

Sports

DON KENDALL, Sports Editor

10

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Buckaroos stomp Merritt

KELOWNA, B.C. (CP) — Kelowna Buckaroos played on home ice for the first time this season and celebrated the occasion Friday by thumping Merritt Centennials 8-2 in a British Columbia Junior Hockey League game before 1,519 fans.

The Buckaroos had previously been locked out of their home rink because of a strike by the Canadian Union of Public Employees against the city. Kelowna had played its home games at Enderby and Penticton.

Senior city management staffed the arena for Friday's game.

John Olver led the Buckaroo attack with three goals, while Mike Wills scored twice. Rob Wright, Brad Owens and Perry Schnarr scored the other Kelowna goals.

Merritt got goals from Kirk Aulin and Pat Dupuis. Aulin's

goal was his 29th of the season, giving him the league lead by two over Gordie McKay of Penticton, Gary Lupul of Nanaimo and Schnarr.

The Buckaroos led 3-1 after the first period and increased their advantage to 6-2 after the second.

Kelowna received outstanding goaltending from John McKerrow, who blocked 32 shots. Merritt's combination of Randy Strutch and Brad Earp stopped 29 shots. Earp replaced Strutch early in the second period after the fourth Kelowna goal.

The win moved the Buckaroos into a fifth-place tie with Merritt in the eight-team league.

Four games are scheduled for tonight: Penticton at Kelowna, Merritt at Vernon, Langley at Maple Ridge and Chilliwack at Nanaimo.

Hockey tie

Medicine Hat 4 Lethbridge 4

Don Murdoch fired his 42nd goal of the season with less than three minutes to play to allow the visiting Tigers to earn the tie. Murdoch, who also scored on a first-period powerplay, banged another shot off the goalpost with 38 seconds left as he came within inches of giving the Tigers victory. Tom Bast and Brian Hill completed the Medicine Hat scoring, while Mike Fynn, Gary Wagner, Grant Eakin and Steve Tambellini countered for Lethbridge.

Brandon 6 Winnipeg 3

A balanced attack carried the Wheat Kings to the win as goals came from Dick Kerr, Gerry Stoughton, Mike Bradbury, Bill Derlago, Wayne Ramsey and Murray Thomson. Jim Cruise, John Hansford and Dwayne Endicott tallied for the Clubs.

Action resumes tonight with the Blades playing the Bombers at Flin Flon and Kamloops Chiefs meeting the Cougars at Victoria.