

Bucks Take Two

Blades Fatten Loss Column

KELOWNA 7,2 VERNON 1,1

Vernon Blades had their edges filed down a little flatter last weekend by the high riding Kelowna Buckaroos.

Yes, the Blades (you guessed it) dropped two more games to the Bucks in Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League play, catapulting their record to a horrendous one win and seven losses.

The first study in futility occurred Friday night in Kelowna when the Bucks hammered their hapless opponents 7-1.

Chapter two of the sorry saga was penned Saturday in Vernon Civic Arena where the Blades, though holding their own for at least half the game got gunned down 2-1 by Don Culley's Cowboys.

The Blades can enjoy one consolation—if you can call it a consolation. They didn't drop any deeper into the league cellar, their present domain.

Any thanks they may feel is forthcoming may be directed to the league leading Kamloops Rockets who bounced their nearest basement rivals, Penticton-Summerland Broncos, twice Friday and Saturday to maintain their unbeaten clip.

The Buckaroos, of course, kept pace with the orbiting Rockets at the expense of their North Okanagan neighbors.

Culley's crew had little trouble dispatching the Blades Friday down in Kelowna. They grabbed an early lead and goalie Mike Gaal and a solid defence took over from there.

Buck Sherk fired in a pass from defenceman Jim Stephen for the Blues' lone light on the scoreboard.

Saturday night's game was a nice, even-steven effort with plenty of action to keep the fans occupied. The Blades' best period was the second when they scored their single goal and outshot the Bucks 11-6.

Kelowna tallied in the first and third frames and had a 25-24 total shots edge on the game.

Fifteen penalties were issued by referees Alex Kashuba and Art Davison, nine to Kelowna. There was one bit of rough stuff in the second period when Vernon's Gary Koski scuffled with Kelowna's Lynton Swanson.

Kelowna opened the scoring in the first period when John Strong picked up a blueline pass from brother Terry to beat Blade netminder Norm Schiman.

In the second period Vernon knotted things up with Koski flicking in the puck during a goal mouth scramble.

Kelowna's winning counter came early in the final period when newcomer Garth Rizzuto, a 17-year-old recruit from Trail, went in all alone on a smart bit of stick handling.

Vernon's next action is this coming weekend when they grapple with the league leading Rockets.

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