



It Was A 'Battle Royal'

Saturday night's junior hockey game at Vernon Civic Arena between Vernon Blades and New Westminster Royals proved to be a real bruiser. A total of five fights broke out during the game and 18 penalties were issued by the two referees officiating. At times the two teams did stick to hockey and local fans saw some exciting action. Here New Westminster's Gary Kulcheski (No. 12) and Vernon's Gary Koski scramble for a faceoff while Blade rearguard Herc Koberinski (No. 7) watches for a pass. New Westminster won 4-1.

Royals Rout Blades In Back-To-Back Bouts

Locals Found Lacking As New Jr. Puck Season Draws Nearer

NEW WESTMINSTER 4, 10; VERNON 1, 1

Vernon Blades are going to have to look sharper, feel sharper and be sharper if they hope to cut into the 1964-65 Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League season with any degree of success this coming weekend.

These are the facts that New Westminster Royals so rudely and glaringly pointed out last Saturday and Sunday when they met the Blades in a pair of back-to-back exhibition games.

Pointed out is putting it mildly. The Royals, a big, rock'em, sock'em club from the Coast, very unsubtly put the finger on the Blades, Present weaknesses by beating them in both games—decisively.

Saturday night before about 200 spectators at Vernon Civic Arena the Royals muscled and hustled their way to a 4-1 win in a bloody, brawling contest that saw no less than five fights break out.

Sunday afternoon, the New Westminsters rubbed the salt in a little deeper, dumping the Blades 10-1 in a return bout in their hometown arena.

Hardly a profitable weekend but, as coaches Jim Moro and Hap Schaefer are quick in asserting, not a lost one either.

The Blades, and their coaches, learned a lot from their home and home scrap with the Royals. They know that they are still somewhat out of shape physically, that their play execution is rusty, that their defence needs tightening, that their skating lacks speed and polish.

And they know that unless they improve upon the aforesaid within the next few days their debut in the 1964-65 Valley junior hockey wars could be a rough one indeed.

The Blades, who last year finished last in a field of three, are scheduled to open the new season Friday in Kelowna against their old rivals, the Buckaroos,

with a return engagement set for the Civic Arena the following Saturday night.

"We've got lots of work to do, that's for sure, but at least we know where to begin now," said Moro, on returning from New Westminster.

The Blades, the score notwithstanding, put up quite a battle in Saturday night's game here.

New Westminster grabbed a quick 2-0 edge in the first period and looked to be headed for a walk-away but the Blades solidified, holding the Royals scoreless in the second frame and eventually narrowing the lead with a goal early in the final period.

However, a sudden spate of fisticuffs decimated Vernon's ranks somewhat and the Royals promptly rapped in a quick pair to salt the game away.

Wayne Goss, a flashy young forward who two seasons ago played with the B.C. champion New Westminster midget team that beat out Vernon in the semi-finals netted two goals for the Royals, one early in the first period and another for insurance in the third.

Defenceman John Shmyr and forward Kevin McGladery added singletons, Shmyr's standing up as the winner.

Bob Ouchi tallied the Blades' lone goal on a pass from centreman Bobby Stein.

Stein's wingmate Buck Sherk was involved in two fracas, in the first period both involving New Westminster's McGladery, but the real fireworks didn't start popping until the third.

At 7:50 of the final period the fur began to fly as Ver-

non's Ouchi, Dale Sorochnik and Saskatchewan import Gary Koski had it out with Doug Geddes, John Shmyr and Scott Irvine of the Royals. All drew five-minute sentences, leaving both teams with three men aside for most of the period.

Ex-juvenile Norm Schiman played a steady game in the Vernon nets, stopping 34 shots.

Sherk scored from Allan Rogan for Vernon's sole marker in Sunday's road game.

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