

# 'Twas A Good Battle But Rockets Win Again

KAMLOOPS 8, VERNON 4

Kamloops Rockets did the predictable Wednesday afternoon, winning their ninth straight game of the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League season, but the Vernon Blades made them work for it.

The Blades, currently low men on the OJHL totem pole, battled the Rockets to a virtual standstill for almost two periods before succumbing 8-4 in a fast paced Remembrance Day contest played in the Hub City.

It was one of the best games the Blades have come up with this season but "best" doesn't always mean enough, particularly when you're playing the always formidable Rockets on their home ice.

But they made a fight of it which is better than most clubs have done in encounters with Kenny Stewart's Missilemen this year.

Down 3-0 early in the second period the Blues scrambled back with three goals and trailed the Rockets 4-3 at one stage. However, costly penalties caused a lapse in momentum and the Kamloopsians turned the tide their way again, scoring a fifth goal to end the second period and out-gunning the Blades 3-1 in the final frame.

If shots on goal serve as any indication the Blades had a superior edge in play. On the game they out-shot their victors 39-26

and in the first two frames they held the upper hand by 16-7 and 14-9 margins.

It is interesting to note that five of Kamloops' eight goals came with Vernon men in the penalty box. And it should also be mentioned that the Blades scored once while short-handed two players.

The greatest improvements shown by the Blades Wednesday was in passing the puck. Three of their four goals came on good, solid three-way combinations.

Dale Sorochnik teamed up with Ron Penno and Gary Koski for their first one, Ike Coulter clicked from Jim Stephen and Koski for number two and Bobby Stein finished off a third play engineered by Sorochnik and Allan Rogan. Ralph Litzenberger accounted for their last goal in the third period while engaged in his usual job of penalty-killing.

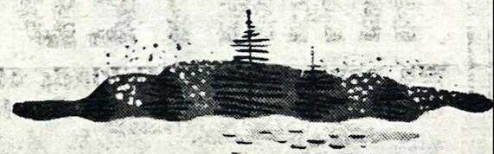
For the still undefeated Rockets it was Eric Shishido and George Meridew with two goals and one assist apiece, Robbie Jamieson, Brian Patterson, Dale Sandyke and Ken Rodgers with singles.

There were 12 penalties issued all told with the

Blades taking seven of them. Stephen was charged with a questionable spearing call late in the second period.

This Saturday night the Blades host the Rockets at Vernon Civic Arena, starting 8:30 p.m.

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