

Power, Power, Power

Oilers Too Much For Rocketeers

Edmonton Oil Kings, in what was almost a foregone conclusion, blasted B.C.'s Memorial Cup hopes for the umpteenth time last week.

The junior hockey juggernaut from Alberta crushed Kamloops Rockets 10-1 last Tuesday and 7-2 Wednesday to take a commanding two-game lead in the best of five B.C. - Alberta Memorial Cup quarterfinals back to Edmonton.

There was little doubt what the end result would be from the opening faceoff Tuesday night. The Oil Kings, stocked by Detroit Red Wings with the cream of the junior hockey crop, were just too good and too powerful for the underdog B.C. champion Rockets.

They were, as many observers aptly described them, "just like a machine"—a very well-oiled, well-co-ordinated and deadly machine that made no mistakes and gave their weaker opposition no allowance for making any.

Scoring Punch

Most of their scoring punch was centred around the line of Len Sather, Max Mestinsek and Butch Paul. All three boys have signed "C" forms with the parent Redwings and could well be regulars in the NHL in another year or so.

The second string of Bob Falkenburg, Bryan Campbell and Greg Pilling was no slouch either, nor the trio of Reg Toschuk, Greg Tomalty, and Ron Anderson.

All showed the benefits of expert coaching and grueling, hard-hitting competition in the tough Central Alberta senior league and the Saskatchewan junior loop.

Their defence was no less adept in coping with the Rockets' fire-power. One of their top rearguards was a Kamloops boy, Bert Marshall, playing before his hometown crowd for the first time in two years since leaving for Edmonton as a fledgling junior.

Marshall has also signed a "C" form with the Wings and his slick performance on the ice Tuesday and Wednesday assuredly marked him as a future pro.

Bolstering the Rockets'

roster for the series were defenseman Gordie Nuyens from Vernon Blades, forwards Richard Bullock, Harvey Stolz and John Strong from Kelowna Buckaroos and centre Leroy Mowery from New Westminster Royals.

Nuyens Standout

Of these five recruits, Nuyens was the unquestionable standout. His hard-hitting, aggressive style of play was just what Rocket coach Kenny Stewart needed against Edmonton, and he didn't disappoint.

In fact, Stewart leaned on Nuyens heavily in the two-game set, especially in the second contest when he was on the ice more than 50 minutes.

In this particular game Gordie got his Irish up and, never one to back down from a fight, matched fists with Edmonton winger Mestinsek. Mestinsek came off second best and had to retire to the dressing room for repairs while Nuyens took his seat in the sin bin with a five-minute major.

Kelowna's John Strong also showed well in the series as did Richard Bullock who last year played for the Oil Kings.

The star-studded Edmontonians took a 4-0 first period lead in the opening game, extended the bulge to 6-0 in the middle frame and outscored the Rockets 4-1 in the concluding canto. Mestinsek was their big gun in this game with three goals and three assists.

The second game was a little slower in developing with the Kings holding a mere 1-0 edge after first period activity. Their lead was 3-0 after two and they broke loose for another four in the final round, John Strong and Murray Owen answering for Kamloops.

The series now goes back to Edmonton where the Oil Kings are expected to wind up things with a third victory on their own spacious ice surface.