

the dull edge

... by Denis Feser, Sports Editor

Back to back games with the league leaders will be in store for the Vernon (Okanagan Junior Hockey League) Blades when the Blueshirts strap them on for Kelowna Friday night and then play host to the current toast of the circuit, Penticton Broncos, Saturday.

Undoubtedly, it will be a sounding out series for the Blades who, coach Odie Lowe has been rumored saying about this week, to "shape up or ship out."

Lowe, who has been having trouble keeping his proverbial cool in the face of troubles these past few weeks, will definitely not put up with any more of that which has given more than one mentor ulcers.

Saturday night, before all of the Blades beloved backers had left the arena, he brought his team back out for more than what seemed a skate around the old pond. He was angry, to say the least, but the reddest face during the extra scrimmage session was not his own.

Perhaps after that episode, nobody felt like dancing. Or drinking. Or shouting.

But word has it that some of the Buckaroos, Kelowna type, are not adverse to a little bit of extra-curricular activities outside of their skate sessions and perhaps this too, has some bearing on the fact that Buckaroos have been fair game of late. You will probably remember that between these barriers near the end of October, we predicted that the Bucks would probably lose no more than two games all season. Well, we've switched horses in mid-stream and now say that Penticton, in form so clear that even the blind can see and the deaf can hear, are the not so jolly green giant the other teams in the valley loop can start to worry about.

And how about the big cheese from Kamloops that suddenly came to life? After being soundly walloped 9-0 two Saturdays before by the Penticton Broncos, the Kraft Kings turnaround and force the same Broncos into a 4-4 tie and overtime before succumbing 7-4 in a fourth period.

Kraft Kings have a good goalie, a big defense and fall off only after two goodly-balanced forward lines. Of anybody, with the exception of some changes in the Kelowna alignment, the Kings probably stand the best chance of catching the Broncos before things get entirely out of hand.

Of course there's that matter of the Blades. Coach Odie Lowe has not had complete control of his Blades. Some of which, are determined to keep themselves from looking bad in the face of disaster and others who don't seem to be utilizing their share of the world's brains. Still others are just plain lazy.

King Cam, in this writer's mind, queered locals' chances (even further) when he refused to fight with Greg McLelland during Saturday night's turnabout. Not to say that the King is short on his share of guts or that this corner has become obsessed with the prospect of blood. He has proved on other occasions that he likes to mix it. But as Lowe's chief butcher boy and una numera when it comes to inciting fans in all the arenas around the circuit, he decided this time to lay down on the job, perhaps, to earn a five-two split, which he did.

One would have to guess, however, that the Kings' choice of time not to fight did little to improve the morale of his teammates. The question is, if the King won't fight, then who will? Ivan Malinosky? Rick Reilly? Jeff Wilson?

So far this year Lowe has to be pleased with three periods of Blades hockey. Two of them were in the game with Bucks. The other was the final period against Kamloops the game before the Kelowna contest.

The finale in the match with Kraft Kings kept a 4-2

Bantam League

Bantam League Hockey Schedule for December —
Dec. 1 — 8:30 p.m., Aces vs Bruins.

Hupel-Mabel Lake news

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fast and Jeff motored to Vancouver last weekend to attend the wedding Saturday of Mrs. Fast's nephew, Robert Tudour.

Visitors last Friday at the Napoleon Simard home was Mrs. H. Schultze from Salmon Arm, and niece Miss M. Schultze from Sao Paula, Brazil.

Jack Simard from Mica Village was home for the weekend. Also visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Simard were Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Simard and girls from Kelowna.

win. After a brace with Bucks, Blades were in front 4-1.

Close examination reveals that Blades went all three of the periods without picking up any penalties.

Which should make today's lesson read something like — "in order to win, the Vernons have to stay out of the penalty box and do all of their resting on the bench."

This weekend's battles will be all but easy for Blades who, in short time, will have to prove that they are worthy not only of their present third place position, but that they can also be a strong contender play-off-wise before the season is up.

Kelowna will still be ailing. Penticton, well... they'll be Penticton.

And the Blades. Anybody's guess.

"The Lotus Gardens"

"So Well Known For Our Superb Chinese Food."

Dine In Our Beautiful Air Conditioned Dining Room OR... Orders to Take Out

Banquet & Wedding Parties

STEAKS A SPECIALTY

Open 7 Days a Week

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Sunday:
12:00 noon - 11:00 p.m.
Monday:
12:00 noon - 2:00 a.m.

542-3082

2805 33rd St. - Vernon



JUNIOR—2 pieces and Chips90
DINNER—3 pieces and Chips and Salad	1.25
CHUBBY "9"— with Chips	2.75
CHUBBY "15"— with Chips	3.95
CHUBBY "21"— with Chips	5.50

PHONE 542-7429 FOR TAKE OUT

A & W DRIVE-IN

Open Week-ends Only