

Something new in Blues camp

Serviss with a smile
their aim to please

By DENIS FESER

A new kind of atmosphere surrounded the Vernon Blues regular Wednesday night practice this week. Aside from the fact that defenseman Ken Polen fell on his head and had to be administered to with smelling salts and the usual "yup, all six of them are there" wasn't yapped by somebody close by when coach Odie Lowe held his hand up in the old finger counting routine to check eyesight, forward Bruce Allen took a chunk out of his chin, and winger King Cam skated through the whole practice looking every bit the part of the leading man in the angry young men, "things were" — different.

Alan Southward came out wearing a touque and threw back to his juvenile days when most everything was for the fun of it. And, Ivan Malinsky scrounged around for an old sock to fit over the top part of his head in order not to be outdone by Lawrence Quechuck, who had come up with a hat which looked like something Scott Brady used to wear.

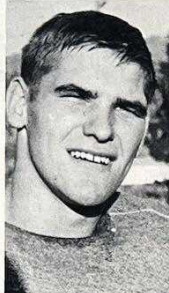
For every part, the atmosphere was a good one. Feeling ran higher than it has in a good many weeks. Consequently, the usual tedious hour of hard skating, shooting, two on one drills and scrimmaging, flashed by quicker and yet more was accomplished.

The reason for the new atmosphere is simple. Spelled out it reads Tom Serviss. The same Serviss who powered the high school football Panthers offense and has coach Doug Weeks say about him, "He's a natural fullback." And who, after seeing him on skates twice, Junior Blades boss could say with some satisfaction, "He'll set this league on fire."

Originally from Saskatchewan and the property of the Moose Jaw Canucks, Serviss got the warden's urge this past spring and made his way to northern B.C. working south until he finally reached Vernon. He liked it here so it was only natural for him to stay. He worked for the rest of the summer and when school opened in the fall, he signed up. He went out for football and liked it.

"It was one of those funny things," recalls Weeks. "We were struck for a strong backfield and then up pops Tom. He's a natural."

The Serviss story gets better. He wanted to play hockey too. So, we went out with Blades. Had he seen



TOM SERVISS
... he'll be here.

him before he talked to him, Lowe, whose enthusiasm is usually nothing more than quiet satisfaction, would have done nothing short of dancing in the streets. But the Blades boss had talked to him and there was one drawback. It wasn't a small one either.

As a card-carrying member of the Moose Jaw Canucks, Serviss, according to Canadian Amateur Hockey Association rules, was still bound to the Canucks and could not play hockey without getting himself and the team he played for suspended, be it Vernon Blues or the Kokomo Kangaroos.

However, less than a month ago, the CAHA suspended the Canadian Major Junior Hockey League (which is history) of which the Canucks are part, and Serviss was freed from the nation's number one slave market.

"I went to him and asked if he wanted to play," Lowe reported afterwards. Happily, for him and the Blades and the locals' supporters, the answer was "yes."

So Serviss came out to practice and coach Lowe and the rest of the Blades held their breath and waited.

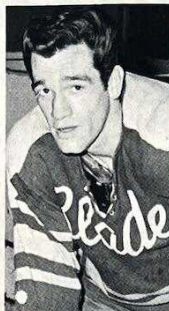
"I can appreciate his not wanting to play right away," remarks Lowe. "He's a good hockey player and he takes pride in how he plays."

Well, now he's ready. Now, he'll play. Whether he will set the rest of the league on fire or not remains no doubt about one thing though. He has struck the match to the Vernon Blues.

The manatee, thought to be the origin of the mermaid legend, is a water-dwelling mammal 15 feet long and weighing a ton.



RICK REILLY



BRUCE ALLEN

... Blades penalty-punch



Silver Star Club announces plans

The executive of Silver Star ski club has announced the club's program for this year, following their meeting November 29.

Club officials have concentrated on those aspects of skiing not readily available to skiers in the Vernon area. Club president David Miller has stated that the executive has tried to fulfill the various requests from fellow skiers for a participating program.

"We are trying to encourage membership in the club. An active working organization will be necessary for the building of a major club facility such as an overnight lodge," he said. "Over the past two years members past and present appear to have this form of development in mind whenever the purposes of the club are discussed."

President Miller claims the goal is quite simple. "Get skiers to show their support for such a venture by joining the club and the executive will then be prepared to explore the cost of financing the site."

The club social program is in the hands of Carole Foster and she is planning at least one major social event for skiers per month during the season. This will include a juniors dance to enable them to finance their own racing program.

Two schools operate in the Vernon area — at Silver Star and Winterside. Club members get a 20 per cent reduction with the group rate for six hours of pro instruction under either Willy Leitner or Gerry Goudge. The club member can pick his ski area for lessons.

Membership also entitles members to accident insurance at a nominal premium.

All those seeking Alpine racing training and the right to compete, must be members of the club. Parents of racers are reminded to have their youngsters join immediately.

The racing program has been expanded this year and is under the co-direction of David Dumont and Margrit Raffel. It gets under way December 3 at 12:30 p.m. on the Star, at the Ski School hill. All prospective Alpine trainees are to meet there bringing their membership fees with them. A special downhill track has been cleared by club members for the use of racers.

