

Blades Pick Up First Playoff Win

Buck Doesn't 'Sherk' Duty; Scores Winner In Overtime

VERNON 4, KELOWNA 3

Vernon Blades finally caught the playoff fever and rode a delicious course to victory Tuesday night.

Playing hard-hitting, inspired hockey the lowly Blades delighted a sparse crowd of 250 by upsetting powerful Kelowna Buckaroos 4-3 in overtime in their home playoff opener at Vernon Civic Arena.

It was the Blades' first win of the 12-game round robin Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League series and put them right back into the picture as a contender for Valley championship honors.

They now have a record of one win and two losses. In their first two games they lost to Kamloops Rockets and the Buckaroos by respective scores of 11-2 and 9-3.

The Buckaroos, having lost 6-4 to the Rockets in Kamloops last Saturday, also emerged from Tuesday's action with a 1-2 record. They lost again to Rockets 6-3 in Kelowna last night so their record is now 1-3. Kamloops is undefeated in three games.

Sherk Pots Winner

Buck Sherk's "fluke" goal just 33 seconds into overtime won it for the Blades Tuesday after a scoreless third period had failed to resolve a stubborn 3-3 situation.

The Vernon juniors, anything but spectacular in their first two playoff bouts, earned full value for their victory. They were flying like their fans have rarely seen them fly this season, check-

ing with a near desperate ferocity and hogging the puck like they held clear title to it.

The Blade defence was particularly outstanding, shattering Kelowna rushes at the blueline with pleasing regularity. For their work in this respect Jim Stephen, Dave MacKay and Gordie Nuyens rate star-studded stature.

The offence was scrambling but effective and made up for any mistakes with sheer drive and hustle. Sherk, Allan Rogan, Ike Coulter and Bobby Stein merit special plaudits.

Sherk, besides accounting for the winning goal, worked hard and long on his wing and in the corners; Rogan was the central figure in a spirited Blade rally in the first half of the game after the Buckaroos had taken a 2-0 lead, setting up Vernon's first goal and scoring numbers two and three to put them out in front; Coulter shadowed the opposition all night and added a goal to boot; and Stein, a fireball on skates, kept up a steady blitz on the Kelowna net and, though failing to score, had a hand in victory with an assist on Sherk's timely goal in the extra 10-minute session.

For Kelowna the stellar performers were Gordie

Schnepf, Marcello Verna and Richard Bullock and the reason is simple—they scored the Buckaroos' three goals.

Rough Game

The game, refereed by Al Swaine of Kamloops, was rough and hard knocking but, most important, clean. Only eight penalties were called, four to each club including a pair of roughing calls to Corky Agar of Vernon and Kelowna's John Strong.

The Buckaroos, though winding up on the losing end of things, outshot the Blades 24-22.

In the first period it was a case of Vernon doing all the work and Kelowna scoring most of the goals. The Blades exerted terrific pressure but the Bucks took a 2-0 bulge, Schnepf ramming in a shot off Brian Woodward's skate at 14:33 and Verna rifling in a Harvey Stolz pass at 18:03.

However the Blades recouped 13 seconds later with Coulter completing a play from Rogan.

At 3:31 of the second stanza Rogan counted the prettiest goal of the night, re-routing Agar's pass from the left boards at point blank range. Then he pushed Vernon into a temporary lead at 6:51 with a hard, high shot from the left side.

Bullock locked it at 3-3 two minutes before the period ended, neatly flicking in Don Evans' pass.

Both clubs had golden scoring opportunities in the third period, particularly Kelowna, but no damage was done.

Then seconds into overtime Sherk took a pass out in front from Stein and Dale Sorochnik to pot the winner. He actually fanned on his shot but the puck somehow dribbled in off the end of his stick and under goalie Richard Robinson to score.

The Buckaroos pulled out all stops, including their netminder, in the final minute of play, but crisp fore-checking by the Blades held them off.

The Blades' next playoff game goes Sunday at 2:00 p.m. in the Civic Arena with Kamloops Rockets the visitors. And the following Tuesday the Buckaroos are back in town.

