

# Blades Sink Twice In Weekend OJHL Play

## Three Costly Boobs Sunday Deny Blades A Second Win

Vernon Blades bowed twice to Kamloops Kraft Kings in Okanagan Junior Hockey League action over the weekend.

Vernon was torpedoed 8-5 in the Hub City Saturday night and then lost a 7-6 thriller in the Vernon Civic Arena Sunday afternoon.

The twin losses left Blades without more than the barest mathematical chance of making third place in league standings as they now trail the current occupants of the slot, Kamloops, by 15 points.

Blades showed they are out to be the spoilers of the league as they indicated once again they have the ability to knock off the other three teams in the loop, in both weekend contests.

In Kamloops Saturday, Blades ran into officiating that could hardly be termed "pro - Vernon" as the locals took a heavy barrage of penalties, including a match penalty to Gord Clarke.

In the Sunday tilt, Blades outplayed the Kraft Kings for most of the game but three boobs in the last 10 minutes of play cost them the game.

Even at that they nearly pulled off the win, only a weird goal by Eric Shishido late in the final period gave the visitors the two points for the victory.

Vernon showed spirit in fighting back to tie the game by 18:44 of the third after being down two counters but just seven seconds later Shishido slid one from the right side which everyone, including Vernon netminder Norm Schiman lost sight of, until it rested in the twine.

With Clarke suspended due to his match penalty, Ivan Melanoski still sitting out a leg injury and Ted Palm on the injured list, Blades called up Juveniles, Allan Southward, Tom Williamson, King Cam and Graham Elliott.

Williamson, Southward and Cam chipped in with a goal apiece while Elliott beefed up the defence as he looked the equal of any

of the junior blue line unit.

Ed Begg rapped in the first goal of the night at 4:10 of the opening period as goalie Norm Schiman left the post uncovered and the puck bounced in.

Maurice Wernicke equalized for Vernon at the 12:54 mark on passes from Bob Stein and Scott Smith. However, Kamloops showed ability to reply quickly and nine seconds later Ken Begg shuttled on past Schiman for a 2-1 bulge.

Vern Colley knotted the count at 14:22 of the opening stanza on a picture passing pattern from Dale Sorochnik and Rick Reilly who flipped to Colley beside the net.

In the sandwich session quick goals by King Cam and Allan Southward gave Vernon a 4-2 edge and they looked well on the route to their second win of the year.

However, Robbie Osborne rifled one from the point for Kamloops at 13:45 which Schiman never saw until it hit the net and the margin at the second break was 4-3 for Vernon.

Ken Begg scored at 55 seconds of the final frame to knot the count and Dale Sandyke and Eric Shishido took advantage of Vernon goofs to score goals that had the Vernon fans groaning at their charges' miscues.

However, Blades were not yet through as Tom Williamson stole the puck and blitzed in all alone, fighting off two defencemen in the process to put Vernon to within one goal.

Then nine seconds later the alert Williamson spotted Bob Stein all alone and slipped a quick pass which Stein made no mistake in converting and the game was tied up.

Then came the heart-breaker, Eric Shishido caught the Vernon rear guard looking some place else and let loose a blast

from the side just seven seconds after Stein's goal and Kamloops was back in front.

Vernon pulled their goalie in an effort to get the equalizer but were unable to pierce the Kings' defence.

In Kamloops Saturday, Bob Stein tallied twice, with singletons going to Vern Colley, Maurice Wernicke and Dale Sorochnik.

## Sicamous Girls Top Salmon Arm

SICAMOUS — In a senior "B" league basketball game played in the Eagle River school gymnasium on Friday evening, the Sicamous Emeralds defeated the Salmon Arm Blues girls' team with a 29-15 score. Top scorers for Sicamous were Valerie Symchuk, 12 baskets; Hilda Niemi, 7 and Vicki Green with 6. For Salmon Arm top scorers were Gail Thors, 9 and Judy Shantz with 4.

Immediately following the girls' game, the Sicamous boys met the Salmon Arm senior boys. The Sicamous Esquires took the long end of a 34-22 score. Top scorers for the Sicamous Esquires were Bill Jones with 12 points; Don Barnes with 7 and Stuart Hedin with 5. R. Baerg of Salmon Arm netted 8 points, D. Rice 7 and G. Cochrane 5.

## Tartans Win In Kamloops

While the Vernon Panthers were having their ups and downs in the big Christmas tournament here in Vernon on the weekend, their feminine counterparts — the Tartans — were sweeping all opposition to win top spot in the seventh annual Kamloops Red Angels' Christmas Basketball Tournament in