

Lose Twice

Blades Buzzed In Play

Sharpen For Playoffs

Kelowna Buckaroos and Kamloops Kraft Kings closed out the 1965-'66 edition of the Omjaha (Okanagan Mainline Junior A Hockey Association) schedule on about as high a note as any team could hope to hit over the weekend.

Locally, Vernon Blades sank to a new low as they failed to win at least one contest in a two game set for the first time in the month of January.

Buckaroos, who had been conceded first place in Omjaha already a month ago, took Blades apart Friday night with a 5-2 win in the Orchard City.

Kraft Kings' task was not as easy as the 6-1 score would indicate but it was good enough to provide them with a second place finish in the circuit, one point better than Penticton—Summerland El Rancho Broncs.

Playoffs begin this coming weekend as Blades travel first to Kamloops and then host the Kraft Kings in Vernon either Saturday night or Sunday afternoon in series "B" of the semifinals. Penticton will visit Kelowna before hosting the Buckaroos in series "A". Each set-to will be a best of seven round with neutral referees and hometown linesmen officiating.

Kelowna 5 Vernon 2

Nothing but prestige was on the line between the have and the have-nots of Omjaha and Buckaroos did not press to the advantage until early in the second period.

After a scoreless and relatively cleanly contested initial stanza, Davie Couves found the mark twice for the pennant winners. His goals came less than two minutes apart.

The first came after 24 seconds had been played when he ripped home a pass from Billy Bell. On the second Bell assisted again this time teaming up with Don Hebert.

With their third goal at

OMJAH Final Standings				
	W	L	T	Pts.
Kelowna	24	6	—	48
Kamloops	16	14	—	32
Penticton	15	14	1	31
Vernon	4	25	1	9

4:56 of the sandwich session Buckaroos looked like they might have made another "no contest" out of the match such as was played last time when Vernon visited Kelowna, but Blues number nine, Stein, was Bobby on the spot to change the picture. At least, momentarily.

Mike Meehan sent Bucks up 3-0 turning a Ron Boquist pass into paydirt.

And then Stein took over. At 10:42 of the middle period he slapped home Blades' first goal. It, like his second counter, was unassisted.

At 56 seconds of the finale he struck again and the never-say-die Blades were back in the game.

But Len Nyland, Kelowna rearguard, changed all that with a little over five minutes gone and Boquist tucked home the goal to put the game out of reach near the midway point.

Ten penalties were called in the game, four to Blades.

Kamloops 6 Vernon 1

In Vernon Saturday night, a goal by Maurice Wernicke at 5:35 of the final frame was the only satisfaction that Blades could boast as they had to put up with a goalie in the Kamloops net that had more than his share of luck and just about as much ability.

Harvey Budarick in Kraft Kings' cage got in front of 41 shots—enough to assure Blades of a win in other meetings. Norm Schiman was good on 51 of 57 shots which added up to some snappy goaltending on his behalf, also, and what would have to be termed a forwards' type of hockey game.

Kamloops scored three times in the first period, twice in the second and traded goals with Blades in the third.

Rbbie Osborne paced the attack for visitors with two. Singletons came from Charlie Cook, Dale Sandyke, Jack Moores and Rick McShane. League point champion Eric Shihido was held to two assists.

Wernicke got what could have been the turning point for Blades but it was the old story of too little too late. He played his usually aggressive game and was rewarded by a Bob Stein pass to take Blades off of the skunksheet.

The rough work was there but finesse and polish to finish off was not.

Neil Bilodeau set free Ivan Malinoski with a pass. Malinoski was a victim of grand larceny from 20 feet out. Another time Bilodeau trapped the puck just inside his blue-line and raced the length of the ice to make every necessary move to beat Budarick and, when he went to flip the puck backhanded into the wide open net number ones' stick came out of nowhere to deflect the puck on to the parallel pipe on the front-top of the cage. From there it rolled along to the other side where it dropped down beside the net out of danger.

The loss to Kamloops had its better moments. It will cut locals' travels down somewhat and will take at least 200 miles off of the trip that has to be made by the Prince George foursome for the upcoming playoff games.

Additional SPORT

Tartans Almost Beat S. Arm

Vernon Tartans astounded even themselves by pressuring B.C. High School Girls champs, Salmon Arm Jewels in action on the weekend.

Although the Tartans lost, 41-40, they discovered that the Jewels could be had as it took a late minute rally by Salmon Arm to salt away the victory.

Vernon led 32-30 and the

