

Rockets Rout Blades; Snatch Lead In OJHL

KAMLOOPS 9, 8; VERNON 6, 3

That loud noise you heard on the weekend wasn't thunder. It was just the sound of Vernon Blades crashing into the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League cellar.

The Blades took their unwilling tumble into the nether world of the OJHL when they dropped a pair of games to Kamloops Rockets, their third and fourth of the season in as many starts.

Friday night they hosted the Rockets at Vernon Civic Arena and were hosed 9-6 for their troubles. And Saturday night they got more of the same, 8-3 up in Kamloops.

The twin wins vaulted the defending champion Rockets into sole possession of first place in the OJHL, a game ahead of Kelowna Buckaroos who were bounced 5-4 by Penticton - Summerland El Rancho Broncos Friday night in Penticton.

As in their first two games of the season versus Kelowna the Blades hardly came up with inspiring performances against the Rockets. If anything, they looked worse.

To stay even with the Rockets you have to skate, skate, skate and then skate some more. The Blades didn't and Kenny Stewart's Misslemen left them in a cloud of ice dust.

To stop Kamloops' prolific goal - scoring attack you've got to check ferociously and unceasingly. The Blades lazed and the Rockets bagged a bushel.

To put forward your very best you've got to have the horses. The Blades had a few missing and were left cold at the post. End of lecture.

For a while Friday night it looked as if the Blades were truly going to make a match out of it as winger Dale Sorochnik rattled in a pair of unanswered goals to give them a 2-0 lead in the first period.

But the Rockets quickly knotted the count before the period was out and struck for five more markers in the sandwich session, Vernon replying with two to make it 7-4. Each club tallied twice in the final frame to maintain the status quo.

The most productive line of the night for Kamloops was, by coincidence, their first line and their fastest. Centreman Eric Shishido led the way with two goals and three assists, winger Dale Sandyke sniped a pair as did Eddie Beff, the third member of the flashy triumvirate.

Defenceman Terry Shishido added a goal and an assist with newcomers Brent Campbell and Barry Patterson netting singletons. Sorochnik was Vernon's

top marksman with two goals. Ike Coulter, Bobby Stein, Ralph Litzenberger and Allan Rogan each countered once.

There were 11 penalties issued with the Rockets serving six. One fight broke out with Vernon's Buck Sherk and Kamloops' Wayne Leveay the participants. Shots on goal were an even seven 28-28.

Missing for the game was centre Gary Koski, one of the Blades' brightest recruits this season. He was also absent Saturday night as were Stein and Sherk which hampered Vernon's offence considerably.

Rogan, Sorochnik and juvenile George Watson accounted for the Blades' goal production Saturday in

Kamloops. Defenceman Jim Stephen helped engineer two of them.

Begg fired a hat-trick for the Rockets with young brother Ken Shishido, Patterson, Campbell, Leveay taking care of the remainder.

Kamloops led 4-1 in the first period and enjoyed a 6-2 edge going into the 20-minute finale. They outshot the Blades 47-27 and took six of 11 penalties.

Next weekend the Blades play a pair with the league's newest entry, the Broncos from Penticton - Summerland. They visit Penticton Friday and host the Combines here Saturday.

An astronaut, without special tools, would spin about in reaction to the force he exerted if he attempted to tighten a bolt in an orbiting capsule.

Harlem Stars Coming Tuesday

The hilarious Harlem Stars are coming to town Tuesday night.

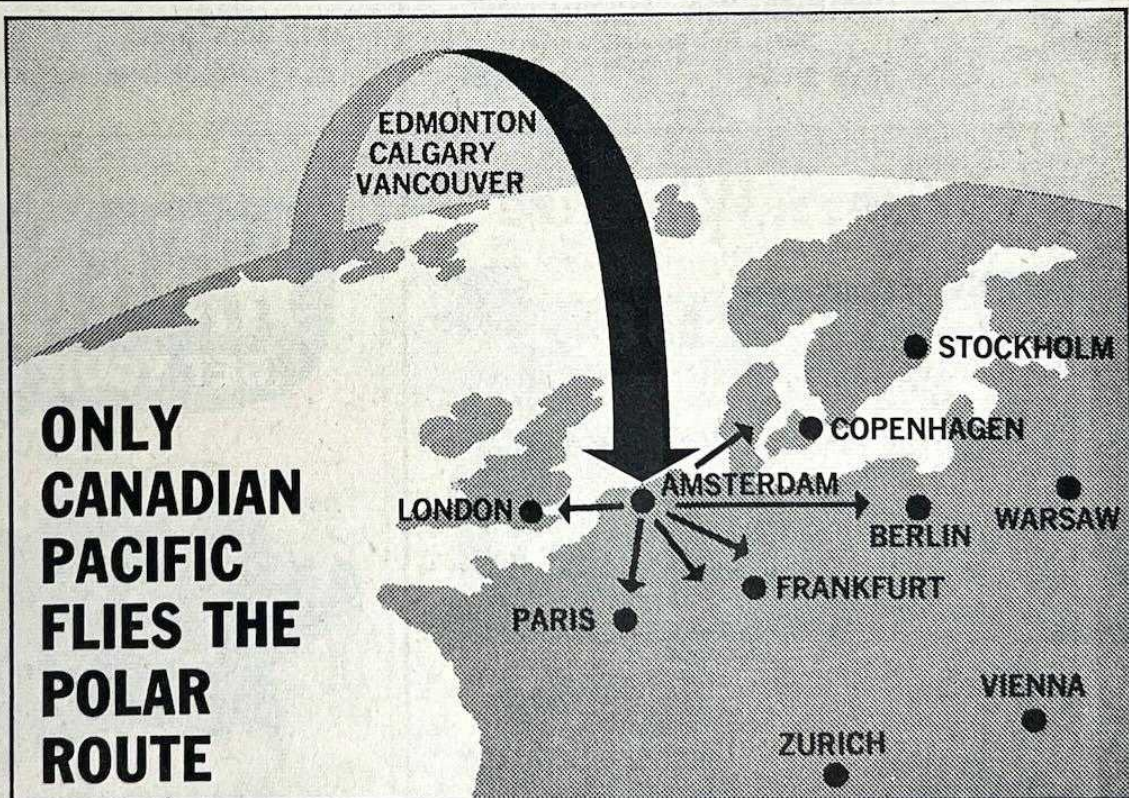
Starting at 8:30 p.m. in the Vernon Senior High School gym the world famous basketball zanies will take on the Vernon Panthers in what is billed as an exhibition basketball game.

And an exhibition it's going to be too when the Stars start strutting their stuff.

Magicians is what owner Boid Buie calls them and he's right. Fans will see a fancy exhibition of razzle dazzle ball handling, intricate routines, both planned and impromptu comedy and lots, lots more.

Featured besides one-armed wonder Boid Buie will be "Big Ed" Wallace, a 6' 5" ceiling duster from Fort Worth Texas and "Honey Bear" Morgan.

There will be two exhibition games involving the Vernon senior girls' team and the Vernon Jayvee Spartans before the main bout.



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