Game Summary

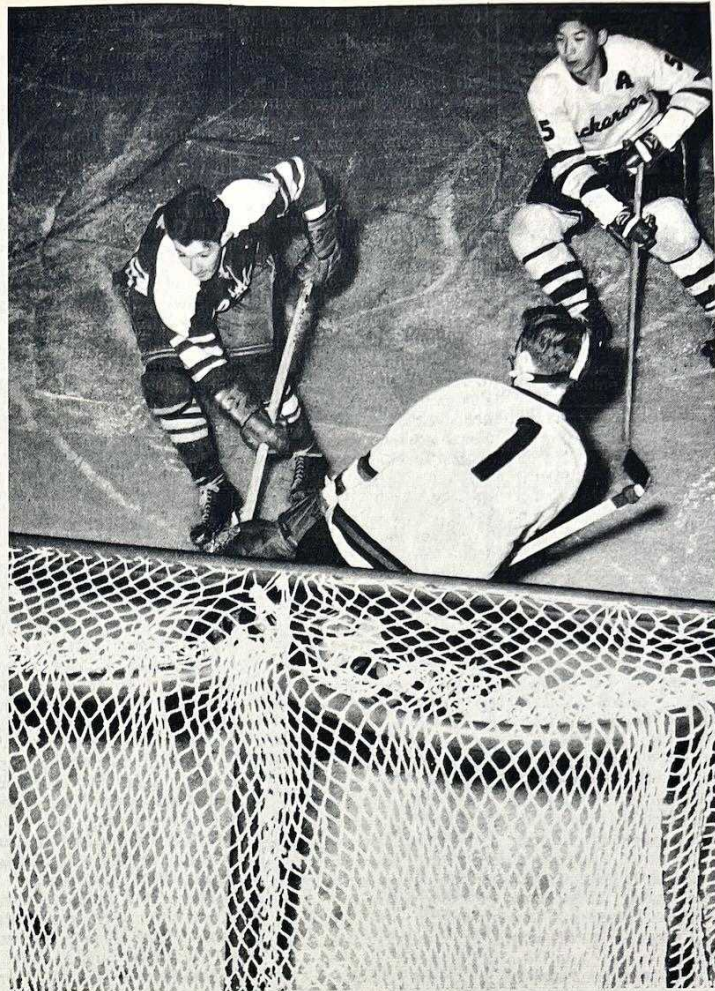
First period: 1. Kelowna, Schnepf (unassisted) 14:33. 2. Kelowna, Verna (Stolz) 18:03. 3. Vernon, Coulter (Rogan) 18:16. Penalties—J. Strong (slashing, roughing), Agar (roughing) 2:20; Litzenger (slashing) 11:09.

Second period: 4. Vernon, Rogan (Agar) 3:31. 5. Vernon, Rogan (Stephen) 6:51. 6. Kelowna, R. Bullock (Evans) 18:32. Penalty—MacKay (hooking) 3:45.

Third period: No scoring. Penalty—Kelowna bench penalty (too many players) served by Kitsch.

Overtime: 7. Vernon, Sherk (Sorochnik, Stein) 0:33. Penalties—Ueda (hooking), Rogan (slashing) 4:39.

Shots:
Woodward 5 6 9 4—24
Robinson 9 4 6 3—22



A Pretty Goal, Allan!

One of the sparkling plays in Vernon Blades' 4-3 playoff victory over Kelowna Buckaroos Tuesday night came in the second period when winger Allan Rogan clicked on a pass from Corky Agar to tie the game up at 2-2. The Vernon News camera caught the action at the moment Rogan was engaged in flipping the puck (lower left corner of the picture) past Kelowna goalie Richard Robinson. Striking in to cover up but a split second too late is Buckaroo defenceman Ken Hokazono (No. 5).

Cougars Clipped Twice In Puck Action

Grandview 4, Armstrong 3
Lumby 11, Grindrod 1

It just wasn't Armstrong Cougar's weekend for winning hockey games.

Saturday night they took a trip down south to play Pentiction Kencos, an intermediate "B" squad, and got clobbered 14-1.

Sunday night here at Vernon Civic Arena the Grandview Warriors stole them blind with a comeback 4-3 victory in regular North Okanagan Hockey League action.

And to add insult to injury league-leading Lumby Flying Frenchmen lambasted Grindrod Elks 11-1 to pull nine points ahead of the second running Cougars in the NOHL.

The Saturday night game in Summerland was strictly a one-way street with the classier Kencos directing most of the traffic. Les Roberts led the way for Pentiction with four goals, Dunc Jamieson fired a hat-trick, Ernie Winstanley, Art McClelland and George Seeley added two apiece and John Zibin a single. Bob Reo collected the lone Cougar counter.

Bit Of Thievery

Suffering a 14-1 beating was bad enough but Sunday night's bit of thievery pulled off by Grandview Warriors must have really rankled the Cougars.

Leading by a comfortable

Lumby and Grindrod was little more than a refreshing workout for the Frenchmen who had no difficulty skating to their 11th victory of the season.

The league leaders grabbed a 3-0 edge in the first period, out-gunned the Grindrodians 3-1 in the middle frame and buried them good and proper in the final 20 minutes with another five goals.

Earl Morrison sparked the Lumby lightning with four goals and two assists while singles were spread around between Gerry Altwasser, Leroy Martin, Merv Koski, Bob Edwards, Parky Derry and Gary Anderson. Altwasser also picked up four assists.

The lone Elk reply was sounded by Jerry Almaas who clicked from Ray Anchikoski and Merv Humphries late in the second period.

Of four penalties called, three went to Lumby. Two of

the sentences were five-minute fighting majors to Lumby's Bob Glenn and Grindrod's Wayne Smith. The Elks were outshot 29-21.

In other hockey action Sunday Head of the Lake Stampeders lost a 4-1 decision to Merritt Mohawks at Merritt.

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Rockets' Roberge OJHL Scoring King

Larry Roberge, smooth-skating centre - winger of Kamloops Rockets, won the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League scoring title this season.

