

A Good Weekend For Buck Hunting

Blades Set To Break Long Winless Record Vs Kelowna

If Vernon Blades hope to beat Kelowna Buckaroos this season they may have to do it this weekend—or not at all.

The Blades play the Buckaroos Friday and Saturday in what could conceivably be the last meeting of the season between the two rival junior hockey clubs.

The Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League playoffs are only three weeks away and unless the Blades can somehow draw the Buckaroos in either the semi-finals or finals they may not be afforded another opportunity to get their long awaited licks in.

In their eight games with Kelowna to date the Blades have only managed a pair of ties and two points, a record in sharp contrast to their productive showing against league leading Kamloops Rockets and Penticton - Summerland Broncos.

This is one of the reasons why they have failed to gain any ground on either the pace setting Rockets or the second place Buckaroos. Even a few victories over Kelowna earlier in the season would have made a considerable difference to their position in OJHL

standings but such has not been the case.

At the moment the Blades are in third place, nine points back of the Buckaroos. They still have a slim, mathematical chance of grabbing a runner-up spot or even tying for first place so a win or two this weekend would come in mighty handy.

More important the Blues have to keep winning in order to protect their third place perch which is in dire jeopardy from the tail-end Broncos. The Penticton - Summerland pucksters are slated to take on the front running Rockets in a concurrent series Friday and Saturday and should they fare better than the Blades there could be a switch in standings with disastrous consequences for you know who.

Coach Hap Schaefer hopes he will be able to ice a far healthier lineup for the two weekend bouts. Defenceman Gary Koski is expected back from Saskatchewan this week and his presence on the blueline

would strengthen the squad considerably.

His return to action could not come at a more critical time as his stand-in over the holidays, Dave MacKay, has returned to studies at UBC.

Schaefer may also be able to count on a number of the juvenile all-stars for duty against Kelowna although their length of service will be limited to three games.

First game of the weekend set with the Bucks goes Friday night in Kelowna with the return bout scheduled for Vernon Civic Arena Saturday. Gametime both nights is 8:30 p.m.

League statistics released Wednesday show the Rockets' flashy centre Eric Shishido still leading the OJHL pack in individual scoring.

Last weekend Shishido picked up three goals and three assists to boost his prolific point total to 67, 22 ahead of team mate Dale Sandyke who has 45.

Third is Kelowna's Marcello Verna with 43, fourth fellow Buckaroo John Strong with 33.

League Standings:

	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Kam.	15	8	1	123	115	31
Kel.	13	9	2	113	76	28
Ver.	8	13	3	76	108	19
P-S.	8	14	2	82	95	18

League Scoring:

	G	A	P
Shishido, Kam.	24	43	67
Sandyke, Kam.	31	14	45
Verna, Kel.	20	23	43
J. Strong, Kel.	15	18	33
Meridew, Kam.	15	15	30
Sorochuk, Ver.	16	12	28
Stein, Ver.	11	15	26
E. Begg, Kam.	15	10	25
MacInnes, P-S.	8	17	25
Kasubuchi, Kel.	15	9	24
Rodgers, Kam.	3	21	24
Palanio, P-S.	17	5	22
Swanson, Kel.	9	13	22
Rizzuto, Kel.	11	10	21
Evans, Kel.	9	12	21
T. Strong, Kel.	5	16	21
Picco, P-S.	13	7	20

Goalkeepers Averages:

	GP	GA	Ave
Gaal, Kel.	24	76	3.16
Pushkarenko, P-S.	19.6	79	4.03
Schiman, Ver.	22	100	4.54
Budarick, Kam.	21.3	97	4.60

Juveniles End Season Intact

VERNON 8, SALMON ARM 4

Vernon Juvenile All-Stars ended the Okanagan Juvenile Hockey League season undefeated Wednesday night.

Thanks to a six-goal outburst in the second and third periods the All-Stars powered their way to an 8-4 victory over Salmon Arm in the last scheduled game of the regular season.

Allan Southward fired two goals and one assist to pace the Vernon attack while adding singles were George Watson, Vern Colley, Gordie Clarke, King Cam, Bruce Allen and Tom Williamson.

The game had its rough moments and nine penalties were called, five to Vernon including a misconduct on Clarke.

The first round of the league playoffs open next weekend with the All-Stars playing either Kelowna, Summerland or Penticton in a best of three series. Winner of the southern division will play off against the northern finalist.