

Juniors tighten

Each team wins —but also loses

The Okanagan Junior Hockey League took a turn for the good at the weekend. Each of the four member teams won a game — and lost.

Friday night the Penticton Broncos drubbed the visiting Vernon Blades 6-1; Saturday the Blades turned on Kelowna Buckaroos 5-2 and Kamloops Kraft Kings served up a 6-4 loss to the Haidas at Vancouver; and Sunday, Buckaroos proved ungracious host by upsetting the league leading Broncos 7-2 and New Westminster Royals rolled over Kraft Kings 6-2.

Blades 5 Bucks 2
Kelowna just couldn't win in Vernon Saturday. During the day the people of this city turned back the college referendum 2,542-285 (unofficial) and at night the Junior Blades sent the Buckaroos packing 5-2. (official).

In the game, Blades enjoyed a slight edge of play after two periods despite settling for 1-1 and 2-2 draws after the opening stanzas, but controlled the game in the third when a weird goal credited to Ivan Malinosky, decided it all.

With Blades a man short-handed, Malinosky worked the puck free from Kelowna offenders in his own zone and fired it the length of the ice. Goalie Rex Rideout, perhaps the toughest goalie in the OJHL over any given number of contests, became the goat of the game when he attempted to play the puck off of the end boards to set it up for the Bucks power play master Brian Fisher. Because the puck skipped his stick and nestled in the net behind him.

Blades opened the scoring at 10:59 of the first period when rearguard Ken Pollen drilled a shot into a college of players standing in front of the Kelowna net-minder. Tom Serviss, unprotected in the group was able to get his stick onto the disc and deflect it into the Central City cage.

But at 11:13, one skate up the ice later, Kelowna's Kootenay import, Butch Deadmarsh, tipped in the puck on an almost identical play after Drew Kitch shot from the point.

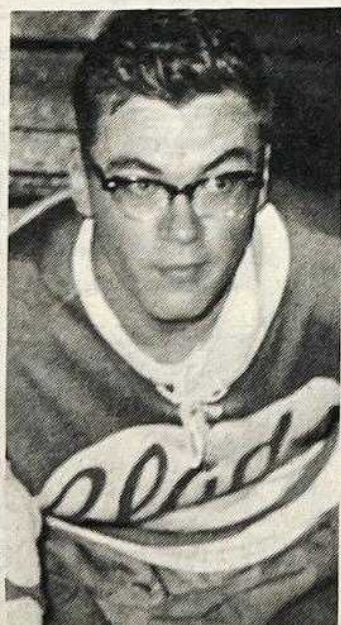
Bucks took the lead at 9:46 of the middle period when John Strong powered

a shot at Allen nobody in the rink knew was a goal until referee Art Davison halted the play and declared that the puck went right through the net. And Kelowna kept that lead until Serviss connected a second time, at 19:40 slapping an inch-high shot from inside the Kelowna blueline.

Which left the game up in the air after two frames for only Malinosky to decide with a penalty-killing role at 3:45 of the finale.

Williamson finally hit the scoresheet at 10:11, scoring his second picture goal in two nights, a face-high slapshot that rang off the upper crossbar and into the net. And Malinosky returned to add insurance at 15:55 with one of his patented rushes up the middle beating Rideout waist high on the glove side.

BLUE CHIPS...Blades stock soared at the weekend. Although they lost 7-1



Ken Pollen
... Mr. Good

	GP	W	L	T	P
Broncos..	17	14	3	0	28
Bucks....	20	12	7	1	25
Blades....	17	6	10	1	13
Kings.....	18	3	15	0	6

in Penticton Friday night they did not look as bad as they did here two weeks ago when the Broncos drubbed them 10-5...Defenseemen Ken Pollen and Barry Mori helped goalie Gerry Allen pick the Buckaroos number Saturday...Allen had to get in front of only 35 shots, 15 less than the customary 50-ish the Bucks have managed to average on him in previous matches...Rideout, who Kelowna sources say wears contact lenses in goal, had to stop the disc 26 times...Pollen earned two assists and Mori displayed no less bashfulness for throwing his body in front of forwards as he did the last time out with Blades...Brian Kakoske, for the first time, and Jeff Wilson, were other juveniles Lowe suited for the Saturday match

...Another defenseman, Gord Clark, suspended following a stick swinging, incident last season, will suit up for Blades next game, the return of the Bucks here Wednesday...Pat Hembree left the game Saturday night after re-injuring a knee and Kelowna's Mike Meehan, who did not return for the second or third sessions, left his skates at home, used a bor-



Ivan Malinosky
... he got a weird one

Russians coming to Kelowna

The Russians are coming — to Kelowna.

