

Johnston Paces Hawks With Four

A four-goal performance by Fred Johnston powered Hawks to a 7-3 victory over Red Wings in bantam house league hockey action at Vernon Civic Arena Thursday.

Johnston also added two assists to all but single-handedly scuttle the Wings. Counting other markers for the victors were Ricky Munk, Derek Barnard and Steve White. White also collected two assists.

Larry Fisher scored all three goals for the Red Wings.

Rangers rolled to a 5-3 win over Bruins in another bantam game played Thursday. Wayne Dye paced the Rangers with two goals and one assist, Barry Cole notched a singleton and two assists while other tallies went to Howard Chase and Steve Hubbard.

Mike Peropolkin replied for Bruins with a brace and one assist, Gordon Postill added a single tally.

Columbus' vessel, Santa Maria, was the New World's first "rent-a-ship" — leased from a Spanish shipowner.



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MEN'S and BOYS' SHOPS

NORTH SPORTS OKANAGAN

Still Sets OJHL Pace

Who's Going To Catch High Orbiting Eric?

It looks as though nothing short of a broken leg is going to stop Eric Shishido from winning the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League scoring title. Up-to-date statistics released this week show the prolific little centre with 45 points on 17 goals and 28 assists, well ahead of the OJHL pack.

His nearest rival is Kelowna Buckaroo centreman Marcello Verna who has 15 goals and 19 assists for 34 points, 11 behind. Shishido's wingmate Dale Sandyke holds down third spot with 31 points on a league leading 22 goals and nine assists. Another Rocket forward, George Meridew, is fourth with 27 points and John Strong of

Kelowna has surged into fifth with 25.

Two Vernon Blades are sixth and seventh respectively. Bobby Stein has 23 points on nine goals and 14 assists and Dale Sorochuk is right behind with 22 thanks to 14 goals and eight assists.

Mike Gaal of Kelowna is still tops among league goaltenders with a sparkling 3.16 average. The Buckaroo netminder has only allowed 57 goals in 18 games this season.

Penticton - Summerland Broncos' starry Ernie Pushkarenko is runner-up with a 4.06 average, Kamloops' Harvey Budarick is third with 4.35 and Vernon's steadily improving Norm Schiman sports a 4.56 mark.

Rocket defenceman Ken Rinaldi is heading towards a record year in the penalty department. To date Rinaldi has spent 98 minutes in the sin bin, only 14 short of the league record of 112 set by Vernon Blades' Gordie Nuyens.

The Rockets still lead the OJHL with 12 wins and 24 points but the Buckaroos are hot on their tails with 22 on 10 wins and a pair of ties. The third place Blades have 15 points and the tail-end Broncos have 11.



BOBBY STEIN
Blades' torrid...



DALE SOROCHUK
... scoring duet.

League Standings		W L T GFGA P	
Kam.	12	6	0 92 81 24
Kelowna	10	6	2 80 57 22
Vernon	6	9	3 62 81 15
Pent.-S.	5	12	1 57 72 11
League Scoring		G A P	
E. Shishido,	Kam.	17	28 45
Verna, Kel.		15	19 34
Sandyke, Kam.		22	9 31
Meridew, Kam.		13	14 27
J. Strong, Kel.		12	13 25
Stein, Ver.		9	14 23
Sorochuk, Ver.		14	8 22
MacInnes, P.-S.		6	12 18
T. Strong, Kel.		4	14 18
Palanio, P.-S.		12	5 17
Rodgers, Kam.		3	14 17
Kasubuchi, Kel.		10	6 16
E. Begg, Kam.		9	6 15
Rogan, Ver.		9	5 14
Evans, Kel.		8	6 14
Sherk, Ver.		7	7 14
Jamieson, Kam.		5	9 14
Swanson, Kel.		4	10 14
Goalkeeper Averages		GP GA Ave	
Gaal, Kel.	18	57	3.16
Pushkarenko, P.-S.	15	61	4.06
Budarick, Kam.	16.3	71	4.35
Schiman, Ver.	16	73	4.56

BILL HAUTALA
Sports Editor



Cold Weather No Threat To Bowlers

The current cold weather has put a crimp in most winter sports activity here in Vernon but at the bowling alleys business is brisk as usual, no matter how low the thermometer

goes. Here bowlers in one of the five-pin leagues operating at Lincoln Lanes forget about the frigid temperatures outside by concentrating on strikes and spares.

Another 'Must' Series For Juniors

Blades Face Old Rivals In Crucial Weekend Set

Vernon Blades head into what could be classed as a make-or-break series this weekend.

The Blades face Kelowna Buckaroos in a pair of back-to-back games tonight and Saturday which could well decide their future course in Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League play.

With the regular season now more than half over the Blades need every win they can get in order to stay in contention for first place in the OJHL.

They trail league leading Kamloops Rockets by nine full points and the second place Buckaroos by seven so a pair of victories at the expense of either or both would manifestly help their cause. Two losses, on the other hand, would all but scuttle their chances for a first place finish.

The Buckaroos, so far this season, have been the hardest nuts to crack, win-wise. Matter of fact the Blades have yet to record a victory over their Kelowna rivals in six meetings to date.

At best they have come away with two ties and two points. And, despite their winning record against the other two clubs in the league, Kamloops and Penticton-Summerland, the Blades have failed to gain one iota of ground on the Bucks.

It's been downright frustrating, in fact. For over a month the Blades have trailed the Kelownians by seven points, no more, no less.

Now they have a chance to narrow the gap to a possible three points via a head-on confrontation but that's easier said than done.

The Buckaroos have always been thorns in the side of the Blades and there's no reason for assuming the situation will be any different this time around.

Besides the Bucks are involved in a neck-and-neck duel for first place with the Rockets and in no mood to

brook interference from a brash third place club.

But interference is what they're going to get if Blade coach Hap Schaefer has anything to say or do about the matter. His boys are in fighting trim and raring to get at the Bucks starting with tonight's game in Kelowna.

Last time the Blades visited Orchard City they came back with a 4-4 tie in tow. This time they're after a win.

Whatever the outcome the Blades get another crack at the Cowboys Saturday night at the Civic Arena and, despite the cold weather, a good crowd is expected to be on hand.

The Blades' ranks will be rather thin this weekend. Defenceman Gary Koski is away visiting in Saskatchewan and juvenile forward George Watson will be off on an exhibition jaunt to the Coast with the Juvenile All-Stars.

However Schaefer ex-

pects to adjust accordingly. Bobby Stein will likely see lots of action on defence with Koski out of the lineup as well as perform spot assignments on the forward line.

Norm Schiman, injured last weekend, will probably be back in goal and Ralph Litzenger, another casualty in the series with the Broncos is healthy too.

Game time for Saturday's clash at the Civic Arena is 8:30 p.m. Lucky number programs will once again be on sale at the door.

Advance ticket sales for a scheduled Sunday after-

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noon game Dec. 27 between the Blades and Kamloops are now underway.

Action elsewhere in the league this weekend sees Kamloops versus Penticton-Summerland in a two-game set. The two clubs play tonight in Penticton and back in Kamloops Saturday.

Vernon ARE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
General Skating . . . 2
Jr. Hockey—Kelowna

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
Club Skating . . . 3 to 6
NOHL Hockey . . . 6:30

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21
General Skating . . . 3
Hit Parade . . . 8 to 10

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23
General Skating . . . 8

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26
General Skating . . . 2

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
Jr. Hockey—Kamloops

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28
General Skating . . . 3
Hit Parade . . . 8 to 10

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30
General Skating . . . 8

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1
Jr. Hockey—Penticton

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