Blades Unwind Slowly Suffer Third Defeat

The Vernon Junior Blades found their scoring punch too late and lost their third straight game 5 to 2 to the fast-skating Kamloops Rockets in the Hub City arena Wednesday night.

The hapless Blades were down 5 to 0 into the second period before they could get unwound and come back with goals by Gary Roland and Gordie Kineshanko.

Their failure to play man-for-man hockey was the big reason for their loss along with their inability to cope with the Rockets' speedy new rookie line composed of Ken Rinaldi, Dale Sandyke and Rickie McShane.

Sandyke and McShane scored two goals for the winning cause. Gutty little forward Glen "Cowboy" Richards bagged a brace and Glen Madsden collected the other.

Statistics told the story as Kamloops outshot the locals 30 to 22. Until the second period the Rockets' defence successfully held the Vernon offence back of the blue line until they adopted more wide open man-for-man tactics.

Kineshanko notched his goal in the second period and the final Blade marker came at 14:55 of the third when Gary Roland punched the puck in.

Kamloops played without their regular netminder Paul Mamacher, injured Wednesday in a car accident. He is expected to be out for the rest of the season.

Leroy Hart filled in and did an adequate job for the Rockets.

The game was fast and cleanly played until the third period when tempers flared and Ken Rinaldi and Gordie Nuyens got two minutes apiece for fighting. Ed Begg of Kamloops and Buck Sherk for Vernon got two other penalties.