

Jrs. Play Dead . . . Was It A Plot?

Rockets Roll Over Blades Easily In Final Game Here

KAMLOOPS 6, VERNON 2

Maybe it was all part of a diabolical plot to lull league-leading Kamloops Rockets into pre-playoff slumber.

But whatever it was it did not bear too close a relationship to hockey. We're referring of course to the somewhat sluggish performance of the Vernon Blades Tuesday night against the visiting Rockets.

The Blades, if lullabying was indeed their intent, did a fair job, putting up little fuss in falling to the Kamloops juniors 6-2 in their last scheduled home game of the regular Okanagan Junior 'A' Hockey League season at the Civic Arena.

Whether their sleep-inducing strategy worked or not we'll never know until play-off time. But, if anything, it was enough to put Kenny Stewart, the Rockets' wily old coach, on his guard.

"Terrible" Game

After Tuesday night's contest Stewart was one of the first to admit the Blades played a terrible game. Actually, he never said terrible but something a little spicier which delicacy forbids us to convert to print.

Anyway, the old "Grey Ghost" wasn't to be misled by what he saw Tuesday, knowing full well that the Blades, 11 players or no, can give either Kamloops or Kelowna a hard time if they put their minds and spirit to it.

They proved that convincingly enough up at Kamloops Saturday night when they had the league-winning Rockets scrambling to hold on to a 3-3 tie for close to 50 minutes before they knuckled under, 6-3.

To give them a fair shake the Blades did show some of the same fire Tuesday but only in sputters, not as a steady, scorching flame.

They had only one productive period of hockey, the second, when they rattled in two fast goals within 17 seconds to nullify an early 2-0 lead by the Rockets. And even then it wasn't a full period of effort because Stewart's stalwarts came right back with two more tallies to make the score 4-2 for the "bad guys" going into the final canto.

The third act was strictly Kamloops with the Blues all but joining the 200 odd crowd as spectators. The Rockets added materially to their lead in the period with two more goals.

Hogged Scoring

Fleet winger Dale Sandyke and his shifty centremate Eric Shishido pretty well hogged the scoresheet Tuesday. Sandyke scored three times and assisted once and Shishido came through with two goals and one helper which boosted him up three more notches but not enough to catch Larry Roberge who, by scoring the other Kamloops goal, kept two points up on his rival in the league scoring race.

Buck Sherk and Ike Coulter countered for the Blades in that order.

Both clubs had lots of opportunities to add to their respective scores but suffered attacks of fumble-itis at critical moments. The Blades' main trouble was passing—they did too much of it when they should have been shooting.

There were only five penalties to speak of, three to Kamloops. Gordie Nuyens, the Blades' perennial bad man, served both Vernon

sentences which lifted his league-leading penalties-in-minutes total to 112, 60 seconds shy of Kelowna Buckaroo defenceman Phil Larden's mark of 113 set last year. Shots on goal were equal, 21-21.

After 15 minutes of end-to-end maneuvering Shishido got a clear break-away to put Kamloops up a goal, beating Dennis Taylor on the short side with a neat flick of the stick.

Just 27 seconds into the sandwich session Sandyke clicked from Shishido for his first of the night and it was 2-0.

Worked Hardest

However at 6:53, Ralph Litzenberger, who worked hardest for the Blades Tuesday, got the puck out in front of Lee Simpson and drove a shot that went in off Sherk's conveniently located stick. 17 seconds later Coulter took a pass from Corky Agar and drove a low 30-footer that caught the inside of the right post.

The Rockets were soon to take exception to this sudden Vernon upsurge for at 8:28

Sandyke finished off a dazzling exhibition of play-making by Paul Levens for his second goal, then struck for his third, unassisted, at 17:22.

In the third period Roberge picked a corner with a high, partially screened, riser to make it 5-2 and with two minutes to go, Shishido, on another breakaway set up on a rare passing play from goalie Simpson and Sandyke, fooled Taylor on the short side again.

The Blades final game of the season is Friday night when they take on the Buckaroos in Kelowna. The first game of the playoffs is Feb. 5 with Vernon visiting Kamloops. The first home playoff game goes here Feb. 11, a Tuesday.

Game Summary

First period: 1. Kamloops, Shishido (unassisted) 15:50. Penalties—Roberge (tripping) 11:28; Nuyens (tripping) 11:47.

Second period: 2. Kamloops, Sandyke (Shishido) 0:27. 3. Vernon, Sherk (Litzenberger, Stein) 6:53. 4. Vernon, Coulter (Agar) 7:10. 5. Kamloops, Sandyke (Levens) 8:28. 6. Kamloops, Sandyke (unassisted) 17:22. No penalties.

Third period: 7. Kamloops, Roberge (unassisted) 6:14. 8. Kamloops, Shishido (Sandyke, Simpson).

Shots: Taylor 7 8 6—21
Simpson 9 7 5—21

Canada's Olympic Stars Competing At Revelstoke

Two of Canada's major ski tournaments come to Revelstoke on March 6, 7 and 8 when the Canadian Championships (Nordic) and the O'Keefe Tournament of Champions take place here.

The country's Olympic and National cross-country skiers and jumpers will be taking part and it is anticipated that the Japanese and American Olympic members will also be on hand. On hand to officially open the tourney will be Hon. Arthur Laing, Minister of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources.

