

# Rockets Outlast Trail To Land Finals' Berth

Kamloops 7 Trail 3

Trail Junior Smoke Eaters may have lost a berth in the B.C. Junior Hockey play-offs, but they went home with their heads held high.

The scrappy Kootenay representatives were downed by Kamloops Rockets 7-3 last night before 1,800 fans in the Memorial Arena. But the outcome of the three-game series was not decided until the final buzzer announced the Rockets advance to the play-offs.

Kamloops won the first game 12-3 before dropping the second encounter 6-4 Saturday night.

Ed Begg found the combination needed to pierce the stiff armor of Trail goalie Don D'Arcangelo as he led his teammates with three goals.

The Rockets will have less than a week's rest before travelling to New Westminster for the beginning of a seven-game series with the coast winner.

The first two games will be played Friday and Saturday in the coastal centre. The series returns to Kamloops the following weekend.

Begg, who was brilliant throughout the Trail series, added an assist for a four-point night.

Kamloops dominated the play through the majority of the game but could not find the right combination to complete a play in front of the Trail net.

The Rockets were faced with the stiffest defence they have met all season as Trail defencemen kept the Kootenay team in the series.

Trail grabbed an early first

period lead on goals by Mel Knight and Garth Rizzuto.

At 11:35 in the initial frame Kamloops finally counted on the scoreboard when Dale Sandyke powered home an Eric Shishido rebound.

Shishido returned eight minutes later to tap in a rebound from Begg and tie the score going into the second period.

Butch Simpson gave the Trail squad the lead again on a solo effort at 3:20 of the second period.

Fifteen seconds later Begg from Shishido tied the score again and then the home-towners went ahead for the first time with a marker from Sandyke and Ken Rinaldi.

Mervyn Neil tied the game again with a goal from Rizzuto before the period ended.

Trail roared back to the lead in the early minutes of the final period with a goal by Knight from Gary Kilback and Nino Cristofoli.

The remainder of the period was all Kamloops.

Paul Levens scored unassisted at 2:15 and Murray Owen drove a screaming slap shot from 50 feet out to catch the top left-hand corner of the net. Glen Richards and Rinaldi drew assists on the goal.

Begg put the game out of reach at 17:25 with a goal from linemates Shishido and Sandyke.

Harvey Budarick in the Kamloops nets was only called upon nine times to make saves while Rockets forwards peppered the Trail goal with 37 shots.

## SUMMARY

First period—1. Trail, Knight (McCunn) :45; 2. Trail, Rizzuto

(Neil) 11:05; 3. Kamloops, Sandyke (E. Shishido); 4. Kamloops, E. Shishido (Begg) 11:36. Penalties — Sandyke (roughing) 12:58; Uzeloc (roughing) 12:55; Rizzuto (spearing, 5 min) 12:55; Begg (slashing) 19:30.

Second period—5. Trail, Simpson (unassisted) 3:20; 6. Kamloops, Begg (E. Shishido) 3:45;

7. Kamloops, Begg (Sandyke, Rinaldi) 12:35; 8. Trail, Neil (Rizzuto) 13:40. Penalties — Brown (interference) 9:20; Rinaldi (holding) 15:46.

Third period—9. Trail, Knight (Kilback, Cristofoli) 1:45; 10. Kamloops, Levens (unassisted) 2:15; 11. Kamloops, Owen (Richards, Rinaldi) 9:56; 12. Kamloops, Begg (E. Shishido, Sandyke) 17:35. Penalties—Newell (slashing) 5:10; Simpson (slashing) 1:35; McShane (charging) 12:50.

## SAVES

	SAVES
D'Arcangelo	11 13 13-37
Budarick	3 3 4-9

## Hawks Top Statistic Story But Habs Favored For Title