

Bucks Bow Brilliantly To Better-Balanced Club

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of The Daily Courier

NEW WESTMINSTER — Kelowna Buckaroos outlasted their forces and made one last concentrated effort, but bowed 4-1 before a better balanced hockey club Monday night at New Westminster.

With the victory New Westminster Royals won the Moray Trophy, emblematic of B.C. Junior hockey supremacy.

Royals recovered from two earlier losses in Kelowna and defeated the Interior champions three straight to take the best-of-five final, three games to two.

NO COMPLAINTS

Kelowna got some semblance of their form back before some 1,000 spectators Monday night, but it wasn't enough to offset the hard driving New Westminster squad. Bucks, critical of officiating in the first two contests here, had nothing to complain about in the final. The New Westminster club dominated play throughout most of the game but had to stave off a tougher Kelowna crew than they faced over the weekend.

Bucks coach Don Culley said after the game, "I'm proud we came back and made a fight of it. We showed them we weren't a pushover. They are a good balanced team. I knew that when I first saw them in Vernon in an exhibition game early in the season."

Over in the winners' dressing

room, amid the wild victory celebration Bob Preston, Royals coach, had nothing but praise and admiration for Kelowna.

GOOD CLUB

"They're a hell of a good club. We were lucky to beat them," he said above the noise.

A former Kelowna boy, Kevin McGladery, who was a standout throughout the series and Roy Wallace lead the scoring parade for New Westminster. Kevin repeated twice. Simpson went to George Parret and an ex-Buckaroo Gary Kucharski.

Garry Kucharski, playing at top form, paced Kelowna's effort with a pair of unassisted markers. One of these was the previous goal of the night. It followed a full length rush. John Strong and Terry Kucharski scored the other Kelowna goals.

INTERCEPT

An intercepted pass resulted in the first score. Kerry Gallagher picked it off his own blue line, scratched up the ice and Ted Wallis, who drilled in a 24-footer at 3:13 of the opening period. Both teams were playing fire a pace at the time.

Strong got that back with an overpowering drive at 7:27. His shot knocked goalie Don Wallis back into the net. It came on a power play with Parret sitting out a minor elbowing penalty. While Kelowna sat serving a penalty at 11:34 Parret put Royals in front again capping a beautiful positional play. Royals passed the puck from point to point until John Shmyr

found an opening and fired at the net. Parret deflected it past Mike Gault.

OPEN SIDE

Kucharski duplicated the feat at 13:46. He broke in at John Strong laid a pass across the goal mouth and tipped it into the open side.

At 17:43, McGladery, playing his usual strong game, combined with Paul Shmyr to cash in on a Buckaroo defensive lapse. Kelowna's defence were caught out of position as Shmyr stole the puck and went in on the right side leading McGladery who was parked in front of Gault.

Trailing 3-2 early in the middle stanza, Bucks pulled out the stops and John Strong and Kucharski hemmed Royals in with determined checking. Kucharski finally banged in a loose puck at 1:23. The pivot man dug the puck from a mass of defenders in front of the New Westminster net and slid a back hander by Wallis.

PENALTIES

A double penalty proved costly to Bucks at the 11 minute mark. Marcello Verna was cautioned for high sticking at 10:45 and he hardly got settled in the sin-bin, on his third penalty of the night, when Norbert Whitman was waved off for slapping. Royals played the puck from man to man in the Kelowna zone before Wallis flipped the rubber over the prostrate Gault.

New Westminster opened a two-goal bulge again when McGladery banged in a loose puck, shooting over a four-man pile up in the goal crease.

SEE-SAW

Play see-sawed back and forth early in the third period with Royals playing cautiously, tightening up their defence and looking for the breaks. Both goalies made sparkling saves in the early minutes. Determination was the main factor in Kelowna's fourth tally. Kucharski pulled Bucks within a goal, in a dazzling wed to end dash. He pushed the puck through the New Westminster defence, shook off two clinging checkers and drove the disc right through Wallis at the midway point in the period.

Kelowna afterwards failed to keep the sustained drive going for the equalizer and poor defensive play hampered their efforts. John Strong and Rimeto were the only forwards who continuously posed a threat while on the ice. Kucharski and Don Hibbert were both nursing leg injuries during the final stages.

INSURANCE

Kucharski wrote final to Bucks hopes when he scored the insurance goal at 17:34.

Penalties were split almost down the middle with Kelowna absorbing eight of the 13 minors. The shots on goal show a wide variance, which wasn't entirely indicative of play. New Westminster out shot Kelowna 47 to 18.

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Saskatchewan Defaults On Memorial Cup Playoffs

REGINA (CP)—A firm decision by the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association has eliminated the winner of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League playoffs from Memorial Cup competition this year.

Fred Page of Port Arthur, CAHA vice-president, said the association will not change Memorial Cup playoff dates to accommodate the SJHL, but SJHL commissioner Frank Boucher hopes "there may be an angle to salvage the situation."

The problem was revealed Monday night when Frank Germann, president of the Saskatchewan Amateur Hockey Association, said in an interview he had sent a telegram to the CAHA expressing his regrets that a Saskatchewan champion would not be decided in time for the Memorial Cup quarter-finals this year.

Germann said he received a telegram from Page saying the SJHL had to have a team in New Westminster March 27 as per "the agreement made at the CAHA meeting Jan. 24-25 in Winnipeg."

Germann said he had no alternative but to inform the CAHA that the SJHL would be unable to meet that commitment.

Regina Pats and Weyburn Red Wings open their best-of-seven SJHL final series in Weyburn Wednesday night. Boucher said, and could not possibly be finished in time to meet B. C. by the prescribed date.

WONT EXTEND DATES

In Port Arthur, Page said there definitely will be no extension of dates. If Saskatchewan is unable to send a representative, the CAHA will attempt to set up a playoff between Alberta and B.C., Page said.

Boucher said it was a league decision that the SJHL play out its regular playoffs before worrying about going on to Memorial Cup play.

Boucher said he didn't have any ideas about how the SJHL could solve the problem, but planned to meet today with officials of both Regina and Weyburn to discuss any ideas they might have.