

Bolstered Blades Squeeze By Broncs

A last minute steal by Vernon forward Ivan Malinoski meant the difference between tie and victory Saturday afternoon as Junior Blades started the New Year right by stopping Pentiction-Summerland Broncs 4-3.

It was Blades second win of the season. Previously they had tied Pentiction and beaten Kelowna in their combined outings this year.

Newcomer Neil Bilodeau paced locals attack with a brace of goals but it was up to the speedy Malinoski, who is quickly becoming a Vernon fan favorite, to make the margin. Dale Soroichick, playing his usual steady game and his last in Blade uniform for some time, earned himself a goal to aid the blue and white cause.

In a sloppily played first period Blades fell victim to two Bronco sharpshoots and trailed after the initial frame, 2-0. In the second they traded goals with visitors in the opening ten minutes before garnering the one point spread later in the session. The two unanswered goals in the third period were good enough to break Broncs.

Visions of previous contests loomed early in the opening set as Broncs took eight seconds after the first puck was dropped to dent the twine behind Vernon netminder Norm Schiman. Jim Hays, in his first of two goals on the day, lifted a wierd shot form wierd shot just inside the Vernon blueline that completely fooled Schiman and the multitude of fans out for the contest.

Broncs' second goal was also unassisted. At 14:26 after both teams had traded attempts to mount a formidable attack, Ron Picco broke free with a solo effort to send the visitors off the ice with a two goal lead at the first break.

Neil Bilodeau pointed the local pucksters in the right direction as he guided home a pass from Malinoski at 7:52 of the sandwich session. But less than two minute later Hays clicked for his second point converting some fancy stick-work by teammate Gregg.

Simon Fraser University bound Dale Soroichick brought Vernon within reaching distance with five minutes left to play in the middle period. He too claimed the help of Malinoski.

Junior Blades had to wait for their spoils. With referee Art Davidson playing no favorites but heaping penalties on both clubs including two for major infractions, locals did not tie the game until 17:20 of the finale.

Neil Bilodeau claimed the clincher as he got his stick on a shot from the point delivered by Wayne Blackburn and deflected it into the upper left hand corner of the net behind Broncs' goalie Belbin.

The best was yet to come. While Blades' Tom Williamson was sitting out the final three minutes of his high sticking sentence, Malinoski slapped the puck away from a Pentiction defender stationed on the Vernon blue barrier and raced the length of the ice unhindered to sidestep Belbin who took a skate out of the nets to meet him and slide the winner home.

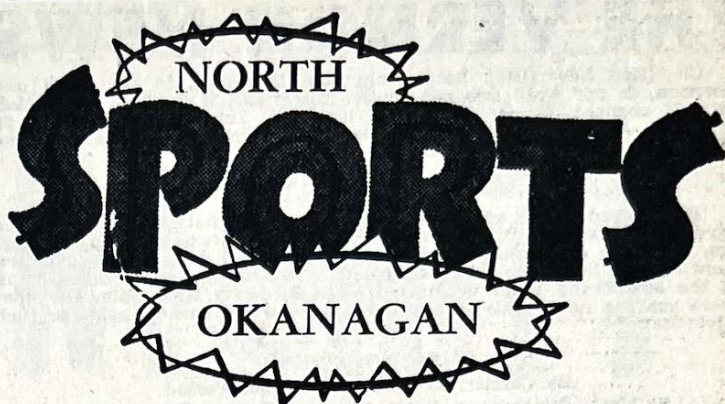
Vernon 4, Pentiction 3, Summary:

First period: 1. Pen, Hays (unassisted) 00:08; 2. Pen, Picco (unassisted) 14:26. Penalties, nil.

Second period: 3. Ver, Bilodeau (Malinoski) 8:52; 4. Pen, Hays (Gregg) 9:33; 5. Ver, Soroichick (Malinoski) 15:14. Penalties, Rebalato, Brent, Pollack, Brent, Williamson.

Third period: 6. Ver, Bilodeau (Blackburn), 17:30; 7. Ver, Malinoski (unassisted) 19:39. Penalties, Palanio, Frey, Soroichick, Luntun, Stein, Williamson, Biagioni, Luntun, Williamson, Pollack.

Blueline Banter . . . Soroichick and Bob Stein played an impressive role in the blues' lineup going both ways on a regular shift together and also providing the Vernon team with pointmen during their powerplay . . . Soroichick, who has been with locals for five years and received a gift of appreciation for his services from Dr. H. K. Clark on behalf of



Juveniles Make Their Niche

While elder Blades struggle to keep themselves respectable in the Okanagan Junior Hockey League, Odie Lowe's Vernon Juveniles are playing less and enjoying it more. They are winning.

In two separate occasions last week the local club first shutout Kelowna

Juvenile Reps 4-0 and then belted them 12-4 in recording their seventh and eighth wins of the season. Both games were played in the orchard city.

A three goal splurge by Sandy Stevenson and a stand-up job by pipe guarder Gerry Allan was enough to send their hosts packing in the first contest.

King Cam grasped the advantage for the winners with a power play slapshot and Sandy Stevenson backhanded home the clincher in the first period, both times while Kelowna was a man short. Stevenson notched his second and third points in the second frame and both teams grappled in the third set with neither gaining any satisfaction.

Rick Reilly led the second game offense with three goals while King Cam, Larry Hackman and Allan Southward checked in with a brace apiece. Single tallies came from Tom Williamson, Al Watson and Graham Elliott.

Next action for Vernon Juveniles is slated for Vernon Civic Arena this Thursday at 8 p.m.

Bantam Play Continues

Interhouse minor hockey play continues on two fronts tomorrow as Wings tangle with Pee Wee Reps at 5:45 p.m. and Bruins tie into Rangers at 6:45 p.m.

Last such action saw Rangers stop Bruins 4-3 and Wings jump on the Pee Wee Reps 4-2.

RANGERS 4, BRUINS 3. Gary Turik led Rangers attack with two goals and John Watson and Joe Clark added singles as Rangers came from behind at one to nothing to take a 3-1 lead before Bruins responded.

Getting goals for Bruins were Doug Wiffen, Larry Lochhead and Harold Weiss.

WINGS 4 PEE WEES 2.

A varied offence kept Pee Wee Reps off balance as Wings got their four goals from four different players, Larry Cadden, Larry Lochhead, Dennis Klim and Wally Bevan.

Goal scorers for Rep were Randy Marchand and Jeff Shirley.

the team and executive, told fans "I've had a lot of laughs" . . . the record book shows he's had more than that . . . featherweight Neil Bilodeau stopped fans wondering about his size handicap as he potted two goals . . . and despite a two goal output by Pentiction's Jim Hays, number 10, Biagioni was one of the better Broncs dressed . . .



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