NORTH OKANAGAN

SPORTS

BILL HAUTALA
Sports Editor

First Practice Friday

Activity Now Astir In Junior Blade Camp

With the opening of the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League season less than two weeks away activity is springing to life this week in the Vernon Blades' camp.

Providing the ice is laid in the Civic Arena in time the Blades are scheduled to hold their first practice Friday night, October 4.

Their first league game is Tuesday, October 15 when they host Kamloops Rockets which gives them barely a week and a half to iron out the kinks. Kelowna Buckaroos, the only other entry in the three-team league, have been practicing for a week already and the Rockets open their camp this week.

But despite the delay and confusion caused by the provincial election, the club should be pretty well ready for action come faceoff time on the 15th.

Lost Only Two

As far as players go the Blades will be the healthiest in the league. They've only lost two of last year's regulars while both Kelowna and Kamloops are now missing some of their top stars.

Bill Brown, president of the Vernon Blades hockey club, is very optimistic about the coming season. He feels sure the Blades will be a success on the ice and at the gate and is vigorously engaged in pre-season promotion.

Season tickets are now being printed and will be on sale soon for a bargain rate of $8.00 for the total 18 regular home games the Blades will play.

This year, for the first time, programs will be printed and most of the advertising space has already been sold according to Brown.

The programs will include team lineups for each and every home game as well as player sketches and general hockey commentary.

Brown, with his executive that includes Carl Sorenson, Hal Gordon, Brian Willows, Bill Tait and coaches Hap Schaefer and Jim Moro, are also seeking other ways to raise funds.

A teenage "rock n' roll" dance may be held before the season kicks off, a percentage of the proceeds going to the club.

To boost opening night attendance a Kiddies' Night is planned. Anyone under six years of age accompanied by a parent will be admitted free to the first game.

Season tickets will probably be on sale at various locations around town in the near future. Members of the Blades will also be out selling them.

A complete pre-season rundown on the Blades will appear in Thursday's edition of The Vernon News.

Registration Date Changed

Those interested in registering for the Men's Keep-Fit are requested to appear at the Vernon Senior School gym on Wednesday, October 9—not on October 2 as advertised.

Registration will take place at 7:30 p.m.