According to final league statistics released this week Roberge finished up with 62 points made up of 29 goals and 33 assists.

He just beat out teammate Eric Shishido who ended with 60 points based on 25 goals and 35 assists. Shishido led the league in scoring for most of the season but Roberge caught and passed him in the last week of regular play.

For winning the scoring title Roberge will receive the President's Trophy. And, although there is no award for this, Roberge merits recognition as the most improved player in the OJHL as he jumped from a 20-point scoring total set last season to a league leading 62 this year.

The only Vernon Blade to make the Top Ten in scoring was centre Bobby Stein who collected 28 goals and 21 assists for 49 points, eighth highest in the league. Kelowna Buckaroos' John Strong finished third with 54 points, teammate Richard Bullock, with a strong late-season surge, ended up seventh with 50 and Harvey Stolz tenth with 44, just nosing out Vernon's Corky Agar who amassed 43.

The tightest race of all was in the goaltending department which was decided in Rocket Harvey Budarick's favor by just the minutest fraction of a decimal point. He had a 3.470 average on 59 goals allowed in 17 games while his stand-in, Lee Simpson, finished with a 3.473 average on 66 goals allowed in 19 games.

The Rockets won the league hands down, winning 26 games, tying two and losing only seven for 54 points, 18 more than the Buckaroos who, with 34 points on 17 wins, two ties and 16 losses, were runners-up. The Blades had their worst season ever, winning only seven games, losing 27 and tying none with a total point total of 14.

The league bad man was Vernon's Gordie Nuyens with 112 minutes collected in penalties. Kelowna was the most penalized team in the league with a total of 553 minutes.

League Scoring	G	A	Pts
Roberge, Kam.	29	33	62
E. Shishido, Kam.	25	35	60
J. Strong, Kel.	24	30	54
Fourt, Kam.	30	23	53
Richards, Kam.	18	35	53
Sandyke, Kam.	29	22	51
R. Bullock, Kel.	21	29	50
Stein, Ver.	28	21	49
Owen, Kam.	28	20	48
Stolz, Kel.	25	19	44
Agar, Ver.	22	21	43
T. Strong, Kel.	15	26	41
Steinke, Kam.	9	28	37
Begg, Kam.	12	24	36
Rinaldi, Kam.	8	28	36
Kasubuchi, Kel.	17	18	35
Sherk, Ver.	17	16	33
McShane, Kam.	14	19	33
Schnepf, Kel.	19	19	29
Verna, Kel.	16	13	29
Chisholm, Kel.	5	17	22
Sorochuk, Ver.	8	12	20
Harrison, Kam.	8	11	19
Rodgers, Kam.	7	12	19
T. Shishido, Kam.	5	13	18
Nuyens, Ver.	6	11	17
Coulter, Ver.	9	6	15
Rogan, Ver.	8	7	15
Harrison, Ver.	5	9	14
Ueda, Kel.	6	6	12
Litzenberger, Ver.	3	9	12
Evans, Kel.	6	5	11
Jamieson, Kam.	7	3	10
Stephen, Ver.	3	7	10
MacKay, Ver.	1	9	10
Levens, Kam.	1	8	9
Kivisto, Kel.	3	5	8
Hokazono, Kel.	3	4	7
Wildemann, Kel.	0	6	6
Wutzke, Ver.	4	1	5
Mandzuik, Ver.	3	2	5
Kineshanko, Ver.	2	3	5
D. Bullock, Kel.	0	5	5
McNeil, Ver.	3	0	3
Tantrum, Ver.	2	1	3

Cousins, Kel.	1	2	3
McClelland, Kel.	1	2	3
Mildenberger, Kel.	1	2	3
Kitsch, Kel.	2	0	2

Goalkeepers' Averages

	GP	GA	Ave
Budarick, Kam.	17	59	3.470
Simpson, Kam.	19	66	3.473
Robinson, Kel.	30	143	4.76
Woodward, Ver.	28	163	5.82
Taylor, Ver.	8	56	7.00
Macklin, Kel.	3	16	5.33
Lawrenson, Kel.	2	12	6.00
Hart, Kam.	1	1	1.00

48 Rinks Entered In Valentine

The Vernon Curling Club hosts its annual Valentine Mixed Bonspiel this weekend to help wind up Vernon's fourth Winter Carnival.

The 'spiel, a three-day affair, is set to get underway Friday with a total entry list of 48 rinks, 25 of them from Vernon.

According to club secretary Georgie Cail \$600 worth of prizes will be up for grabs in the three events, "A," "B," and "C." The prizes, this year, will consist of kitchen implements, tools and so forth.

The whole shebang starts off at 1 p.m. Friday with the finals in the three events set for 7:15 p.m. Sunday night.

Besides the 25 rinks from Vernon, nine will be entering from Kelowna, three from Kamloops, two from Lumby and one rink apiece from Vancouver, West Vancouver, Calgary, Revelstoke, Penticton and Ashcroft.

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