Agar Wrecks Rockets In Overtime Thriller

Scores Four, Assists Twice As Blues Win Their Fourth

VERNON 9, KAMLOOPS 7

Inspired by the tenacity and goal-scoring ability of centre Corky Agar, Vernon Blades blazed to a thrilling overtime victory over visiting Kamloops Rockets at the Civic Arena Tuesday night.

Agar, in what had to be the most outstanding performance by a Blade this season, scored four dazzling goals including the heart - stopping overtime winner and assisted on two more sparklers to lead the local juniors to a 9-7 humbling of the hotshot Rockeeters from the Hub City.

It was the Blades' fourth win of the season and their second in a row over Kamloops on hometown ice. They now have eight points, still 14 behind the Rockets and the Kelowna Buckaroos, tied for first in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League with 22 apiece.

Tuesday night's triumph was a full team effort and there were many fine individual stars but Agar — he was positively stunning. His stickwork and skating ruled the course of the game from the opening faceoff to the final buzzer, from the first Vernon goal to the last.

Couldn't Be Stopped

He couldn't be stopped and he just wouldn't be stopped. Three of his goals were tallied on flashy breakaways powerfully reminiscent of his illustrious father who once guided the fortunes of the Vernon Canadians during the hey day of the Seniors.

He out-maneuvred and outfoxed the Rocket secondary at every turn and at every opportunity: swooping, shifting, deking, shooting, passing. Hockey at its best and at its prettiest.

The sophomore centre now has collected 10 points in two games and has rocketed into sixth place in league scoring with 25 points on 11 goals and 14 assosts.

If Agar was a stunner on offence, goalie Dennis Taylor was a stickout on defence. In this, his first action of the season and with virtually no pre-game practice, Taylor did the phenomenal and often the seemingly impossible in stifling an ever dangerous Kamloops offensive attack that rattled 52 shots in his direction, seven of which he had to concede. Lady Luck was on his side as well, be it admitted, as several Rocket pucks missed the mark by inches, a goal-post or a crossbar serving as the last line of resistance more than once.

The Blades' regular netminder, Brian Woodward, was unable to make it down from Salmon Arm for the game and Taylor was hurriedly recruited.

There were a few more bodies missing besides Woodward and winning despite their absence made it all the sweeter.

Short On Defence

Gordie Nuyens and Gordie Kineshanko, who were geared for duty on defence, failed to appear and Jim Stephen and Dave MacKay were left holding the bag and it was a leaden load to carry. But they toted it creditably and that says plenty because they were facing the most powerful and well-knit scoring machine in the OJHL.

They were both on the ice for at least 55 minutes, Bobby Stein and (yes, him again) Agar spelling them off at rare intervals.

Howie McNeil also failed to dress and Frank Harrison capably filled his customary Number 9 sweater, scoring a goal and assisting twice. Newcomer George Mandzuik, who replaced Kineshanko on the starboard end of the Stein-Sherk line, was Johnny-on-the-spot to ram in two more goals, giving him five points in two games, a fine debut indeed for a fellow who has been out of hockey for a year.

Stein blistered in a slapshot in the first period for another goal and Dale Sorochuk connected with a slick pass from Agar to give Vernon their final insurance tally in the 10-minute overtime session.

For the Rockets it was two defencemen and a forward who handled the bulk of scoring. Rearguards Ken Rodgers and Bill Steinke and winger Dale Sandyke each bagged a brace with league goal-scoring leader Brian Fourt sniping a single.

Spotted Early Goal

The Blades spotted the Rockets an early goal in the first period, then roared back to take a 2-1 edge. They led 5-2 after the second period, paced the Kamloopsians goal for goal for the first half of the third period, then faltered to allow the visitors to deadlock the score at 7-7, their tying goal going in with but a split second to full time.

The game's action started at 8:09 of the first period and it didn't involve goal-scoring. Violence broke out between Kamloops' Glen Richards and Vernon's Sorochuk, the outcome of which saw Richards get a game misconduct and Sorochuk 10 minutes in the pen. Richards provoked what occurred when he slammed Sorochuk head-first into the boards in the Kamloops corner with a cross-check. Sorochuk, dazed and maddened, retaliated, first with his stick and then his fists. En route to the box Richards lipped off referee Alex Kashuba and got the thumb to the showers.

Everybody settled down to playing hockey from this points on and the sparse Civic Arena crowd got its money's worth and then some.

A minute after Richards had vacated the scene his wing-mate Fourt tipped in a pass from Larry Roberge to put the red - shirts up one. Then, at 15:53, Agar pulled off the first of his dazzlers, swooping, hawklike, to his right around a lone defenceman to explode a howitzer high into the left corner past Harvey Budarick. Stein, on another unassisted breakaway, shot it from the left side at 16:54 to beat Budarick with a low whiz-banger.

In the second period Vernon took a 3-1 lead when Agar zoomed netwards again and blasted a shot off Budarick's pads that Harrison, trailing, caught on the rebound and flicked in. Sandyke made it 3-2 when he lofted a floater over Taylor's shoulder but there was no denying Vernon as Mandzuik came right back with a brace, scored amidst goal - mouth confusion around Budarick.

