

# Those Wacky, Wacky Blades! Belt Bucks With 10 Players

## Diehard Jrs. Carry Series Lead Into Clash Tonight

VERNON 5, KELOWNA 2

There's strength in numbers, the old saying goes, but whoever coined that phrase certainly didn't reckon on Vernon Blades gumming up the works.

Friday night the Blades buried this time-worn maxim in the ashcan with one of the craziest reversals of Fate you'd care to see.

The Blades, icing only ten players (nine of which are full-time regulars), soundly whipped a fat, healthy and supposedly impregnable 15-man squad of Kelowna Buckaroos 5-2 in the Orchard City to take a 2-1 lead in their best of seven Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League semi-final playoff series.

It was improbable enough that the Blades beat the Buckaroos with the meagre forces at their disposal but to defeat them on their home ice was positively incredible.

But beat them they did and so convincingly that the Blades are favored to pull a repeat act here tonight at Vernon Civic Arena and take a 3-1 strangle hold on the series. Game time is 8:30 p.m. and a record crowd, swelled by the current Winter Carnival, is expected for the crucial clash.

Elsewhere in the OJHL the underdogs were winning too on the weekend. Down in Penticton Friday night the Penticton - Summerland Broncos galloped over Kamloops Rockets 5-3 to lead their semi-final three games to two.

Kamloops has the last two games of the best of seven series but they are faced with winning both of them to make the finals.

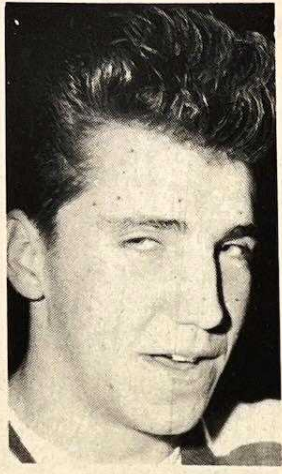
Vernon coach Hap Schaefer must have had a king-sized migraine in looking over his roster prior to Friday's game. It looked like the remnants of World War Two suicide squad.

## Pee Wees Eliminated

Vernon Pee Wee Reps suffered a quick and early fate in Valley playoff competition over the weekend.

Last Thursday the Kelowna pee wees bombed Vernon 14-6 in the first game of a best of three series played here at the Civic Arena and Sunday in Kelowna they finished the job with a 3-2 win over the immensely improved locals.

Wayne Dye was just about the only scoring attack Vernon had in both games. In the opener he netted five of their six goals with Doug Wiffen notching the remaining single and down in Kelowna he collected both Vernon markers.



**BOBBY STEIN**  
... three big ones



**DALE SOROCHUK**  
... plays new role

He only had (get this!) one serviceable defenceman, captain Jim Stephen. This disastrous state of affairs was brought about by the sudden and completely unaccountable departure of Gary Koski to his home in Saskatchewan and the failure of Dave Mackay to make it up from UBC for the weekend game.

Schaefer was almost left with just six forwards but fortunately enough Marvin Maier and Ron Penno, who had been off on a jaunt to the Coast, made it back in time.

So, with ten players to carry the load, the Blades advanced into battle against the Fearsome Fifteen of Kelowna. The result is still fantastic to grasp.

Playing their most inspired and determined hockey of the season the Blades spotted the Buckaroos an early 2-0 first

period lead, then bounced back with five unanswered goals, one in the first and two each in the second and third, to send a 1,000-plus Kelowna crowd right around the bend in stunned disbelief.

Bobby Stein led the way with three goals while adding singletons were Dale Sorochuk and Ralph Litzenberger. Gordie Schnepf and Warde Dayle clicked for Kelowna.

Sorochuk filled the gaping hole on defence left by Koski and did a very creditable job, considering he has never played the position before. Stein also did duty on the blueline to back up Stephen who went the whole way as usual.

Goalie Norm Schiman was brilliant in the nets, stopping 31 Kelowna drives, many of them severe testers. Buckaroos' Mike Gaal handled 28.

There were ten penalties called by referee Dale Cassell, six to Vernon. It was a hard-hitting game but, like the two predecessors, clean throughout.

Schnepf tallied unassisted to open scoring for Kelowna at 3:10 of the first period and Dayle rifled in a Garth Rizzuto - Dave Cousins relay to put the Bucks two up.