The Mount Revelstoke National Park ski area will be the locale for the competitions as in past years, which will include cross-country races for men and women, and jumping competitions on the 60 meter Olympic hill as well as on the Nels Nelsen hill, one of a small number of 80 meter jump hills in North America built to FIS standards and one which has been the scene of many invitational tournaments attended by competitors from countries all over the world.

Heading the Canadian national team jumpers competing will be colorful Jacques Charland of Three Rivers, Que., the 1963 Canadian Champion who will be doing his utmost to retain the title this year; Gerry Gravelle, Ottawa; Revelstoke's John McInnes and Vernon's Kaare Lien (1962 Canadian Champion); Max Pelt, Verdun, Que.; Frank Gartrelle, Fort William, Ont.; Seppo Ruhanen, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.;

Real Seguin, Hull, Que.; Gibson Scott, Edmonton; and Wolfgang Winkel, Owen Sound, Ont., formerly of Banff.

Some of the big names in cross-country competition also expected are Antero Rauhanen of Alberta; Don MacLeod, Ottawa; Irvin Servold, Alberta; A. Rautio and M. Rautio of Long Lac, Que.; Jim Proudfoot of Edmonton.

Almost of all the foregoing are no strangers to Revelstoke, having participated in former tournaments here.

An invitational judo tournament and curling bonspiel, as well as skiing, skating, bowling and ski dances will round out the weekend.

Marine biologists report that fish cackle, yowl, wheeze, honk, bark and snore. Shrimp snap and groupers boom.

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Roberge Top Trigger In Junior Puck Loop

Rangy winger-centreman Larry Roberge of league-leading Kamloops Rockets has taken over sole possession of first place in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League scoring race.

Roberge, thanks to a nine-point splurge in the last four games, vaulted past teammate Eric Shishido to grab the coveted spot which Shishido has held for almost a full season.

Roberge, counting Tuesday night's game here in Vernon this week, has amassed 61 points based on 29 goals and 32 assists, two more than Shishido who has 59 on 25 goals and 34 helpers.

In third place is another Rocket, Brian Fourt, who, with a league-leading 30 goals and 23 assists, has 53 points altogether. Tied for fourth are Dale Sandyke, also from Kamloops, and Kelowna Buckaroos' John Strong, each with 50 points.

The only Vernon Blade in the Top Ten is centre Bobby Stein with 48 points on

28 goals and 20 assists. He closely trails Kamloops' Glen Richards who has 49.

Lee Simpson of Kamloops has a slight edge over his alternate Harvey Budarick in the goal-tending department. In 19 games Simpson has allowed 66 goals for a 3.47 average while Budarick has let in 56 in 16 games for a 3.50 mark.

Gordie Nuyens of Vernon is a shoo-in to finish as the most penalized player in the league, having now spent 112 minutes in sin bin solitude. This is just a minute short of former Kelowna Buckaroo Phil Larden's mark of 113 set last year. The league record, established the year previous, also by Larden, is 121 minutes.

The Rockets, as a team, are well decamped in first place, according to the latest statistics, with 52 points, 18 more than Kelowna Buckaroos who have 34. Mired in the cellar are the Vernon Blades with 14.

League Standings

	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Kaml'ps	25	7	2	225	123	52
Kelowna	16	15	2	155	165	34
Vernon	7	26	0	120	212	14

League Scoring (Top 20)

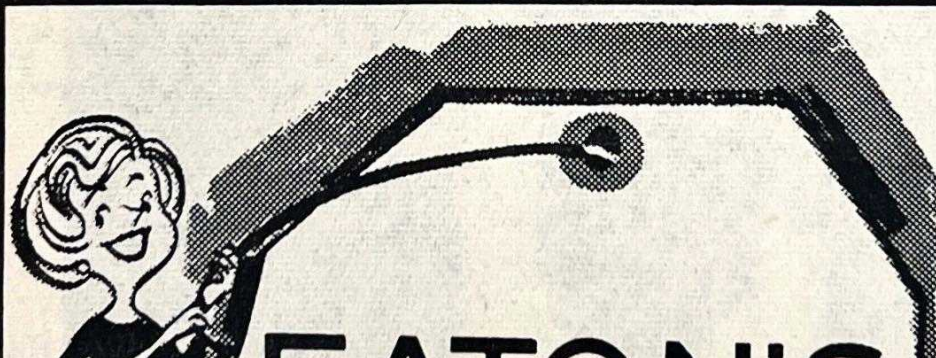
	G	A	P
Roberge (K)	29	32	61
Shishido (K)	25	34	59
Fourt (K)	30	23	53
Sandyke (K)	29	21	50
Strong Kel)	23	27	50
Richards (K)	16	33	49
Stein (V)	28	20	48
Owen (K)	27	20	47
Bullock (Kel)	19	28	47

Stolz (Kel)	25	16	41
Agar (V)	20	20	40
Begg (K)	12	24	36
Strong (Kel)	12	24	36
Steinke (K)	8	28	36
Kasubuchi (Kel)	17	17	34
Rinaldi (K)	7	27	34
Sherk (V)	17	16	33
McShane (K)	14	19	33
Schnepf (Kel)	19	10	29
Verna (Kel)	16	10	26

Goalkeepers Averages

	GP	GA	AV
Simpson (K)	19	66	3.47
Budarick (K)	16	56	3.50
Robinson (K)	28	134	4.78
Woodward (V)	27	156	5.77
Taylor (V)	8	56	7.00

An American expedition recently found a fragmented 474 - pound meteorite near Dalgety Downs in Western Australia.



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