

# Blades Lasso Bucks In Wild 5-4 Thriller

## Culley Gets Gate When Ref Alex Loses Patience

VERNON 5, KELOWNA 4

Justice—swift, sure, and long-awaited—was done at Vernon Civic Arena Saturday night.

The lowly Vernon Blades, playing probably the most fired-up game of their otherwise cold and dreary season, finally did justice to the undying faith of their long suffering fans by lassoing visiting Kelowna Buckaroos 5-4 in a thrill-a-minute Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League encounter.

And Don Culley, coach of the Buckaroos, finally got the justice he has had coming his way all season when he was kicked out of the game in the second period by referee Alex Kashuba for his uncalled-for mouthiness in protesting a game misconduct sentence on his defenceman Norbert Wildemann.

All of which made for a thoroughly exciting and entertaining Saturday night, something that local junior hockey supporters have seen little of this winter.

### Playoff Fever

In fact there was actually a playoff fever in the air that infected and inspired both the Blades and their fans alike — the Blades to playing fast, inspired, tireless hockey and the fans to chanting good old nostalgic play-off refrains like "Dig Vernon Dig."

The Blades, as has been the chronic situation the past while, only had ten players for Saturday's game but it didn't make a peck of difference. They played like there was 20 of them — and all on the ice at the same time.

Except for the first period when they were outscored 3-1, they were all over the Buckaroos. They outshot the Kelowna squad 17-7 in the second period though claiming only one goal for their efforts and in the third per-

iod out-blitzed the Bucks 15-10 and rattled in three goals to scrap their way back from a 4-2 deficit.

Corky Agar, who looked just as ready to fight at the drop of a stick as he was to score at the drop of a puck, was The Hero of 10 heroes, firing in the winning goal unassisted at 18:48 of the third period and setting up Ike Coulter on the preceding tie tally.

He wasn't loath to ignore the violent side of the game, getting embroiled in three separate roughing fracas, two with tall Buckaroo wingman Gordie Schnepf and one with defenceman Ken Hokazono.

Another standout was Bobby Stein who was a veritable buzz-bomb at centre, scoring his 24th and 25th goals of the season and picking up a third point on a fine assist on wing-mate Buck Sherk's second period goal.

### Checking Terror

Sherk, incidentally, came up with one of his guttier games and was without a doubt the driving spirit behind the club. Besides scoring and assisting once he was a checking terror. Along the boards, in the corners, anywhere you cared to look there was Mr. Sherk, hard at it.

Ralph Litzenberger, on the same line as Stein and Sherk, was no less tenacious on the right flank. But then when has there been a game when Litz hasn't given his all?

In goal there was little Brian Woodward who, though not called upon to do the same amount of work as his opposing number, Dave Macklin, came up with the

big stoppers at the most critical moments to keep the Blades in the game. In one particular instance, early in the third period, he stole Gordie Schnepf blind on a breakaway, playing the big winger's jab to the short side perfectly to swallow up what could have been a back-breaking goal.

Gordie Nuyens, Jim Stephen and Dave MacKay did a creditable job on defence, throwing their bodies around with authority when the occasion demanded.

Terry Kasubuchi, who is beginning to pick up considerably from an early season slump, triggered a hat-trick to pace the Buckaroos. Schnepf sniped the other single.

The Buckaroos were missing three regulars going into Saturday's game, captain Harvey Stolz, Terry Strong and Roy Ueda. And by its end they were missing two more, Wildemann and coach Culley.

The Blades outshot the Bucks 44-28 in posting their sixth win of the season. Of 11 penalties, referee Kashuba aimed the thumb at Kelowna six times, two of them being game misconducts.

### Took Advantage

Kelowna took advantage of a lethargic Vernon start to draw first blood, Kasubuchi converting a pass from Richard Bulach and Doug Chisholm through Woodward at 1:27.

Stein struck unassisted five minutes later to tie it at 1-1 but the Bucks manufactured a two-goal edge before the period was out, compliments of Kasubuchi and Schnepf.

Sherk, after countless attempts, broke through with Stein's relay at 4:36 to make it 3-2.

