

# NORTH SPORTS OKANAGAN

At first count

## Fisher paces OJHL

Blades "Production Line" up with the best of them

Kelowna Buckaroos Brian Fisher leads the Okanagan Junior Hockey League point getters according to the initial release made by the league office at Kamloops early this week.

Fisher, who played with an overseas Canadian army team for three years, is enjoying his first year as a member of the second place Bucks. He leads all other valley icemen with 26 points on 12 goals and 14 assists.

Tommy Williamson, centre for the Vernon Blades "Production Line" is tied with linemate Ivan Malinovsky for second spot with 20 points as the result of 12 goals and eight assists. Malinovsky has 10 of each.

The third member of the Blades elite forward corps, Lawrence Quechuck, checks in with 17 points on four goals and 13 assists.

Following are the point totals up to (and including) November 12 games.

TOP SCORERS			
	G	A	P
Fisher (Kel.).....	12	14	26
Williamson(Ver.)	12	8	20
Malinovsky (Ver.)	10	10	20
Mowat (Pen).....	7	12	19
Cousins (Kel.).....	12	6	18
Quechuk (Ver.)....	4	13	17
Strong (Kel.).....	6	11	17
Picco (Pen.).....	12	5	17
Peacosh (Pen.)....	11	6	17
Meehan (Kel.).....	8	7	15
Couves (Kel.).....	6	8	14

No soft sell for tel comp.

An extra end game that went right down to the last rock was the highlight of the Provincial Telephone Curling Bonspiel held at the North Kamloops Sports Centre last weekend. The close game was in the "A" event final and was eventually won by Wilf Bowes rink from Okanagan Telephone Co., over John Meade's Kamloops rink.

The Bonspiel, an annual event organized by B.C. Tel's Kamloops district, brings together telephone employees from all over the province.

The winning rink was composed of Stan Bladen, Bob Ferguson, and Don Sullivan while Meade curled with Herb Day, John Bett, and Harold Reid.

Other winners were: "A" event 3rd, Bill Montgomery, Vancouver (Ray Cumberworth, Mel Holmes, Ian Hurst); 4th, Don Babington, Vancouver (Smokey Alexander, Tom Dugdale, Al Reid).

"B" event 1st, Doug Holden, Kamloops (Bill Walker, Al Shepherd, Barrie Chapman); 2nd, Ralph Muir, Kamloops (Al Gallis, Bryon Isfeld, Kris Oleson); 3rd, John Anderson, Kamloops (Jack Bigham, Rod Giebelhaus, Barry Thompson); 4th, Max Cook, Vancouver (Tom Coutu, Emil Rupcich, Mickey Hartline).

"C" event 1st, Les Stacey, Okanagan Tel (Don Caddin, Frank Majewski, Jim Pomrenke); 2nd, Percy Briggs, Okanagan Tel (Ray Couch, Bill Jansen, Ed Poirier); 3rd, Bernie Hubbard, Okanagan Tel (Don Bevan, Bill Bryan, Vern Hall); 4th, Hugh Magee, Prince George (Don Killean, Emil Lauzon, Doug Moffat).

# Split with Hubsters

## Blues rebound to stop Kings

Vernon Junior Blades came out for a skate yesterday afternoon and when they were through they had skated the visiting Kamloops Kraft Kings out the other end of Civic Arena at the pace of 4-2.

It was the Blueshirts' first win in their last five games and it halted a four game losing streak which had started over two weeks ago. Saturday night Blades had lost to the same Kraft Kings in Kamloops by the score of 5-4.

In other action at the weekend, Kelowna dumped New Westminster Royals 5-3 Friday night to move into a two-way tie with the Penticton Broncos for first place in the OJHL. Broncos lost to the same Royals 6-5, Saturday.

A goal by winger Pat Hembree and another by King Cam late in the third period salted the victory away for the Blades Sunday afternoon before a packed house of 756 (paid) people.

Defenseman Ken Polen, who looks better each time out with the Vernons, notched Blades their initial lead at 7:03 of the first period on a pass from Ivan Malinovsky.

But Kamloops came back in the early moments of the second session when Ken Begg tied the game at 1:21 and Gerry Janicki



King Cam... he produced

claimed the advantage at 5:31. Janicki's marker loomed bigger and bigger as the game progressed.

Malinovsky joined by his teammates, missed on no less than five sure-shots before Hembree finally got locals going again. At 13:15 of the finale he worked his way through the Kamloops defense, which played tough all weekend, to deflect an Alan Southward pass from the corner past the Hubster's Harvey Budarick.

