

Blues Pull 2nd Flop

Saturday night in Kelowna the Blades were shafted 9-3 by the Buckaroos in a wearisome, fight-filled affair that has to go down in the books as one of their shoddier exhibitions of shinny.

It put them two games down in the scheduled 12-game round robin playoff to determine an OJHL champion. They lost 11-2 in their opener up at Kamloops last week.

John Strong, if you'll pardon the pun, "came on strong" to pace the Buckaroos to their first playoff decision of the season, scoring three goals and generally giving the Vernon defence the cat-fits with his opportunistic antics around the net.

Brother Terry added another goal and set up his frere on two more occasions, Marcello Verna, Roy Ueda and defenceman Doug Chisholm also picked up a goal and two assists apiece and other single counters went to Terry Kasubuchi and blue-liner Ken Hokazono.

Buck Sherk, one of the few Blades to become injected with any semblance of playoff pep, hustled his way to two goals to lead an otherwise vigorless Vernon attack. Bobby Stein, his centremate, triggered a third tally and helped engineer Sherk on his second goal. Always fired-up Ralph Litzenberger and Corky Agar added assists.

Spread Equally

The Vernon goals were spread equally over the three periods. The Blades were out-shot 35-30.

Sherk gave Vernon a quick 1-0 lead but John Strong and Verna made it 2-1 Kelowna before the first period was out. In the second period they rattled in another five in succession, John Strong, Kasubuchi, Hokazono, John Strong again and Ueda scoring in that order before Stein replied again for Vernon.

Chisholm made it 8-2 before the period was up and Terry Strong pushed it to 9-2 midway through the third. Sherk then came through with his second.

Of 21 penalties issued by neutral referee, Dale Cassell of Kamloops, six were fighting majors and one a roughing minor.

The Blades' first home playoff game is Tuesday night when they host the Buckaroos. Game time is 8:00 p.m.