

# Black Weekend For OJHL Elite

## Broncs Rap Rockets Twice; Blades Tie Two With Bucks

PENTICTON-SUMMERLAND 4, 5; KAMLOOPS 2, 3  
VERNON 4, 3; KELOWNA 4, 3

Rumblings of overthrow and revolt were heard through the length and breadth of the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League last weekend and it's shaken the security of the two perennial ruling powers, Kamloops Rockets and Kelowna Buckaroos.

The unrest originated from the two "proletarian" teams in the OJHL, Penticton - Summerland and Vernon Blades, and there was no mistaking their intentions.

The loudest call for revolution was sounded by the cellar-dwelling Broncs who rose up to smite the fat and complacent Kamloops Rockets twice on the weekend.

Friday night they hammered the Rockets 4-2 in Penticton for their first victory of the season over the league leaders and Saturday they pulled off a real stunner by defusing Kenny Stewart's peerless pucksters 5-3 in what has been the Rockets' invincible fortress for nigh on two years, Kamloops Memorial Arena.

The Blades, although they didn't achieve quite the success of the Broncs, nevertheless gave the second place Buckaroos headaches aplenty by holding them to a pair of ties in a crucial weekend series.

Down in Kelowna Friday night the Blades battled back from a 4-1 deficit with three unanswered goals in the final 10 minutes of play to gain a well-earned 4-4 tie on the notoriously tough Orchard City ice. Saturday at the Civic Arena a last gasp "garbage" goal with less than a minute to go allowed the Buckaroos to salvage a 3-3 sawoff.

The dual efforts of the Broncs and Blades tightened up OJHL standings considerably. Penticton-Summerland, in last place going into the weekend activity, picked up four big points on the pace-setting Rockets and two on both Vernon and Kelowna. They are now tied for third with the Blades.

The Blades, while they didn't narrow their seven-point gap on the Buckaroos as planned, did manage to keep the Kelownians well in sight. And they gained two valuable points on the Rockets who lead the league by only a six-point margin as the season rolls into December.

The Vernon juniors now boast a five-game unbeaten streak in which they have picked up seven points on two wins and three ties.

This is the best they have done at one stretch since joining the OJHL back in 1961.

What's the reason for the Blades' sudden upsurge? Easy. They're playing better hockey than they ever have before—good, hard checking, positional hockey. They've developed new confidence in their abilities. And, their most noted improvement, they've stopped resigning themselves to losing.

If there was ever a game that illustrated that last mentioned point it was Friday's clash in Kelowna. Down 4-1 with less than 10 minutes to full time the Blades were apparently all but out of it. Not so. Instead of drooping they came on higher than kites, rattling in three quick goals to square the score and all but winning the whole bundle with fantastic flourish in the late seconds.

Hard-working defenceman Jim Stephen launched Operation Comeback at 10:33 of the third period with an unassisted marker, winger Dale Sorochuk topped in a pass from centre Bobby Stein at 11:40 and Stein dazzled the crowd at 18:35 with a fine, solo effort to wind up proceedings.

The Blades almost stole a victory when Allan Rogan, Ralph Litzberger and Ike Coulter shot in on the Kelowna net on a three-man breakaway but Buckaroo goalie Mike Gaal withstood the test.

Rogan scored Vernon's first goal midway through the second period, unassisted.

High-scoring centre

Marcello Verna and rookie defenceman Dave Cousins each netted a goal and two assists for the Buckaroos. Terry Kasubucki and Terry Strong triggered the other two. The Bucks led 1-0 after the first period and 3-1 after the second.

Kelowna outshot Vernon 29-25 and took 10 of 18 penalties. It was a chippy game and there were numerous calls for spearing, high sticking, butt ending, etc.

Saturday night it was Kelowna's turn to snatch sure victory away from the Blades. With 53 seconds reading on the clock and Vernon ahead 3-2 Verna drove a random shot from centre ice that skittered under Norm Schiman's glove and into the net. Schiman appeared to have the puck momentarily but lost control.

## Red-Hot Juveniles Burn Kelowna; Stay Unbeaten

Vernon 9 Kelowna 3  
Rampaging Vernon Juvenile All-Stars made it two in a row over Kelowna in Okanagan Juvenile Hockey League play Thursday.

Odie Lowe's peerless All-Stars swamped the Kelownians 9-3 in the Orchard City, duplicating a feat they performed here in Vernon the previous week.

It was the All-Stars' fourth victory of the season and stretched their unbeaten string to five games. They currently lead the league by two points.

Winger Vern Colley teamed up with defenceman Gordie Clarke to demolish the Kelowna crew, each firing hat-tricks. Centre George Watson collected two goals and two assists and Ted Palm notched the remaining marker.

Roy Olney, Larry McKenzie and Dave McIntosh replied for Kelowna.

Vernon grabbed a 2-1 edge in the first period and had a 4-3 advantage going into the final frame when they pumped in five unanswered goals.

### OJHL Standings

	W	L	T	F	A	P
Kam. ....	11	3	0	78	58	22
Kelowna	7	5	2	60	44	16
Pent.-S.	4	9	1	46	56	9
Vernon .	3	8	3	43	69	9

Juvenile recruit George Watson had given the Blades their 3-2 edge earlier in the period, beating Gaal with a great display of stickhandling.

Following a scoreless first period Kelowna broke the ice at the two-minute mark of the middle frame, Verna doing the honors.

However Watson and then Buck Sherk came through with big plays to give the Blades a 2-1 lead going into the third. Garth Rizzuto knotted the count for Kelowna again shortly after the final period opened.

Kelowna again had the edge in shots-on-goal, 24-19, but the Blades had most of the actual play. The Bucks were served eight of 11 penalties.

The Blades get back to work Friday night when they host the Rockets at the Civic Arena. They return the favor Sunday afternoon in Kamloops.

The All-Stars see their next action Tuesday night when they travel to Penticton. A game with Merritt scheduled for Sunday at the Civic Arena was cancelled.



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