

Bucks Tough Examiners; Blades Found Wanting

Local Juniors Drop Pair As OJHL Season Faces Off

KELOWNA 9, 4 VERNON 0, 2

Vernon Blades didn't "cut no ice" with Kelowna Buckaroos when they made their Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League season debut on the weekend.

Fact is the Blades hardly made a striking impression with anybody, least of all their fans, as they dropped a pair of back-to-back bouts with the Buckaroos 9-0 and 4-2.

The 9-0 whitewash was administered Friday night in the confines of Kelowna Memorial Arena with Buckaroo import goalie Mike Gaal and forwards Terry Kasubuchi and Don Evans doing most of the brushwork.

Saturday night back in Vernon Civic Arena the story was a little different as the Blades came up with a more spirited struggle before their hometown hopefuls. However, the plot remained the same with the Cowboys emerging as the villainous victors, this time by a 4-2 score.

The double loss sunk the Blades into immediate tenure of second place in the OJHL. They're not alone on this floor however as sharing their company are the Penticton-Summerland El Rancho Broncos, the league's newest entry.

The Broncos, despite a strong team effort, dropped their two season openers to defending OJHL champion Kamloops Rockets, 6-4 and 4-1. The 6-4 game, played in Penticton Friday night, was a bitterly fought struggle, finally won in overtime by the more experienced Hub City pucksters.

The Blades are scheduled to tangle with the Rockets this coming weekend with a game here Friday and a Saturday contest back in Kamloops. They face the Broncos the following weekend.

Their first two games against Kelowna revealed many weak spots, or shall we say inadequacies, in the Blade's squad. Though showing plenty of promise and potential, which may yet mould them into a contender, the local juniors obviously weren't ready for the season—or for the Buckaroos.

The skating, in most instances, wasn't quite up to par, the play-making lacked cohesion, particularly around the net, and the defence had a few holes.

This isn't to say the Blades were complete write-offs. They most certainly weren't as they gave the Buckaroos some hot moments in both games.

Some fine individual performances were given by a number of the Blades, notably defenceman Jim Stephen, goaltender Norm Schiman, import centre Gary Koski and winger Ralph Litzenberger.

Stephen was his old steady self on the blueline, belting puck-carriers right and left, Schiman did a job beyond the call of duty, especially in the first game when he stopped 49 shots, Koski was all over the ice and gave every ounce he had in a pair of losing causes, and Litzenberger was, well . . . what can you praise about Litzenberger that you haven't praised before.

Several juveniles saw action with the juniors in both games. Scott Smith and Gordie Clarke performed reasonably well on defence and up front centre George Watson and right winger Mike Clerke saw plenty of action, combining for one of Vernon's two goals Saturday night.

Merritt Duo Husband-Wife Golf Winners

Vernon Golf Club was a busy place on Thanksgiving Day when it was host to players from Kamloops, Penticton, Revelstoke and Merritt in the annual Husband and Wife Tournament.

Winners for the day were Mr. and Mrs. J. DeWolfe of Merritt with the runners-up being Joy and Ray Bales-tra of Vernon.

Low gross went to Doreen and Len Wallington of Vernon followed by Mr. and Mrs. McCune of Penticton.

Winners of the Nancy Lynne Trophy up for competition each year for grandparents and run in conjunction with the tournament, were Eve and Ken Wynne with the low net and Mike and Nick Carew as runners-up.

Hidden hole prizes were won by Dorothy and Larry Scott and Betty and Charlie Pierce. A prize for the hardest working couple was awarded to Joan and Bob Halko.

The Ladies Section of the Vernon Golf Club is holding a rummage sale Saturday Oct. 31 at the Elks Hall, starting at 1 p.m.

Co-conveners for this event are Mrs. J. K. Maynard and Mrs. H. F. Robertson. Anyone wishing to have donations picked up are asked to phone 2-7842.

The annual meeting of the Ladies Section will be held at the club house Wednesday, Nov. 4. The annual banquet is set for Nov. 9.

The Blades might have collected four or five goals in Kelowna Friday but for exceeding stinginess of the Buckaroos' new import goalie Mike Gaal. Gaal displayed lots of gall—and skill—in blocking 42 shots, many of them ticketed for the back of the net.

Leading the Buckaroos' scoring barrage was the one-two punch of Kasubuchi and Evans. Kasubuchi, captain of the Kelowna squad this year, rifled in a hat-trick matched by his wingmate Evans. Evans, in addition, collected three assists.

John Strong netted a pair for the Bucks and Marcello Verna notched a singleton and four assists. The Bucks led 2-0 after the first period and had a comfortable 5-0 bulge going into the final frame.

Twenty penalties were issued in the hard knocking affair, 10 to each club. Kelowna defenceman Doug Bullock got thumbed from the game when he interfered in an altercation between Vernon's Bobby Stein and Kelowna's Terry Strong. Koski and Dave Cousins also mixed it up.

Saturday night Terry Strong and Al Fisher powered the Cowpokes to a 2-0 edge in the first period and Evans and Bullock finished the job in the second.

Clerke countered for Vernon in the middle frame on a pass from Watson and Koski clicked from Buck Sherk early in the third.

The Blades outshot the Bucks 29-19 in the game. The two referees, Art Davison and Alex Kashuba, caught 13 infractions, Kelowna being the culprits nine times.

The federal government is currently spending about \$3.1 billion a year on social security, health and welfare; provincial and municipal governments spend about \$1.4 billion.

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