And then, if you'll pardon the flippancy, the "fun" began. At 7:20 Agar and Hokazono started swinging and drew two minutes apiece. In trying to interfere in this set-

to Wildemann automatically got the shower call from Kashuba.

Seconds later Culley found cause to exercise his tonsils and "Big Alex" gave him the finger to well - earned applause from the spectator body.

Well-earned because Senior Culley's come-uppance has been long overdue. Ever since the season began the Kelowna coach has become notorious for what could only be called infantile, asinine behavior, detrimental to his own players and to the junior hockey league.

### "Funny" Stunts

Notorious for "outrageously funny" stunts like dropping extra pucks on the ice to stop play or purposely delaying a game by unnecessary and lengthy line changes or too much flapping of the lower lip.

He's gotten away with this gashouse stuff on other ice and in other games but Saturday his lip flapped once too often. And Alex said: "Enough!"

With Culley in exile the Blades took fire and commenced to put the clamps to the Buckaroos but it was Kelowna who ended up scoring in the second period, Kasubuchi zeroing in on Woodward with the Blade defence having "one fishin'" at the time.

In the concluding canto the 300 odd crowd sensed impending victory when Stein ripped in a Litzenberger-Sherk pass 24 seconds after the opening faceoff.

It stayed 4-3 until 12:47 when Coulter completed a neat passing pattern from Agar and MacKay. Then it was Agar's turn with a hot sizzler two minutes from full time.

### Game Summary

First Period: 1. Kelowna, Kasubuchi (R. Bulach, Chisholm) 1:27. 2. Vernon, Stein (unassisted) 6:22. 3. Kelowna, Kasubuchi (R. Bulach, J.



BUCK SHERK

... driving spirit

Strong) 10:17. 4. Kelowna, Schnepf (Hokazono) 14:24. Penalty — Sorochuk (hooking) 18:35.

Second Period: 5. Vernon, Sherk (Stein) 4:36. 6. Kelowna, Kasubuchi (unassisted) 17:16. Penalties — Agar, Schnepf (roughing) 3:06; Agar, Hokazono (roughing) 7:20; Wildemann (game misc.) 7:20; Culley (game misc.) 7:51; Kivisto (slashing) 11:40; Nuyens (charging) 12:16.

Third Period: 7. Vernon, Stein (Litzenberger, Sherk) 0:24. 8. Vernon, Coulter (Agar, MacKay) 12:47. 9. Vernon, Agar (unassisted). Penalties—Schnepf, Agar (roughing) 4:55.

## 'Rocks Shoot Down Wings

Shamrocks scored a 3-1 decision to finally shoot down the Wings in Pups Senior League hockey play last Thursday.

Lyle Brewer scored two goals to pace the Shamrock attack with Jeff Kendy adding a single. Wayne Ingram countered once for the Wings. In the Junior League the Lions edged Cubs 3-2 with Terry Lowe scoring two goals and Larry West one. For the Cubs it was Robert Donald and Hugh Seaton.

The Hawks once again came out winners in the Intermediate League, posting a 3-0 shutout over Vikings. Pat Maxnuk, Jim Arthur and Terry Henry took care of Hawk goal-getting.



BILL HAUTALA  
Sports Editor

## Redwings Pick Up Three More Points In Pee Wees

Redwings picked up three points in Pee Wee hockey action last week, tying Canadians 3-3 Thursday and slamming Maple Leafs 6-3 Saturday.

Steve White scored two goals and Terry Sammartino one when the Wings tied the Canucks Thursday. Each had an assist as did Sydney Hill. Scott Shirley tallied twice for Canadians while John Carignan scored and assisted once.

In their Saturday victory Steve White was again the big hero for Wings with four goals. Terry Sammartino and Bob Karen collected singles with David Ogasawara and Brian Postill assisting on one goal apiece. Doug Dirk replied twice for the Leafs and David Paulson once. Fred McClelland and Peter Vlasveld were each credited with an assist.

Other Thursday action saw Blackhawks edge Maple Leafs 3-2 with John Clarke, Clarence Shield and Wayne Dye scoring for Hawks, Clarke and Oley Kasper also assisting. Peter Vlasveld notched two unassisted markers for the Leafs.

