

Schiman... Tough Test

Junior Blades, and in particular, Norm Schiman, will face the task of the season from here on in. What the task amounts to is three games with the Kamloops Kraft Kings, two in Vernon and the first tomorrow night, and a single game in Kelowna against the Buckaroos.

Coach John Zahara hopes that his four man defensive unit has found its head and legs and that it will lessen some of the burden on his goalie who has been by far the hardest worker both in local ranks and as far as the other three teams in the Valley are concerned too.

Teamed together will be Blackburn and Frey, and Gamble and Smith. At the rate they have been playing in their last few games especially at home taking two out of three here since the new year, the third place Kraft Kings could find the Blues more than they reckoned for.

And that is just how Zahara would like it to be. Kings have not had at Blades since the incorporation of three of the defensemen just scant weeks ago and in them they are liable to find a new master.

At least that is what Zahara and the record number of fans, who are expected to jam the arena for tomorrow night's match, are hoping.

"If we can beat them just once their chances of taking second place over Penticton are just about finished," said Zahara, who earlier this season said of the Peach City Broncos, "I think we can push them to six or seven games." Now he is not so sure his Blade's will not surprise everybody and leave Penticton with their equipment hanging when the finals roll around.

But despite all these things going for them it will still be up to Schiman to come up with the big stops at the right time to keep the Blades going. With locals having to go all out to impress upon other teams that they are no longer content to act as the loop's doormat, it could leave him in the once and awhile position of trying his hand at a breakaway artist.

And Kraft Kings also carry a couple of fellows who are poison to goaltenders and not often left bottled up in Eric Shishido and Dale Sandyke, the one-two scoring punch in the OMJHA point race.