The World Champion Russian gymnastic team will be in Kelowna Monday for a two hour show on the bars and the rings starting at 7:30 p.m.

It will be one of five Canadian stops the 27-men (and women) team will make. The Russians will be in Vancouver Friday, in Kelowna Monday and then will move on to exhibitions at Edmonton and Calgary before winding up their tour at Ottawa.

The tour, sponsored by the Canadian Gymnastic Association, will feature the world's greatest woman gymnast, Polina Astakhova and the present world champion, Mikhail Voronin. Vernon's specialty is to leap from the rings with his head downwards, only six feet from the floor. To escape penalties, he must land on his feet and remain motion-

rowed pair and was unsatisfied...

Broncos 6 Blades 1
"We got off on the wrong foot," coach Odie Lowe explained following the 6-1 loss to Penticton Friday night.

He came about as close as anyone could come.

After only nine seconds of the first period Bob Mowat took a Larry Palanio pass, eased past Graham Elliot on the board side and ripped an ice-high shot into the opposite corner of the net before an embarrassed Gerry Allen could adjust.

It took most of the starch out of the Blades until 7:10 when Tom Williamson attempted to put it back. The Vernons' centreman, teamed with Al Southward and Keith Rolston, took a Southward pass, stepped across the Penticton blueline and, finding he had three feet of room in front of the Broncos defenseman, let a slapshot rip that bulged the net behind Doug Thompson.

Terry Luxton teamed with Palanio for Penticton's second goal at 14:58. He drilled a 20-footer which Allen seemed to have momentarily but then let dribble through his pads and across the goal line. And Brian Evans cruised through the Vernon defense to slap in a Walt Peacosh pass from the corner at 19:50 to complete the first period scoring.

Ron Rebelato and Ray Picco scored for Penticton in the sandwich session.

At 14:30, just after Broncos Luxton returned to the ice from serving an elbowing misdemeanor, Rebelato turned on the power play that the Blades couldn't get going for them. He got help from Luxton and Peacosh.

And Picco scored on a second attempt after being foiled the first time by Allen in a break-away effort.

Peacosh was credited the only goal of the third period by banging in a Luxton rebound.

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the dull edge

... by Denis Feser, Sports Editor

Following the Vernon Blades on the road and hoping for a win is like waiting for The Second Coming. It is inevitable. But when?

So far this year the Blades have taken part in 17 games.

Seven of them have been played on the road where they have only won once.

Saturday night a 5-2 victory over the Kelowna Buckaroos moved Blades one and one-half games over the .500 mark at home. In 10 games within the sheltering walls of Vernon Civic Arena, the Blades have won five, tied one and lost four times.

Which, is fine. But it doesn't get their road problems solved.

On the road their problems seem to mount up. At Penticton Friday night they skated onto the ice looking every bit as good as the well drilled Broncos but they got a stiff blow when Bob Mowat caught goalie Gerry Allen relaxed with only nine seconds gone in the game. From that point on, although Tom Williamson tied it with a pictorial play exactly seven minutes later, Blades were never in it.

What is more, Blades, who have not suffered too much from injuries, took a few blows to the belt. Williamson slowed down somewhat after he twisted around like a pretzel trying to avoid a board check; Graham Elliott had his head opened up by a stick. (What didn't help to make him feel the least bit better was that he got the penalty). and Pat Hembree bruised a knee that sidelined him for the final period in the Kelowna contest when he re-injured it Saturday night.