Eight seconds later Cam, who was used sparingly by

coach Odie Lowe both nights (but produced) blasted his second goal of the season on a pass from Bruce Allen.

Tom Williamson put the game out of reach with an unassisted effort at the 19:45 mark when the Kraft Kings elected go with an extra forward in lieu of a netminder despite their two goal disadvantage.

## Blue chips

Juvenile age defenseman Barry Mori played in his second and third games with the Blades at the weekend. He was one of their better rearguards and showed an adept ability of doing something with the puck in his own end, something that has been lacking in Blues camp... Number 16, Norrie Mills, the youngster who was to be Odie Lowe's third import, will go back home to Wainwright Alberta... he showed good speed and lots of spunk with the locals at the weekend playing in both games and, ac-

OJHL STANDINGS									
	W	L	T	F	A	P			
Broncos.....	9	2	0	62	47	18			
Bucks.....	9	4	0	85	43	18			
Blades.....	4	7	0	56	56	8			
Kings.....	2	10	0	30	65	4			

cording to Lowe, "I'd like to keep him." But Mills, still of juvenile age, is a forward and the Blades are full up with flyers... it is no secret that locals need some back-up help... Look for some pleasant surprises in the Blades line-up either this weekend or next... Frankie Mark, the sensation-causing defenseman who saw one contest in locals line-up (he earned himself 50 minutes in penalties in one game) will not play for locals anymore... he has gone home to Edmonton... Blades goalie Gerry Allen can tell you a strange story about goalkeeping which happened during Sunday's fixture... it only helped to prove the age-old saying that the hand is quicker than the eye...

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## Blades dumped in Sat. session

Saturday Kings 5 Blades 4  
KAMLOOPS — Andy's boy Don proved the difference here Saturday night as the Kraft Kings edged the Blades 5-4 before one of the smallest and quietest crowds to witness an OJHL fixture this season.

The crowd, which had come to see their team lose its ninth game in 10 starts were not disappointed when, after teams spent 60 minutes shoving each other around the ice, the home town continued to maintain the advantage.

"Andy's boy Don" is Kraft Kings coach Andy Clovechok's son who is better known to Hub City puck fans as "the Spider". Saturday night he drilled the Kings first goal at the midway mark of the first period and also counted for the winner, early in the final stanza.

Penalties at the wrong time and defensive lapses left Blades hurting but despite this they were tied 1-1 after the first period and were down only 4-3 at the end of the middle session.

Kraft Kings outshot Blades 34-29.

Kings took their one-goal lead at 8:20 of the initial session when Joe Bedard and Larry Morrey teamed to spring the young Clovechok loose. But Tom Williamson retaliated to knot the score at 18:55 with a blistering slapshot from just inside the Kamloops blueline. He got help from line-mate Lawrence Quechuck and Keith Rolston.

Robbie Osborne, one of the few Kraft Kings still around from last season's valley champion, gave winners their second one-score margin at 6:50 of the second stanza with assistance from Clovechok and Bedard, and Gerry Janicki made it 3-1 at 9:32, being set-up by Osborne and Dunc McLean. Osborne got his goal on the first shot following a lengthy rush up the ice after Kamloops goalie Harvey Budarick had stifled Blades shooters for over a minute. And Janicki lifted a screen shot at Vernontage-man Gerry Allen for the other.

Ivan Malinovsky countered with the picture goal of the night threading the five-man Kamloops needle and sticking the puck into the upper right hand corner of the net to make it 3-2.

But less than a minute later, at 11:32, Kraft Kings once more took command. At that time, Ron Hay rushed in on Allen with a

combination feed from Osborne and Bob Law and, although it wasn't that good a shot, it squirted off of Allen's pads, around his outstretched skate and into the net behind him.

Rolston kept Vernon in the game when, after catching a shot on the back of his legs, he picked up the puck and worked his way in close to beat the Kraft Kings netminder.

Malinovsky tied the game again at 1:10 of the finale picking a Williamson pass and driving a slap shot right through Budarick. But Clovechok scored the winner at 6:25 just after Williamson returned to the ice from serving a holding penalty.

## Summary

Kings 5 Blades 4  
First period — 1. Kam., Clovechok (Bedard, Morrey) 8:20; 2. Ver., Williamson (Quechuck, Rolston) 18:55. Penalties — Osborne, Williamson, Hembree, Daws, Osborne, Southward, Allen, Osborne.

