

Blades drop two to coast clubs in weekend trip

Vernon Blades coasttrip last weekend could have left much to be desired on paper, they lost both games, to Vancouver Haidas 9-6 and to New Westminster Royals 6-4, but the result could leave them sitting pretty for their home engagement with the Kamloops Kraft Kings Wednesday evening.

Blades, who did not gain any ground on the second place Kelowna Buckaroos, who defeated Penticton Broncos 5-4 in sudden death overtime Friday night, host the last place Kraft Kings starting at 8:30 p.m. Kraft Kings lost 7-1 to Broncos Saturday night.

Coach Odie Lowe termed the game with Vancouver

"tragic" as Blades jumped to a 2-0 first period lead as each team scored five times in the opening session. Vancouver outscored the Vernons 3-1 in the middle frame and then notched the only marker in the finale.

Lowe was much more pleased with the Sunday game with Royals, who are almost unbeatable in their own rink. Blades trailed 5-4 going into the last minute of play when he elected to pull goalie Gerry Allen in lieu of an extra attacker. However, as sometimes happens, the move backfired as Royals scored with three seconds remaining in the game to increase their margin to two goals.

Frankie Spring, who can be remembered locally as the player who gave Royals their 5-4 victory in Vernon Civic Arena earlier this year, fired four goals in Sunday's win. Both of the other Royals goals came from George Parrett.

Vernon marksman were Tom Williamson, Lawrence Quechuck, Tom Serviss and Keith Rolston.

Don Cooney claimed a hat trick for Haidas. Steve Lindner scored twice while singles came from Rich Brost, Al Dorohoy, Don Voodman and Paul McLellan. Getting goals for Vernon were Serviss, Al Southward, Rolston, Quechuck, Williamson and Ivan Malinovsky.