The young man doing the most of the hurting was Broncos defenseman Larry Palanio, who turned the Penticton squad into a giver and not a taker. Palanio took pleasure in breaking Blades whenever they happened to be checking to see if their skates were done up.

Saturday, at Civic Arena, Blades were a completely different team. They pushed the Buckaroos around, easily becoming the favorites early in the first period after going into the game as an underdog.

Gloveless battles between Tom Serviss and Len Haley (who that fellow Frankie Mark disposed of earlier in the season) and Ivan Malinosky and Keith Boquist, helped to mark an exciting first period which saw 12 penalties called.

Serviss wrestled Haley to the ice and Malinosky earned the nod in a one-fall decision with the Kelowna gentleman.

And except for when Williamson speared Bucks Terry Strong in the chest during the second period (and was not penalized), it was that kind of game. About as rough as you would like it, but not a chippy brand of puck that has marked the OJHL as nothing more than a collection of big kids with pads on.

The next two weeks will see the Blades play two games.

This Wednesday night they will host the same Buckaroos, who should be a much tougher team after their Sunday evening win over Penticton Broncos. And the other will be with the Kamloops Kraft Kings, who earned a little more respect for the interior when they dumped Vancouver Haidas 6-4 Saturday.

What makes it so much easier to take is that both of the games will be played in Vernon Civic Arena.

THE SPORT SEEN... (The dead spy department) ...After being informed that an Edmonton Oil Kings-Kelowna Buckaroos fixture was scheduled for the early part of January and writing same, your reporter realized that the game is an impossibility. The Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, who have outlawed the Canadian Major Junior Hockey League, would just not allow it. Period! (There are no "buts")... A chance in a lifetime is open at two dollars a person for gymnastic spectators and even those who aren't interested in the sport, to-

night at Kelowna. The Russian gymnastic team (presently the world's best) will be performing for two hours this evening at the Memorial Arena... Panther coach Doug Weeks describes Mickey Martino's crop of Red Devils, as "they're giants." Panthers played the Devils in the annual Kamloops Christmas tournament and lost to the Hub City team by a whopping 79-35 score. Weeks claims the Devils are big enough to be a college team, that they start at six feet one inch and go "up" to six feet six inches. They will be in town this coming weekend when the Panthers stage "their" Christmas Tournament, which is described as one of the biggest. Also here will be Prince George and Vancouver College as well as a number of valley quintets.

Luckies face two in a row

A game re-scheduled from Sunday to Wednesday night will necessitate the Vernon Luckies playing two games within two days early this week.

Tomorrow night the Luckies will play host to the Salmon Arm Aces in a regularly scheduled Okanagan Mainline Hockey League fixture slated for 8:30 p.m. and Wednesday night they will be in North Kamloops to play the Totems in a game postponed Sunday.

	W	L	T	F	A	P
N. Kam.	9	2	0	108	31	18
Vernon..	6	4	1	55	45	13
Kelowna	6	4	0	61	40	12
S. Arm..	2	7	1	35	37	5
Rvlskte.	2	7	0	26	84	4

Luckies are presently five points in back of the Totems and a double coup would leave them in good position to catch the front runners by the end of the week. Luckies will play Salmon Arm again Saturday while the Totems will have to tangle with a tougher Kelowna contingent.

In games played at the weekend, Salmon Arm Aces maintained their hold on fourth place in the five team circuit by first beating Revelstoke 7-2 at home and then bowing 4-3 to the Selkirks yesterday evening in the northern city.



RALPH BECK... will be in lineup Tuesday.

December 20 has been set as the tentative date for a fixture between the Vernon Luckies and the visiting Royal Canadian Navy all-star team from Victoria.



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Capable Clansmen

Simon Fraser University head coach Lorne Davies has praised the performance of two Vernon products, halfback Grant Kaulback (left) and quarterback Rick Sugden. Both were members of Jim Webster's champion Vernon Panther's in 1965.

Kaulback, a 5'10", 180 pounder, took up where he left off in high school, posting a 4.0 yard rushing average for the season and catching three of five passes for an additional 24 yards.

Sugden, a 5'11", 165 pounder, was used exclusively in the defensive backfield until an ankle injury forced him out of the lineup.

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