Totems toppled Panthers 4-2 in the remaining Thursday game. Doug Wiffen and Gary Turik each tallied twice for the Totems with Turik also assisting once. Gordon Henschke popped in both Panther goals, set up on one by Graydon Brown.

Saturday morning Warriors blanked Stampeders 1-0 in a "closeie." Stan Hunt triggering the Warrior goal on a pass from Wally Bevan and Geoff Shirley posting a shut-out.

### Pee Wee Schedule

Thursday, January 16, 5 p.m., Canadians vs Blackhawks; 6 p.m., Totems vs Stampeders; 7 p.m. Warriors vs Panthers.

Saturday, January 18, 8 p.m., Maple Leafs vs Canadians; 9 a.m. Redwings vs Blackhawks.

## Brash Blades Aim At Rockets Tuesday Night

Those brash Vernon Blades, all atingle from a heady upset of Kelowna Buckaroos Saturday night, get set to become spoilers again Tuesday at the Civic Arena when they host front-running Kamloops Rockets in an Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League tilt.

Winning or losing "means for nothing" at this stage of the OJHL campaign but just for kicks the Blades just might pull off another dazzling victory to hone up for the playoffs.

So far this season the Rockets have found the Blades not too accommodating hosts when it came to laying down the Welcome mat. The Blues have bested their visitors four out of eight times which is a considerably better home record than the second place Buckaroos can boast about, regarding the Rockets.

Game time for the Tuesday tilt is 8 p.m. Programs (with lucky numbers, yet!) will be once again on sale at the door.

## Midget 'Stars Blanked 5-0 By Juveniles

Midgets are Midgets and Juveniles are Juveniles and never the twain shall meet.

However, disregarding Kipling and everybody else, they met anyway Sunday morning in an exhibition hockey game with Odie Lowe's Juvenile All-Stars taking a 5-0 decision from their junior rivals guided by Tom Stecyk.

Mike Clerke led the way with two goals with George Watson, Ted Palm and Rick Reilly racking up singles.

The game was sort of a warm-up for the up-and-coming playoffs. The Midget All-Stars have completed their regular season schedule and the Juveniles have one more game left.

This game is in Kamloops Tuesday night and coach Lowe reminds his brood to be on hand at the Civic Arena at 5:45 p.m., the time set for departure.



### Monday, January 13

7 p.m.: Business Girls. 9 p.m.: Men's League. 1. Mills vs Coley; 2. Henschke vs Hall; 3. Little vs Hatch; 4. Schmidt vs Kurbis; 5. Green vs Churchill.

### Tuesday, January 14

7 p.m.: Men's Commercial League. 2. RCMP vs Kinsmen; 3. Coldstream Hotel vs Firemen; 4. Ver. Motor Pro. vs Kiwanis; 5. Bloom and Sigale vs Legion.

9 p.m.: Men's League. 1. Kinnard vs Shockey; 2. Ogasawara vs Copan; 3. Henley vs Foord; 4. Clark vs Wetherill; 5. Brown vs Townsend.

### Wednesday, January 15

7 p.m.: Men's League. 1. Hatch vs Coley; 2. Schmidt vs Churchill; 3. Hall vs Kurbis; 4. Henschke vs Green; 5. Little vs Mills.

9 p.m.: Men's League. 1. Scott vs Johnston; 2. McWilliams vs Adams; 3. Schell vs Siemans; 4. Wadsworth vs French; 5. Briscoe vs Ferguson.



# **OJHL Fails To Fix Playoff Schedule At Meeting Here**

A cut-and-dried schedule for the forthcoming Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League playoff next month hasn't been decided upon and it likely won't be in black and white for at least another week.

A meeting of the OJHL executive held here in Vernon Sunday failed to settle the matter conclusively and so another meeting was set for Monday, January 20 at which time a schedule will be drafted. Final drafting of the schedule is pending a meeting of the Junior Hockey Branch of the BCAHA when the provincial play-off schedule for the four leagues concerned will be drawn up.

The OJHL playoff, when drafted, will most likely be a round robin affair with the team finishing with the most points being declared the winner.

The referees' "strike" in Kelowna was also discussed at Sunday's meeting but no action was taken or contemplated by the league. The matter will be brought up again at next Monday's meeting when the referee-in-chief, who was unable to attend Sunday, will be present.