

# Blades Fly High, Then Flop In Weekend Series

Vernon 4,0

Penticton-Summerland 2,6

Vernon Blades rose up to the heady heights of the sublime and back to the ridiculous in one brief weekend whirl.

Friday night the Blades looked like world beaters as they laced Penticton-Summerland Broncos, the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League newcomers, 4-2 down in Penticton. That was the sublime.

Back here at the Civic Arena Saturday night the Blades had the tables turned on them sharply as the fired up Broncos rode roughshod to a 6-0 victory in a wild, penalty-filled affair laughingly referred to as a hockey game. That was the ridiculous.

What did it all prove? Nothing much. The Blades are still in last place in the OJHL and the Broncos are still in third, albeit

one game closer to second place Kelowna Buckaroos who dropped a crucial pair of weekend games to league leading Kamloops Rockets by identical 5-3 scores.

In the game Friday in Penticton the Blades were very convincing visitors and the Broncos very unconvincing OJHL contenders. The Vernon juniors outskated, outhustled and outplayed their youthful rivals who had, up to that time, shown very well in league action.

Held to a 1-1 tie in the first period the Blades bust loose for three goals and a 4-1 bulge in the sandwich session, then held off a late Bronco rally that netted a single tally in the third frame.

Ike Coulter, Allan Rogan, Bobby Stein and Gary Koski counted for Vernon with Ken Lawson and Jim O'Neill replying for the Combines.

Saturday the Broncos, obviously heeding some choice words from their coach Jim Taggart, invaded the Civic Arena with fire in their eyes and jet propulsion in their skates.

In the first period they rang up a 2-0 score, took a breather in the middle frame and exploded for four more unanswered markers in the finale.

Left winger Larry Palanio led the Broncos' attack with three goals and one assist with centremate Moe Hays contributing four helpers and right winger Ken Lawson a singleton. Gene Benner and Don Darlstrom also collected one goal apiece.

Goalie Ernie Pushkarenko stopped 20 shots in posting his first shutout.

The game was marred by penalties with Vernon recalcitrants taking 17 of 25 issued including 10-minute misconducts to Jim Stephen and Dale Sorochnik.

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