Second Period — 3. Kam., Osborne (Clovechok, Bedard) 6:50; 4. Kam., Janicki (Osborne, McLean) 9:32; 5. Ver., Malinovsky (unassisted) 10:36; 6. Kam., Hay (Osborne, Law) 11:32; 7. Ver., Rolston (unassisted) 19:26. Penalties — Hembree, Begg.

Third period — 8. Ver., Malinovsky (Williamson) 1:10; 9. Kam., Clovechok (Osborne, Daws) 6:25. Penalties — Cam and Daws, Williamson, Whiting, Hembree, Morrey, Hay, Hembree, Janicki.

## SUMMARY

Blades 4 Kings 2  
First period — 1. Ver., Polen (Malinovsky) 7:03. Penalties — Trent, Williamson, Quechuck, Southward.

Second period — 2. Kam, Begg (Bedard) 1:21; 3. Kam Janicki (Begg, McLean) 5:13. Penalties — Trent, Rolston, Reilly, McLean.

Third period — 4. Ver, Hembree (Southward) 13:15; 5. Ver., Cam (Allen) 13:23; 6. Ver, Williamson (unassisted) 19:45. Penalties — Budarick.

## Winfield news items

Mrs. Ethel Knopf, Ralph and Ricky have returned home from a three weeks holiday spent visiting friends and relatives in Plapot, Sask.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Pilling have returned from Vancouver where they spent a few days visiting friends and relatives.



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# the dull edge

... by Denis Feser, Sports Editor

KAMLOOPS — Here at the Hub City, the appreciation for the finer points of that great Canadian pastime called hockey, left town on the same bus as the Los Angeles Blades and the Seattle Totems when native son Bill Steinke lost a one-round decision during the pre-season barnstorming tour of the Western Hockey League teams.

Since the day Steinke lowered his stick and tossed off his gloves, they have had little to shout about. Saturday night, however, they had reason to come back to watch a junior hockey game "just once more" when the Kraft Kings won their second of the season besting the visiting Vernon Blades 5-4.

Hub City fans, like umpteenth other breeds of weed and rubber followers, do not particularly enjoy an association with a losing team. And it is no secret around the city, that things can get worse (if you can believe it) before they will get better.

The "say-hey" day of the Kraft Kings (Rockets, if you wish is over. And despite what powerful potion coach Andy Clovechok would like to stir up for his charges, you have to say, "give it a year—or so."

The average age of the cheese kids is barely over the maximum for Juvenile and Clovechok can easily smile and say, "we're rebuilding this year, wait until you see us next season." Odie Lowe, of the Blades, can say the same thing. The difference isn't that they both don't mean it, it is that it is likely to happen in the Hub City before it will happen here. Kamloops reeks of hockey lore and talent that has a habit of "getting up" for the big ones.

Last year is a prime example. The Kings finished third in the Okanagan Junior Hockey League schedule behind Kelowna and Penticton. Then they polished off the same Blades, who belonged in another league (and not a higher one, either), quicker than it takes netminder Gerry Allen to un-score a goal. And finally, in a bit of history the Buckaroos would like to forget, (which was forced them into a situation of not being strangers but unable to be friends with Kamloops), they pushed the Kelownas

aside to go to the B.C. finals as the OJHL representative.

This year it is highly unlikely that the Kraft Kings will repeat. But they will not take their fans down with them. Kamloops fans, who will support everything from Red Devils basketball to the policemen's brawl (backing a winner) will not cheer the Kraft Kings.

Except for one belle on the "ball"-game, who took it upon herself to often and loudly deride the Vernon players, there was far too few words shaking the building either against the Blades or for the Kraft Kings.

The Kraft King is dead. Let him lie.

8 8 8 8

SHARPIES—Vernon had its first look and see at an Invitational Swim meet Saturday with the local Kokanee Swimming and Diving Club showing up very well. The meet did not lack entries or enthusiasm on any side... teams, which were entered also from Kelowna, Penticton and Enderby, and spectators shared in the shouting... New Westminster Royals made their first trip to the interior this season... they lost to Kelowna 5-3 Friday night and beat Penticton 6-5 on Saturday... they make their second trip (which will include Vernon) January 21 and 22... Revelstoke and Salmon Arm, on the brink of calling it quits for this season, may make a definite announcement later this week... Salmon Arm is without enough bodies and Revelstoke lacks able bodies... Harlem Stars, who like many other touring basketball teams lay claim to the ticket "court jesters", or the "clown jewels" of the hardcourt, will meet the Vernon high school Panthers tomorrow night starting at 8:30 p.m.... Enderby tangles with the Junior Varsity Spartans at 7 p.m. in the preliminary.