Miller further pointed out that the organization for the competitive skier is more advanced than for the recreational skier, for the simple reason that the racer has a goal in mind and makes use of the club to attain it.

"Recreational skiers can do likewise by joining the club and participating in a program of their own choosing. It will require

thought, planning and a lot of work. Experienced Star skiers will all tell you time and again that this approach has always produced the most pleasure and best results for all involved."

Memberships in the club are available at Prescription Optical from membership chairman Arthur Schmidt. Family groups pay \$7.50; seniors over 18 pay \$5 and juniors \$2.

Memberships are also being sold by Mrs. Raffel on the Star and at the two local sports shops. The club's first meeting will be Tuesday December 6, at the Beirsto Elementary School Library. Starting time is 8 p.m.

Weekend scoreboard

Friday — basketball, Vernon Panthers at Salmon Arm Golds. Hockey — (OJHL), Vernon at Kelowna; Kamloops at Penticton.

Saturday — basketball, Vernon Panthers at Penticton Lakers. Hockey, (OJHL), Penticton at Vernon (8:30 p.m.); Kelowna at Kamloops; (OMHL), Vernon at Salmon Arm (8:30 p.m.); Revelstoke at North Kamloops.

Sunday — hockey, (NOHL), Head of the Lake vs Lumby (7 p.m.); Grindrod vs Armstrong (8:45 p.m.).

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Kelowna-Penticton battles for weekend



PAT HEMBREE
... out of town.

Kelowna and Penticton provide the opposition for the Blades this weekend as the Okanagan Junior Hockey League swings into a full four-game schedule starting this evening, Friday night (tonight) the Blueshirts will be in the Central City to entertain the Buckaroos and tomorrow, before a Vernon audience, they will host the Broncos.

Except for the absence of forward Pat Hembree, who is home for personal reasons this weekend, Blades are A-okay from the bottom on up.

Replacing Hembree in the line-up for the two days will be the task of Tom Serviss, in his first appearance in Blades uniform but definitely no stranger to local sporting circles.

Serviss will move up to play with Ivan Malinsky and Lawrence Quechuck as

the Blades "Production Line" is once again broken up, while Tom Williamson will centre Keith Rolston and Alan Southward, who will move up from defense to fill a winger's spot. The third line of King Cam, Rick Reilly and Bruce Allen, the only one to weather coach Odie Lowe's juggling act as he tries to get a suitable combination of three winners going.

Rolston has seen action on the "Production Line" at the same time as Williamson and they should be well adjusted to each other's moves. The Serviss-Quechuck-Malinsky trio finds its accent on speed with the moving up of Southward to provide a wingman for the second set, will mean Lowe will have come up with a fourth defenseman to swell his line-up.

Presently, he is relying on Ken Polen, captain Graham Elliott and Salmon Arm import Glen Baron. Gord Clark, whose suspension will not be lifted until December 12, will not be ready until the weekend of the 17th.

Which means Lowe will have to dip into Juvenile coach Gord Nuysens' defensive supply until Clark is ready. And that means he will do some tonight.

Reilly and Allen will be chief penalty killers whereas Lowe can pick just about anybody to fill out a power play should the game provide such an opportunity.

Game time for Kelowna tonight and here against Penticton Saturday, are both set at 8:30 p.m.

Schedule gets tougher

This weekend, the first of December, will mark the start of the real "rough" part of the Okanagan Junior Hockey League schedule for the Vernon Blades.

Blades, who have had it relatively easy (in the schedule, that is) up until this point will play a normal 11-game schedule, or a game every three days during the month of December including three Wednesday night contests.

Friday night Blades will travel to Kelowna to oppose the Buckaroos and Saturday they host the Penticton Broncos. Next Wednesday they will host the Kamloops Kraft Kings in the first of three games squeezed into the space of four days.

Two other important dates to remember in December as far as Blades hockey is concerned are the 18th and the 26th. December 18 Blades will host Penticton in a Sunday afternoon game and Boxing Day they will roll out the carpet for Kraft Kings. Both Sunday afternoon and the day after Christmas games will start at 2:30 p.m.

Coldstream ladies lead volleyball

The league standings released Thursday show last year's championship winners, Coldstream Motor Hotel, holding down first place six points ahead of the Royal Bank entry. Okanagan Telephone is in third spot with 12 points, four less than bankers.

The senior Matric entry are only two points back in the league cellar with 10. Last year the league was very successful with a four team set up. To date this season, the league has been operating with just four teams. It is hoped that in the New Year the league will expand with the addition of a team or two.

If any individual or groups would like to play they might contact one of the present team captains Coldstream — Ruth Shaeffer, Royal Bank — Phyllis Hansen, O.K. Telephone — Brenda Banner, Senior Matric — Bev Schultz.

League Standings		Pts
Coldstream.....		22
Royal Bank.....		16
O.K. Telephone.....		16
Senior Matric.....		10

Chameleons can look up with one eye and down with the other simultaneously.

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