

They Did Their Best ... With Too Little!

Buckaroo Rally Ousts Blades From Playoffs

KELOWNA 6, VERNON 5

Kelowna Buckaroos stole a page from Vernon Blades' book of do-it-yourself comeback tricks Wednesday night and used it to eliminate them from further Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League play this season.

In almost a carbon copy of Sunday's thriller-diller at Vernon Civic Arena which the Blades pulled out of the fire, the Buckaroos swarmed back from a 5-2 deficit and imminent defeat with four unanswered goals in the third period to nip the Blues 6-5 and win the seventh and deciding game

of the OJHL semi-final playoff series.

It was a tough one to lose but, as the Blades' disappointed coach Hap Schaefer said in post-mortem, "the boys played their hearts out—they have nothing to be ashamed of."

And truly this is so. The

Blades, even in a losing cause, were magnificent. They did their best but in the last analysis, it was "too much with too little."

With only 12 players, 10 of which worked regular or full time, it's miraculous how the Blades got as far as they did in the playoffs, pitted as they were against a full-scale roster of 15 Buckaroos.

Going into the third period of Wednesday's decisive game the capacity Kelowna crowd of 2500 was almost ready to believe the Blades had the series all but in the bag what with that awesome 5-2 score staring them in the face.

But the short-staffed Blades had worn themselves out building up that

lead in the first two periods and the Cowboys, hepped up and in high gear, just couldn't be held back.

Terry Kasubuchi, the Buckaroos' all-star winger and captian, signalled the beginning of the end at 2:52 of the third with a goal from Marcello Vernon and Norbert Wildemann. And, after Garth Rizzuto and Dave Couves had propelled Kelowna into a 5-5 tie, the hard-shooting speedster sounded the Blades' death knell at 18:19 with Verna again on the assisting end.

Kasubuchi, undoubtedly the backbone of the Buckaroos' attack in the series, also helped engineer two goals, the second of which tied the score midway through the third.

Couves also hit for a brace in the game, his first coming in the second stanza. Dave Cousins switched for defence up to the wing, netted a single.

Marvin Maier again paced Vernon with two goals while tallying once each were Jim Stephen, Allan Rogan and Bobby Stein.

Stephen played the entire 60 minutes on defence and Dale Sorochuk was out there for almost as long. Gary Koski also did duty on the blueline besides toiling at centre between Stein and Maier.

Norm Schiman was brilliance in the Vernon nets, stopping 35 shots, many of which had a label attached. Kelowna's Mike Gaal set

aside 26, his key save being a break-away by Steinearly in the third period which could have given the Blades a 6-2 bulge.

Stein's break-away threat was lost to the Blades for 15 minutes in the second period when he incurred a five-minute penalty for boarding Kelowna defenceman Gordon Wallace and an extra 10 minutes for arguing the point with referee Dale Cassell.

Nineteen penalties were called by Cassell, 12 going to the Buckaroos. The game was rough and chippy in spots but for the most part both teams stuck to hockey.

And it was good hockey. Good, fast, end-to-end play-off hockey that had the jam-packed Kelowna arena crowd, swelled by a huge delegation from Vernon, sucking wind.

The Blades jumped into a 3-0 lead in the first period, Stephen drilling in a short screen from Sorochuk at 1:36, Rogan whistling in a beauty from Litzenberger and Stephen at 9:35 and Maier deking Gaal with a Koski-Stein relay at 19:25.

Stein cut loose for an unassisted counter at 5:13 of the second to put the Blades up 4-0 and it really looked cloudy for the Bucks. But a minute after Stein had fired its salvo Cousins dug loose a rebounder and slapped it over Schiman and then Couves steered in a pass from Lynton Swanson and Rizzuto at 12:44.

So much for the second period. For the Blades' sake better it should have been the third because their gastank was now all but empty.

However, the Blades had one more pellet left in their pistol and they expended it

at 15:57. On the play, Maier made a sneaky-fast exit from the penalty box, stole the puck from a surprised Kelowna defenceman and sifted it smooth as silk on the right side of Gaal.

Kasubuchi's first goal in the fatal third was a high flip-in from the right side that careened in off Schiman's pads. Rizzuto then blasted a loose puck between Schiman's skates and

Couves rifled in a hard rebounder by Vernon for the equalizer.

Then Kasubuchi, known affectionately by Kelownians as "The Blaster," did his nick-name proud with another blistering drive and the Buckaroos were in the finals.

Kelowna opens their best of seven series with Kamloops Rockets Saturday night in the Hub City.

Prexy, Referee-In-Chief Resign From Junior League

The Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League got a jolt Wednesday with the sudden resignation of both president Len Miller and referee-in-chief Arnold Smith.

The resignations, coming as they did in the midst of the OJHL playoffs, took the league by surprise. Their terms of office don't expire until the spring meeting when elections are held.

The Vernon News was unable to contact either Miller or Smith for comment by press time today.

Miller has been president of the OJHL for the past two seasons and Smith referee-in-chief also for two years. Both live in Vernon.

Saturday And Sunday

All-Stars, Dawson Creek In Juvenile Playoff Set

Vernon Juvenile All-Stars face their first big challenge this weekend en route to a B.C. juvenile hockey championship.

Saturday and Sunday the All-Stars take on Dawson Creek, winner of the North Zone playoffs, in a two-game, total-goal quarter-final series.

The stakes are high because whoever wins this playoff series gets a ticket non-stop to the B.C. finals.

And that's not all. As an added benefit the winner gains the right to contest the championship final on their home ice.

The All-Stars will be laying an impressive 20-game unbeaten streak on the line when they tackle the Dawson Creek contingent this weekend.

Then came the OJHL playoffs and the Blues breezed through this in six games, eliminating Kelowna, Summerland and Kamloops in that order.

Which brings us up to the present and unknown quantity represented by Dawson Creek. How good are they? What's their record?

They must have a fair team because this is the second year in a row they have represented the North in the B.C. quarter-finals. Last season they were knocked off by Okanagan champion Summerland in



GEORGE WATSON
... scoring leader.



BILL HAUTALA
Sports Editor

N. Okanagan Bird Tourney

The Vernon Badminton Club is once again holding its North Okanagan Tournament this Saturday and Sunday at Vernon Senior High School gym.

This tournament is open to all Vernon Club members as well as clubs from the Okanagan-Mainline area and the Kootenays. Approximately 90 entries are expected.

There will be three flights in ladies', men's and mixed doubles and

singles with cups and prizes for the winners and runners-up in each.

Games will get underway at 10 a.m. Saturday morning and continue through to 6 p.m. Finals will take place at 7 p.m. and presentations will be made on completion of these games.

The public is invited to watch at any time. There will be no charge. A canteen will be open at all times.

Give Yourself a **LUCKY BREAK**

Luckies Snatch