Blades Butt Heads With Bucks Friday

The Vernon Blades, model 1964-65, trundle on the ice for keeps this weekend.

The Blades, fresh from an unsuccessful though educating two - game trial run with New Westminster Royals, bash heads with Kelowna Bucharoos in two back-to-back contests inaugurating the fourth successive Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League season.

The first puck skirmish takes place Friday night in Kelowna with the Buckaroos as hosts and Saturday night it's the reverse with the Blades entertaining the Cowboys at Vernon Civic Arena.

Also helping to open the new season will be Kamloops Rockets and Penticton-Summerland El Rancho Broncos who lock horns in another pair of games Friday and Saturday.

Game time for Saturday's home opener here is 8:30 p. m. and Blade coaches Jim Moro and Hap Schaefer, along with club president Bill Brown, are hoping for a fair sized crowd.

"I think the fans will see a very determined hockey club in action Friday and Saturday," said coach Schaefer. He didn't voice any predictions but he was brimming with optimism.

The Blades' stock took a very promising rise Wednesday when Schaefer learned he would be getting two new junior players from the Kootenays. One is a goaltender, Gerry Mayer, a junior in his last year, and the other is an 18-year old defenceman Al Herrick.

"These two boys will strengthen our club quite a bit defensively," said Schaefer. "We've got lots of forwards but our two games with New Westminster showed we had very little behind us."

Ex-juvenile, Norm Schiman will start in the nets Friday and Saturday night and should prove more than adequate. In the two exhibition contests with the Royals he impressed both Moro and Schaefer as he stopped enough rubber to win four hockey games.



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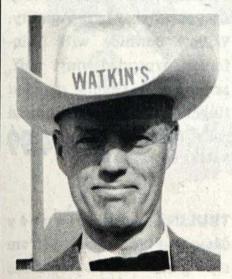
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