

Blades Look Better But Still Can't Win

Vernon Gains First Point With Tie Against Broncs

Vernon Blades just have to be the best looking losers that ever graced a hockey rink.

Vernon lost two and tied one, in play over the weekend, but even with this not too imposing record — did play Penticton and Kelowna to a standstill for a large period of their games.

Blades picked up their first point of the campaign by hanging on to tie Penticton 4-4 on Remembrance Day here in Vernon.

They faded in the stretch to lose to Penticton 7-3 the following night and boomed with 15 seconds left to give Kelowna 4-3 edge Sunday in Vernon.

Club officials say the team's biggest need is some fans in the arena for the home games. No one

who saw Sunday's game can say the Juniors don't provide lots of action and excitement.

But for some reason, the crowds range from 100-300 in Vernon and from 800-1000 in all the other centers.

If we could have enough fans out to make the place a bit noisy, it would cheer the boys up considerably, one club official said. "We don't care who they cheer for as long as they come out and cheer."

A shakeup of Vernon players has some fans criticizing — "Some people will always criticize" head

coach Hap Schaffer said.

Only the boys who are willing to skate 100 per cent are getting ice time. The change in the Vernon performance is remarkable.

We're still looking for players — but not anybody who is looking for some glory and a free skate, coach Schaffer commented.

Goalie Norm Schiman continues to amaze fans with his agile net-tending. He couldn't be faulted for the goals shot past him this past weekend. In the three games he stopped 127 shots, many of them labelled.

The hardy Schiman emerged as the hero of Sunday's tilt as he kept Blades in the game with one spectacular save after another.

Rookie Ivan Malinoski is another favorite of the Vernon fans. The Quesnel speedster amazes everyone with his rushes down the ice — and his ability to out skate the opposition.

In the Sunday game Vernon took a lead late in the first period when Rick Reilly took a pass from Dale Sorochnik and Scott Smith to beat Moose Jaw Canuck import, Chuck Kamminge in the Kelowna nets.

Kelowna struck back in the second period when Verna beat a shorthanded Vernon unit on a well screened drive from 20 feet. Schiman never saw it until the light blinked.

Marvin Maier was right on the spot to flip in a loose puck in front of the Kelowna goal at the 50 second mark of the third period after Dale Sorochnik had blazed a long shot on the target.

However four minutes later the Vernon defence left Swanson unmarked in front of the net and he gave Schiman no chance.

Gord Clarke blazed in a perfect screened shot from the point to give Vernon a lead at 6:44 but Swanson swept in again just 43 seconds later to tie the count.

Vernon and Kelowna played each other to a standstill for the remainder of the session until with 15 seconds left a fateful blunder cost Blades the tie.

Schiman came out of the nets to block the angle on a rush by Kelowna and pulled off a good save as he turned the puck behind the goal.

However, one unchecked Kelowna player went behind the net and passed to another, unmarked Buckaroo in front of the net — while Schiman was desperately recovering from the save and Kelowna won 4-3.

Blades were hurt halfway through the first frame when ace forward Bob Stein was given the heave-ho for his part in a general fracas that saw six penalties handed out.

Sport Briefs

The Boys' Basketball League for youngsters up to 15 years of age is now in full swing with four teams playing every Friday beginning at four o'clock. All boys interested are invited to turn out at this time.

The girls 15 and under basketball league is now in operation with two teams playing at 5:30 on Wednesdays. More girls are needed and any prospective players only need turn up at the usual Wednesday sessions.

The Men's Commercial Hockey League is now playing at nine o'clock Sunday evenings. Some 20 men are turning out for the new loop and more are needed. Any persons interested are asked to turn out.

A basketball referees' clinic will be held November 18 in the Salmon Arm High School Gym. All referees are urged to attend this clinic which is slated to get underway at 7:30.

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