



A Night To Remember

Saturday night was truly a memorable night for the Vernon Blades who emerged as the first team in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League to defeat the front-running Kamloops Rockets. The Rockets, unbeaten in nine games, were waffled 8-2 by the fired up Blades. Here defenceman-centre Gary Koski is a picture of all-out hustle and determination as he cuts in on Kamloops goalie Harvey Budarick with the puck. Checking Koski on this play is Dale Sandyke.

Well, How About That! Blades Blast Rockets 8-2

Fired Up Blues Halt Hot Win Streak At Nine Games

VERNON 8, KAMLOOPS 2

Well, would you believe it! The mighty Kamloops Rockets are mere mortals after all.

And it's taken a pack of lowly, cellar dwelling Vernon Blades to prove it.

Saturday night the Blades, tail-enders in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League with only one win in nine starts, exposed the Rockets' feet of clay in stunning fashion, larruping them 8-2 in a fast paced encounter at Vernon Civic Arena.

It was the first defeat of the season for the league leading Rockets who had built up a supposedly invincible nine win-no loss record in the first month of OJHL play.

True, the classy Kamloopsians were bound to be beaten sometime but no one, least of all the Rockets, expected the Blades to do the job.

But they did. And convincingly too as that lopsided 8-2 score boldly and brashly broadcasts.

The Rockets weren't just beaten on the scoreboard. They were belted physically. They were mauled in spirit. They were bested in every facet of the game called hockey.

The Blades just wouldn't accept anything less than a victory Saturday night. Except for the first few minutes of play when the Rockets grabbed a quick 2-0 lead the Vernon juniors exercised complete control of the game.

They skated the fast, shifty Kamloops forwards into the ice, broke up their usually effective positional plays with fierce fore-and-back-checking and, as the final touch, they carried the battle to the enemy, bottling up the Rockets in their own zone and bombarding goalie Harvey Budarick with 37 shots.

So effective was their combined offensive-defensive that Kamloops only mustered 21 shots on goalie Norman Schiman. In the third period alone, the Rockets only got three shots away on the Vernon net.

The blades netted two goals in the first period to nullify the Rockets' initial 2-0 lead, added a singleton in the sandwich session and exploded for five unanswered counters in the final frame.

Just about everybody got into the goal-scoring act which serves to point out what a supreme team effort the Blades came up with.

Winger Allan Rogan powered his way for two goals and one assist, centre Bobby Stein (who incidentally did double duty on defence) tallied once and helped set up three more while notching singles were Dale Sorochnik, Ike Coulter, Ralph Litzenberger, Gary Koski and Buck Sherk.

Particular standouts for the Blades were Litzenberger, spectacular both as a checker and as a puck opportunist in the Kamloops zone; Sorochnik, who played by far his best and most inspired game of the season; defenceman Jim Stephen, whose savage checking scrambled many Kamloops rushes before they materialized; and Koski, who toiled both on the blueline and up front for most of the 60 minutes.

Dale Sandyke proved to be all of Kamloops' offence, scoring both their goals early in the first period.

There were only nine penalties issued in the first moving contest, six to Kamloops including a game misconduct to Ken Rinaldi in the second period.

Sandyke opened hostilities at 2:40 of the first period, banging in a loose puck unassisted. Two min-

utes later he did a repeat, this time with wingmate George Meridew supplying an assist.

Although the Rockets didn't know it yet that was to be all the scoring down at the Vernon end of the rink. Girding their loins and unfurling battle colors the fired up Blades lit into

Rangers Still Riding High In Bantams

Rangers continued their winning ways in bantam house league hockey play last week.

Thursday night they edged Blackhawks 3-2 and Saturday morning they blanked Bruins 2-0. In the Thursday contest Ranger goals were counted by S. Hubbard, F. McClelland and Wayne Dye with Rick Munk and Steve White tallying for the Hawks. Saturday Howard Chase and G. Black teamed up to beat the Bruins. In another game played Thursday Bruins squeaked by Redwings 2-1 with Mike Perepolkin and Wayne Nuyens notching a goal apiece. J. Inglis countered for the Wings.

Saturday morning Redwings and Blackhawks battled to a 2-2 tie. Gordon Postill and Steve White triggered goals for the Hawks while Larry Fisher supplied both Wing markers.

their visitors with a ferocity that wasn't leashed until the final buzzer.

Before the period was out they had erased Kamloops' 2-0 lead thanks to a slick, backhand shot by Rogan and a fine, "sheer guts" effort by Litzenberger. And in the middle frame they took a lead they never relinquished as Sherk rifled in Stein's raceoff pass from the left side of the Kamloops net.

Then came the third period and a black 20 minutes it was for Kenny Stewart and his red-shirted assemblage.

Stein started things off at 5:45 with Litzenberger and Koski on the assisting end, Coulter clicked from Stein and Koski two minutes later, Rogan blazed in a Sherk pass at 11:57, Sorochnik flipped in a Rogan-Sherk digout at the 13 minute mark and Koski connected from Stein with 39 seconds to full time to finish dismantlement of the Rocket machine.

The Blades see their next action Friday night in Penticton when they tangle once again with the Penticton-Summerland Broncos.

Minor Hockey Meeting Called

The Vernon Minor Hockey Association is holding a meeting in the Allison Hotel Monday night at 7:30 p.m.

All executive members and coaches are required to attend this meeting.

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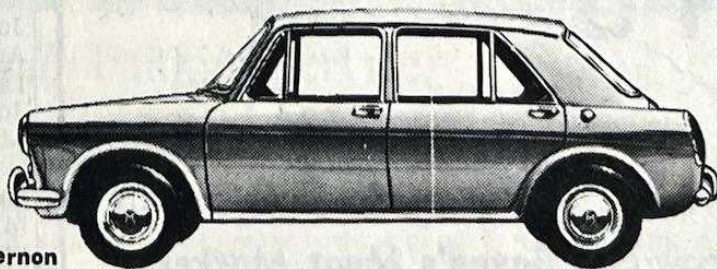
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