

# Blades Host Penticton Saturday

Junior Blades, under the criticism gun for their disappointing show this year, will load up for Penticton-Summerland Broncs Saturday night at Civic Arena as they prepare for next season.

It will be a return match between the two clubs. The first game of the spring exhibition set will be played in the Peach City Friday night.

Game time here Saturday is 8:30 p.m.

Blades will be concentrating on building for next season when they incorporate the services of graduating Juveniles and current Junior players who will be seeing future action in the local blue and white colors.

A game with the Intermediate Salmon-Arm Aces was cancelled recently when sickness took hold of a couple of players but every member of the future edition of the Blades should be up for the weekend contests.

Graduating Juveniles include Tom Williamson, Alan Southward, Rick Reilly and Chris Nelson.

Gerry Allen, with a year of minor puck remaining will get the net call for Blades Saturday but it will take a change in the local minor hockey constitution to keep him there. A current minor hockey law in Vernon prohibits players of Juvenile age to move into Junior ranks until they are old enough. Which means Vernon Blades could be shopping for a goaltender next year unless the constitution is changed.

Because goalie Norm Schiman is in his last year as are a number of Blades. Local fans will see all-star centre Bob Stein in a Blade uniform for probably the last time Saturday as he teams in a line with two other players who will be too old for

another Junior session, Marv Maier and Maurice Wernike. Defensemen not returning will be Gary Frey and Wayne Blackburn who also make the exit via the age route.

Returning, and also in the lineup Saturday will be defensemen Abie Gamble and Scott Smith and forward Ivan Malinoski, Neil Bilo-deau, one of the brighter local lights this past campaign, is a doubtful starter but has made motions of wanting to continue his Junior hockey in Vernon. He, like Malinoski and Gamble, have two or three years left.

Ice will be in Civic Arena until April which means close to ten open dates for Junior hockey in Vernon.



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