

# Buckaroos Block Blades' Advance

## Kelownians Sweep Pair From Shortstaffed Blues

KELOWNA 9, 3; VERNON 2, 1

Vernon Blades tried advancing a little further along the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League title trail on the weekend but they couldn't bypass a road-block thrown up by Kelowna Buckaroos.

The Buckaroos, ornery and cantankerous as ever, swept a two-game series from the Blades to lay any plans the Vernon juniors might have had toward improving their OJHL position in temporary abeyance.

In the series opener Friday night in Kelowna the Buckaroos staged a five-goal uprising in the third period to bomb the Blades 9-2 and Saturday night here in Vernon they completed their sweep with a 3-1 victory thanks to a pair of quick goals in the final minute of play.

Although the Blades lost valuable ground on the second-running Buckaroos and the league leading Kamloops Rockets they still managed to cling to their third place perch in the OJHL.

Penticton - Summerland

Broncos, in the league cellar but only four points back of the Blades going into the weekend action, were only able to pick up a point on the Vernonites in their series with Kamloops. They tied the Rockets 8-8 down in Penticton Friday but lost a close 5-4 decision up in Kamloops Saturday.

The Buckaroos, by virtue of their two-game sweep, crept to within a point of the pace-setting Rockets. Kamloops now has 27 points on the season, Kelowna 26.

If there was ever a reason for the Blades' double set-back it had to be a lack of available bodies. The boys, by and large, played well enough to earn at least a split but with only ten players to carry the load the going got tough.

The Blades could prob-

ably have drawn some reserves from juvenile ranks but unfortunately for them the juveniles were out of town on an exhibition tour at the Coast.

The Buckaroos, of course, were fat and healthy player-wise. They iced 15 for both games and five extra bodies can make a difference.

Friday's fracas in Kelowna was a close contest for two periods but the Bucks broke loose with five unanswered goals in the final frame to demolish a respectable 4-2 score.

Lynton Swanson, Marcello Verna and Ward Dayle led the Kelowna bombardment with two goals apiece. Single markers came off the sticks of Greg Scriver, Reg Saunders and Dave Cousins.

For the Blades Bobby Stein and Dale Sorochnik did the honors. Stein's goal, early in the third period, temporarily narrowed a 4-1 Kelowna lead.

The Kelownians had most of the play in this game as the shots-on-goal record would tend to indicate, 38-24 in favor of the Bucks.

Penalties hurt the already thinned Blade ranks. Three of Kelowna's nine goals came on power play manoeuvres with Vernon a man short.

All told there were 18 penalties in the hard-knocking clash, 10 to Vernon.

Saturday night's game at the Civic Arena was a real heartbreaker for the Blades and their fans alike.

With less than a minute to play the Blades had a hard-fought 1-1 tie all but in the bag but at 19:28 to be exact the bottom fell out of it.

With both clubs playing five aside and Vernon's ace defenceman Jim Stephen in the penaltybox the Buckaroos applied the pressure in the Blade zone and were rewarded as John Strong deflected in a screen shot by Lynton Swanson.

Blade coach Hap Schaefer immediately pulled goalie Norm Schiman for an extra attacker in a frenzied attempt to get back on an even keel but eight seconds later Marcello Verna got hold of the loose puck at centre ice and sent it sailing unheeded into the gaping Vernon net to salt the game away.

Swanson scored unassisted midway through the first period to give the Bucks a 1-0 edge but Buck Sherk picked a corner early in the sandwich session to even things up.

This game had its wild, unruly moments too, mostly in the first period. Kelowna captain Terry Kasubuchi was ousted from the game by referee Alex Kashuba for overzealously arguing a double minor-misconduct penalty to Verna.

The Buckaroos collected 10 of the 17 penalties issued, a total of 44 minutes if you included all the misconducts.

The Blades see their next action on Boxing Day when they visit Kamloops. The following Sunday, Dec. 27 they host the Rockets in an afternoon encounter. Advance tickets for the game are now on sale.



"Curses! Foiled Again!"

One of the key factors in Kelowna Buckaroos' 3-1 victory over Vernon Blades Saturday night at the Civic Arena was the great goal-tending of Mike Gaal who stifled a number of dangerous Vernon scoring thrusts during the game. Here Gaal (No. 1) makes a scramble save on Blade winger Allan Rogan while Buckaroo centremen Terry Strong (No. 9) moves in to cover up. Vernon's Dale Sorochnik (No. 6) views the proceedings from behind the Kelowna net. The Buckaroos took two games from the Blades in the weekend Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League action.

## Ex-Grads Vs Panthers

# Annual Alumni Game Tonight

Vernon Senior High School gym will be the scene of some entertaining basketball plus a little nostalgia tonight.

The occasion is the annual Homecoming Game between the 1964 Vernon Panthers and players that wore the familiar blue and white in days of yore.

This is the final game before the Christmas holidays so basketball fans should make a point of taking it in as they won't be seeing any more hoop-de-do until after New Year's.

It might not be the best basketball ever seen played at the Senior High but hoop buffs should get their money's worth. The ex-grads will probably be a little on the rusty side but there's life and skill in the old bones yet as they'll no doubt be out to prove tonight to their brash, young successors.

Those who'll be taking the floor for the Alumni include former stars like Pete Hubner, Don McLean, Garry Dickson and Dan Krestinski. In addition the Oldsters will take on a few reserves to strengthen their ranks, notably the brothers Beardmore, Chan and George.

Leading the Panthers' attack will be guard Rick Sugden along with such notables as Pat McLean, Dale Sorochnik and Bob Mayer. The Panthers are expected to be a tough team to beat.

## Perepolkin Paces Bruins

Mike Perepolkin fired three goals and two assists to pace Bruins to a lopsided 9-2 victory over Hawks in bantam house league hockey play Saturday at Vernon Civic Arena.

Counting singles for the Bruins were Wayne Nuyens, Pat Murphy, Gordie Postill, Mike Reilly, Curtis McCallum and John Carignan. Ricky Munk and Bob Mayer replied for the Hawks.

Rangers edged Red Wings 2-1 in another bantam game Saturday morning. Steve Hubbard and Wayne Dye scored for Rangers with Colin Moss on the assisting end both times. Jim Inglis tallied from Larry Fisher for the Wings' lone goal.

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