

Additional

SPORT

Clip Rockets 5-1

**Blades Bid Farewell
With Rousing Fanfare**

VERNON 5, KAMLOOPS 1

Vernon Blades bade farewell to their long suffering fans Saturday night, a rousing farewell that hinted at better things to come next season.

The Blades, boasting a full lineup for the first time in months thanks to reinforcements by five players including four juveniles, rolled over visiting Kamloops Rockets 5-1 to close out a predominantly losing season on a winning note.

Just over 300 fans watched the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League finale at Vernon Civic Arena, a game that meant nothing to either club.

This wasn't to say the game was valueless in being played. Both Kamloops and Vernon derived some worth out of it.

Hone For Playoff

For the Rockets, who won the OJHL championship earlier last week with a 15-1 battering of the Blades, it was a fine chance to hone for their up-and-coming playoff with Trail in one of two semi-final series leading to the provincial finals.

For the Blades, and particularly coaches Jim Moro and Hap Schaefer, the game provided an opportunity to test some of the promising young juveniles they may be called upon to use next season.

Up Saturday for a tryout were two second year juveniles, defenceman Morris Wernicke and winger Ted Palm, who saw limited action with the Blades this season, and two first year juveniles, centre George Watson and winger Mike Clerke, standouts last year for the Okanagan-Mainline champion Vernon Midget All-Stars.

Their performance, in this game at least, was highly gratifying to coaches and fans alike. They played like they belonged in junior ranks, working the puck around well and showing lots of give-and-take when it came to the rough stuff.

Wernicke was particularly effective in the latter category, handing out stiff checks in the same tradition and spirit as the fellow whose number three sweater he was by coincidence wearing, league all-star defenceman Gordie Nuyens.

Collected Assist

The hustling, hard-working juvenile captain also gave Rocket goalie Lee Simpson a taste of his booming slapshot and one of his drives ended up on the official scoresheet as an assist on a goal by Ralph Litzenberger.

Clerke and Watson also made their marks on the scoresheet. In the third period Watson scooped a puck out of the corner and laid a perfect pass on Clerke's stick who was just as deft in ramming home his first goal as a junior.

Also in the Blade lineup for the first time in some months was Howie McNeil. He didn't figure in scoring but did manage to pick up six minutes in penalties.

Blade regulars who chalked up goals included Litzenberger, Allan Rogan, Bobby Stein and Corky Agar.

Agar's goal, Vernon's fifth, scored mid-way through the third period, should never have been counted as it was actually the second of two goals "scored in one play."

Howzat? Well, to start off with, Kamloop's Paul Levens scored what looked to be a legitimate goal at about the 11-minute mark of the final period. The puck, to the eyes of most spectators including radio announcer Don Warner doing a live broadcast in the gondola, shot in and out behind Dennis Taylor but the goal judge ruled otherwise.

Scored Amidst Confusion.

In the ensuing confusion Agar picked up the loose puck and skedaddled down the ice to deke Simpson and dump in what stood up as Vernon's fifth goal. Levens, naturally feeling himself done in, protested furiously but all he got out of it was a 10-minute misconduct from referee Tony Wynnychuk.

League scoring champion Larry Roberge managed earlier in the period, however, to spoil Taylor's shutout bid on an unassisted play.

Taylor played exceptionally well for the Blades, stopping 34 of 35 drives, many of them ticketed for the back of the net. Simpson blocked 22 for Kamloops.

Sixteen penalties were called all told, nine to Vernon. One fight broke out with Vernon's Buck Sherk involved in a fistic disputation with Rocket rookie Jim Harrison.

For the interest of any junior hockey fans thinking of taking in further playoff action, the first game of the Trail - Kamloops semi-final series is set for Friday, February 28 in Kamloops. The second game goes Saturday night.

**KAARE LIEN**

Vernon's ski-jumping star Kaare Lien, who recently represented Canada in the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, took first place in a recent international ski jumping tournament held at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. He put together jumps of 231 feet and 233 for a total of 224.7 points. The point maximum is 240 —120 for style and 120 for distance. Lien, a star forward for Vernon National Royalites when he isn't off on the jumping trail, is expected back shortly to help the soccer club contest the Province Cup.

Grindrod News Items

Miss Marion Skykora of Canoe, Miss Iris Skykora, who is employed as a stenographer in the CPR office at Revelstoke, Mr. Ben Skykora, who is attending Technical school at Calgary; also Miss Nettie Skykora of UBC were all home to attend the 25th wedding anniversary of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Skykora.

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