But then, at the 13-minute mark, Stein cut loose on a breakaway to beat Gaal and launch the Blades on Operation Comeback.

At 7:24 of the second Sorochuk squared accounts with another solo effort and Mr. Hustle, Ralph Litzenberger, steered in a pass from Allan Rogan and Ike Coulter 30 seconds later for the go-ahead and eventual winning marker.

The third period was all Stein's. At 11:54 he unleashed a hard drive with Rogan on the assisting end and with less than two minutes to full time blinked the light for the third time on a fine play from Maier.

Hockey fans are reminded of the comic hockey games between the Vernon and Kelowna Jaycees prior to the start of tonight's junior set-to.

## Juveniles Start Gunning For Championship Tuesday

Vernon Juvenile All-Stars level their sights on an Okanagan - Mainline juvenile hockey championship, starting Tuesday night at 8:15 p.m. in the Civic Arena.

The All-Stars open a best of three playoff series with Kamloops for the zone title and, on the basis of their undefeated record this season, they are strong favorites to go all the way.

The boys had a brisk practice session Sunday morning at the arena and are in fine

fettle for the upcoming series.

The second game of the playoff is scheduled for Kamloops Saturday afternoon. A third game, if necessary, would be played back in Vernon.

If Vernon takes the series they will then advance against the North Zone (Cariboo) champion for the sectional title. This series, a two-game, total-goal affair, would be played in Vernon February 20 and 21.

Should Vernon win this series as well they would gain an automatic bye into the B.C. championship finals against either the Kootenays or the Coast. This playoff is tentatively set for early March.

Coach Odie Lowe is calling on each and every hockey fan to turn out Tuesday night.

## Bruins, Wings Tie In Bantam

Bruins and Red Wings battled to a 4-4 stalemate in bantam house league hockey play last Thursday.

Doug Dirk and Bruce Boyd each potted a pair of goals for the Wings while replying for the Bruins were Make Perepolkin, Curtis McCallum, Bob Mayer and Pat Murphy.

Rangers edged Hawks 4-3 in the other bantam game. Bryan Stephen led the Rangers with two goals with singles coming from Colin Moss and Wayne Dye. John Clark triggered a brace for the Hawks and Terry Sammartino a singleton.

## New Curling Draw Tonight

The new draw in the men's curling league commences tonight at the Vernon Curling Club.

There are three divisions in the draw as before: A, B and C. Some rinks have moved up a division and some have moved down.

The divisions, with their rinks and the ice times, are as follows:

"A" Division (Mondays, 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 7 p.m.): Hall, Shockey, Henschke, Schmidt, Wetherill, Ferguson, Briggs, Clark, Little, Kurbis.

"B" Division (Tuesdays, 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 7 p.m.): Kashuba, Brown, G. Green, Ogasawara, LeBlond, Stephen, Sammartino, Mills, Blatchford, Wadsworth.

"C" Division (Wednesdays, 9 p.m.; Fridays, 7 p.m.): Hamilton, Coley, Bell, Copan, Siemans, Woods, Morrow, Scott, Brisco, A. Green.

There will be regular curling up to Tuesday this week. The remainder of the week will be taken up with ice preparation for the Valentine Mixed Bonspiel.

## Jaycees Hold Comic Hockey Bout Tonight

Local hockey buffs should get a chuckle or two tonight at 7 p.m. when the Vernon and Kelowna Jaycees stage an exhibition game at the Civic Arena as a preliminary to the junior playoff match.

The two clubs, as dictated by the Kelowna Jaycees, will follow a certain set of rules. There will be no bodychecking, no raising the puck except at the net, only regulation equipment may be used and 15-minute periods of straight time will make up the game.

According to the challenging Kelowna squad any further rulings will be made up and decided upon by their team manager as they may arise. The Vernon Jaycees will probably have something to say about this tonight.

At any rate, come on out and watch the fun. All proceeds will go toward the Crippled Children's Fund.

## Two Pee Wee Games Saturday

There were two pee wee house league hockey games played Saturday morning at the Civic Arena with Redwings blanking Maple Leafs 3-0 and Panthers edging Warriors 2-1.

Gary Turik, Doug Wiffen and Stan Hunt paced the Wings to victory with one goal apiece. M. Youngberg posted a shutout in goal.

For the Panthers Jeff Kendy and Lyle Brewer handled scoring honors. Bobby Kurbis replied for Warriors.



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