Deked Budarick

The third period opened with Rodgers clicking at the 25-second mark. Then Agar again broke loose with a Harrison pass and deked Budarick's replacement, Lee Simpson, on the short side to roars from the crowd.

Steinke tallied unassisted at 5:30 and it was 6-4 but Agar, with a terrific burst of speed, shot around Rocket defenceman Terry Shishido to trigger in his third and give the Blades their three-point advantage again. The Blades were a man short on this play.

Around about then, Vernon's checking power, mightily over-taxed, eased up and you can't do that against the Rockets, Rodgers tapped a roller through Taylor's pads at 13:37, Steinke flipped in a high drive at 16:51 and then, on a lightning relay from a faceoff to the left of Taylor, Sandyke sniped the equalizer as the buzzer sounded.

However, five minutes into overtime Agar got the winner, snaring a loose puck and belting it in from near the blueline. A minute later Agar, on a neat play off the left boards, slipped the puck to Harrison who in turn relayed to Sorochuk opposite an open corner to Simpson's right. Bingo!

Game Summar

First Period: 1. Kamloops, Fourt (Roberge) 9:30. 2. Vernon, Agar (unassisted) 15:53. 3. Vernon, Stein (unassisted) 16:54. Penalties — Richards (charging, fighting, 10-minute misconduct, game misconduct), Sorochuk (slashing, fighting) 8:09.

Second Period: 4. Vernon, Harrison (Agar) 6:40. 5. Kamloops, Sandyke (Steinke) 11:04. 6. Vernon, Mandzuik (Sherk) 14:01. 7. Vernon, Mandzuik (Stein, Sherk) 19:08. Penalties — Steinke (hooking) 11:57; MacKay (hooking) 19:47.

Third Period: 8. Kamloops, Rodgers (unassisted) :25. 9. Vernon, Agar (Harrison) 1:03. 10. Kamloops, Steinke (unassisted) 5:30. 11. Vernon, Agar (unassisted) 6:22. 12. Kamloops, Rodgers (unassisted) 13:37. 13. Kamloops, Steinke (unassisted) 16:51. 14. Kamloops, Sandyke (Roberge) 19:59. Penalties — Sorochuk (hooking) 6:13; Roberge (bench penalty) 17:04.

Overtime: 15. Vernon, Agar (unassisted) 5:31. 16. Vernon, Sorochuk (Harrison, Agar) 6:47.

Shots: Vernon 13, 12, 15, 5 —45; Kamloops 6, 8, 4, 4— 22.

Gordon Skinner
MEN'S and BOYS' SHOPS

Gift Sale . . .

SALE . . .
MEN'S SKI JACKETS
Special purchase direct from manufacturer makes this special possible! Regular or reversible styles, also roll under hoods. All sizes 36 to 44. Shop Early! Hurry! SPECIAL
12.99 and 14.98

SALE . . .
BOYS' - YOUTHS'
Ski Jackets
Shop early for this super value! Warmly quilted with hood. Sizes 8 to 18 years. SPECIAL
10.99

Greatest Gift Selection

SALE . . . PURE WOOL
Men's Worsted Suits
Buy a new suit for Christmas! Regular and tall models. Sizes 36 to 46.
SPECIAL 49.50

BOYS' REVERSIBLE SKI JACKETS
$11.95 and $12.95

SWEATERS!
SWEATERS!
SWEATERS!

1,000 PAIRS
Men's Socks

1,000
Men's Ties

Corky Surges To 6th In OJHL Scoring Race

Vernon Blades' shifty centreman Corky Agar has shot right up into the thick of the individual Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League scoring race this week according to the latest statistics released.

In two games with Kamloops Rockets Saturday and Tuesday Agar scored six goals and assisted four times for 10 points to boost his total to 25, sixth in the standings. He has 11 goals and 14 assists, tied with Rockets' Dale Sandyke who has 14 goals and 11 assists.

League Scoring (Top 20)

	G	A	PM	PT
E. Shishido (K)	11	21	2	32
Fourt (K)	18	12	26	30
J. Strong (Kel)	16	13	39	29
Roberge (K)	14	14	15	28
Richards (K)	8	19	33	27
Sandyke (K)	14	11	13	25
Agar (Ver)	**11**	**14**	**8**	**25**
Stolz (Kel)	14	9	23	23
Stein (Ver)	**11**	**10**	**4**	**21**
R. Bulach (Kel)	6	14	18	20
Begg (K)	5	14	2	19
T. Strong (Kel)	7	11	14	18
Kasubuchi (Kel)	7	10	20	17
Steinke (K)	5	12	41	17
Rinaldi (K)	1	16	41	17
Verna (Kel)	12	4	19	16
Sherk (Ver)	**8**	**8**	**40**	**16**
Schnepf (Kel)	9	4	24	13
Rodgers (K)	6	7	13	13
Sorochuk (Ver)	**6**	**7**	**35**	**13**

Goalkeeper Averages

	GP	GA	AV
Simpson (K)	9	32	3.55
Budarick (K)	9	35	3.88
Robinson (Kel)	15	72	4.80
Woodward (V)	**17**	**103**	**5.91**

Vernon's Valley Cliff