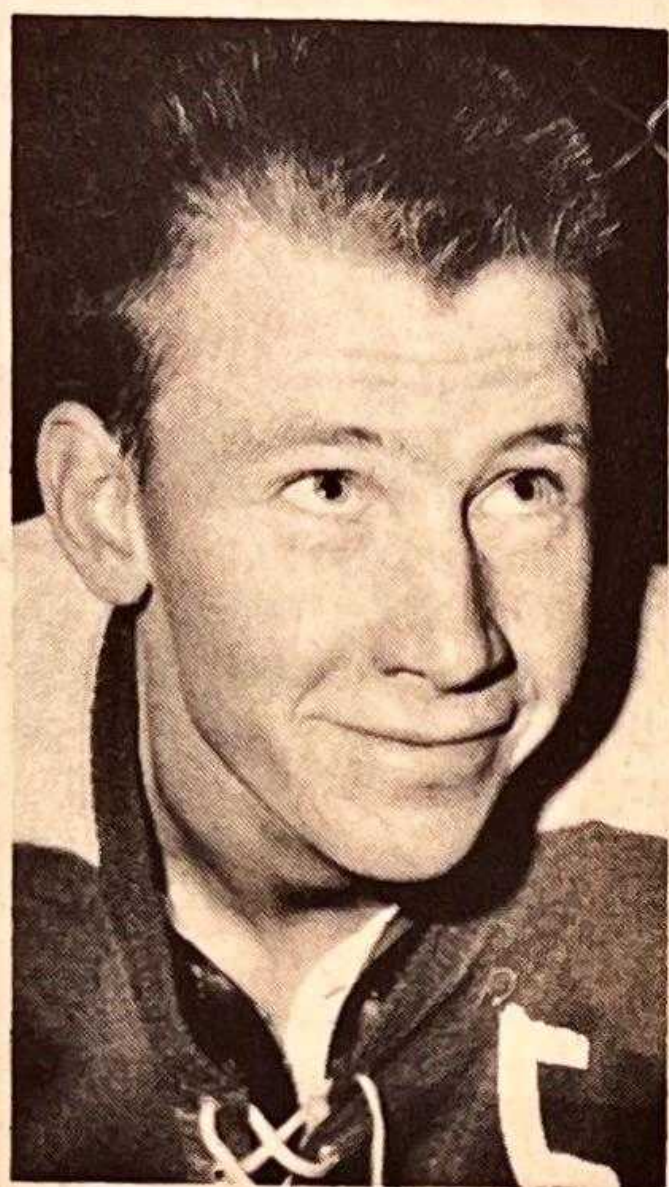
The Blades also meet the Rockets again this week, Wednesday night in Kamloops.

The Rockets now hold an eight-point lead over Kelowna, having beaten them 9-3 Saturday in Kamloops.

Game time for Tuesday's clash here is 8 p.m. Programs will be on sale at the door as usual.

Additional

SPORT



JIM STEPHEN
The cream . . .



GORDIE NUYENS
. . . of the defence

In All-Star Poll

Blade Blueliners Get Nod As OJHL's Best

Vernon Blades might have the worst defensive record in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League — but they have the best defencemen.

At least that's the opinion of the OJHL coaching fraternity who cast their votes last week for the league all-star team at the half-way mark of the season.

Named to the two defensive positions on the dream team were Vernon's Jim Stephen and Gordie Nuyens which should come as a something of a surprise to local junior hockey fans who probably expected to see Blade representatives excluded from the Select Six entirely.

Kamloops Rocket players were picked for three other spots on the elite corps and,

another surprise, only one Kelowna Buckaroo made the grade.

Voted the league's all-star goaltender was Rockets' slick rookie Lee Simpson. Placed up front were two teammates, centre Eric Shishido and left winger Glen Richards. To right wing, as Kelowna's lone representative, the voting body gave the nod to Richard Bulach.

As a seventh member of the all-star brigade the name of coach Kenny Stewart, veteran pilot of the league-leading Rockets, was added.

No second all-star squad was decided upon as there were too many players tied for each individual position to make it worthwhile.

Another selection will be made at the end of the regular season in February.