

# Win In Kelowna Again? Why Not!

## Blades Out To Prove Last Friday's Upset No Fluke

Well, was it "just one of those things—just one of those crazy flings?" Or have our Blades really broken the jinx on Kelowna ice?

Friday night the Vernon Blades invade Kelowna's Memorial Arena in an effort to provide proof positive that what's been done before can be done again.

As you know the Blades sent a shock wave through Kelowna and the rest of the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League last Friday when they upset the favored Buckaroos in their home corral in the opening game of the OJHL semi-final playoffs.

The score was a wildly delirious 5-3 in favor of the battling boys in blue and white. Their very first victory down in Kelowna in more than two years. And in overtime, yet!

The joy, however, was to be shortlived as any advantage the Blades may have gained in the series went kaput the succeeding Sunday when the Buckaroos rebounded with a 3-1 win back in Vernon.

So, with things back on an even keel, the Blades will again endeavour to beard the Bucks in their own den Friday and take a 2-1 lead in their best of seven series.

Better still, they'll be out to make a clean sweep of it with a follow-up win back at the Civic Arena Monday night.

Whatever happens from here on in junior hockey fans in both centres are almost assured of more hard-hitting, end-to-end, thrill-upon-thrill playoff action.

The Blades and Bucks have set a sizzling pace up to now and it's hardly likely they'll be cooling down at this crucial stage of the series. If anything,

they'll be battling fiercer than ever.

The same applies to the other semi-final playoff round now in progress between Kamloops Rockets and Penticton-Summerland Broncos.

The Rockets swooshed into a 2-0 lead, winning the first two games 5-2 and 5-4, but the surprising Broncos galloped right back into contention with a pair of

convincing 6-3 and 7-4 victories, the first one on Kamloops ice. The fifth game of this semi-final is set for Penticton Friday night.

Meanwhile, back in Bladeville, everything is in

readiness for the Blues Friday date in Kelowna. All hands are healthy and eager to go and coach Hap Schaefer is his usual optimistic self.

The only question mark is defenceman Dave MacKay. If he can make it up from UBC in time, he'll be in action Friday. As for Monday, it's doubtful.

Game time for Friday's clash in Kelowna is 8:30 p.m. A large following of rabid Vernonites, tonsils turned to high volume, will be accompanying the Blades.

Due to the Winter Carnival a large crowd is expected for Monday night's return bout at the Civic Arena. The faceoff is at 8:30 p.m. as usual.

A comic hockey game between the Vernon and Kelowna Jaycees will immediately precede the Blade-Buckaroo tilt. This will begin at approximately 7 p.m.

## Tartans Trip Kelowna In Girls' Basketball

Vernon Tartans swept to an easy 34-26 victory over a lacklustre Kelowna Owlette squad last Saturday in girl's senior basketball action in the Orchard City.

Two rookies, Nancy Sugden and Nicki Danyluck, led Vernon on the scoreboard and on defence. Sugden netted 10 points and did a fine job shadowing Kelowna's high scoring Charlene Brown, holding her to nine points. Danyluck was runner-up in scoring for Vernon with six points and also shone defensively.

The new-look Tartans played an impressive man to man defence throughout the entire game, keeping the Owlette attack from getting set. Time and again the Tartans forced the Kelowna guards to throw

the 10-second limit.

Coach Briggeman wasn't overly optimistic of the Tartan's chances against Salmon Arm this Friday night.

"The younger team members haven't got enough confidence as yet," he said. "They simply will not shoot. In Kelowna we lost the ball four straight times on the three-second violation which wouldn't happen if they shot often enough. And the only way to beat this Salmon Arm club is to out-shoot them."

The Salmon Arm game is a big one for the Tartans as a victory would put them into the Okanagan finals at the end of February. A loss would cost them a playoff berth.

Two stalwarts, Linda Wutzke and Louise Pone