

Blades Face Arduous Task On The Weekend

Vernon's Junior Hockey Blades face an arduous task this weekend as two games, one with Okanagan pace setting Kelowna Buckaroos and the other with third place Penticton-Summerland Broncs, will decide whether or not Blade's recent win was just a flash in the pan or the real thing.

Friday night locals travel to Kelowna and Saturday they host Broncs in Vernon Civic Arena.

Last time out Blades came from behind a two goal deficit to stop visiting El Rancho Broncs in the biggest crowd pleaser of the season. Even some of the Blade's staunchest disbelievers changed their tunes. Where in the early stages of the game they had been treated to nothing less than a Penticton-Summerland scoring splurge, cat calls and derisive boos aimed at the blue bench came fast and furious.

When Ivan Malinoski sped down the ice with what proved to be the winner for Blades with barely seconds left in the match, every Vernon person in the arena was backing him.

Malinoski is not the only player fast becoming a favorite with Blade supporters. Defenseman Wayne Blackburn, recently imported from Prince George, showed particular promise, as did goal scorer Neil Belideau.

Homebrews Bob Stein, Vernon point pacer and Tom Williamson who couldn't seem to get untracked between penalty bench and player's box, Saturday, are both due to break out again.

The upcoming contests could make or break Blades

for the playoffs. A sparkling finish in January could be the momentum that juniors need to square them away for OJHL playoffs set for February.

Bantam Play Sees Wings, Bruins Win

A two goal output by Bruins' Bob Galloway and three straight Wing goals spelt victory for two teams in Bantam play Tuesday evening.

Bruins beat Pee Wee Reps 5-2 and Wings stopped Rangers 3-1.

In the Bruins-Rep contest, scoring for Bruins were Lorne Marchand, Harold Weiss and Gordon Davidson as well as Galloway. Getting goals for Pee Wee Reps were Howard Cunning and Brent Goodwin.

Larry Cadden of Wings tied the game up after Ranger John Watson had put his team into a one goal lead. Dennis Klim got the tie breaker and Wayne Little claimed the clincher for Wings.

Weight is unimportant for a harness racing driver and some of the best drivers weigh 200 pounds.