Blades Fail To Boost Own Cause

Flounder 8-4 To Buckaroos In Disappointing Jr. Tilt

KELOWNA 8, VERNON 4

A whirlwind campaign by a civic recreation body to boost junior hockey and the Vernon Blades managed to draw a few new faces to the Civic Arena Tuesday night but the Blades failed miserably in promoting their own cause.

The Blades, in one of their shoddier exhibitions of the season, got shafted 8-4 by the visiting Kelowna Buckaroos to give their hometown crowd, slghtly larger than usual, little to cheer about and less reason for wanting to see more.

To put it theatrically, they flubbed their lines and tripped over their own collective feet at the very time and occasion when they should have scored a smash hit.

True, there were a few bright moments in the sorry drama but not enough to counterbalance the mistakes and mediocrity. They just never made the scene, the Buckaroos did and there went the hockey game, 8-4 to Kelowna.

Back In First

The win, conveniently enough, propelled the Cowboys back into sole possession of first place in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League, the second time in a row that the Blades had served such a useful purpose.

The Bucks are now two points up on the idle Kamloops Rockets who they meet in a crucial home-and-home series this weekend.

For the Blades it's back to the drawing board and practices, practices, practices until next Wednesday when they resume activity in the home camp of the Rockets.

Tuesday night's game was, in many ways, the previous Tuesday's game in reverse. In that clash a week ago the Blades had the edge in play and spirit and the Kamloops Rockets were the disorganized under-dogs. But now it was just the opposite with the Vernon squad scrambling confusedly in the back stretch and the Buckaroos streaking ever faster to the finish line.

It was more or less even-steven in the first period as the 1-1 score would indicate but from then on the Buckaroos started to gather momentum and the Blades began to wilt.

Kelowna scored three times in the second period to Vernon's lone reply and in the final period they hammered home four more to the Blues' two.

Schnepf Top Scorer

Winger Gordie Schnepf was the big horse for the Cowboys with three goals and one assist and defenceman Doug Chisholm wasn't far behind, two of his deadly slap shots hitting home. Singles went to Harvey Stolz, Marcello Verna and Dick Bulach.

For Vernon Corky Agar continued to look consistent with his hot-shot form the past week, scoring a goal and coming close to the mark more than once. Bobby Stein blasted in another goal, Howie McNeil added a third and Allan Rogan counted once.

Vernon's defence, a bastion last week, was weak and ineffective Tuesday. Unable to clear the puck from their own zone with authority they gave it away time and again and the Buckaroos were never too hesitant to take each and every advantage they could to slam it past Dennis Taylor.

Taylor, incidentally, played an inspired game which the majority of his teammates would have done well to try and match. He stopped 26 shots altogether while his opposite number Richard Robinson barred the gate to 24.

Nine Penalties

Referee Art Davison called nine penalties, Buckaroo miscreants getting the thumb six times.

Schnepf opened scoring for Kelowna at 14:20 of a lengthy first period interrupted by a frozen clock and Agar tied it minutes later on another of his characteristic breakaway plays.

Stolz and Schnepf again gave the Bucks a 3-1 advantage in the second period, then McNeil narrowed it when a pass by Buck Sherk went in off his skate. Schnepf closed the period's scoring at 14:43.

Chisholm sniped the first of his pair a minute after the final frame began to make it 5-2 for Kelowna but Stein and Rogan retaliated in that order to put them back into contention. A temporary state of existence as it turned out because the Bucks promptly exploded with a hat-trick, Bulach, Verna and Chisholm the marksmen, to seal the Blades' fate for yet another game.

Game Summary

First Period: 1. Kelowna, Schnepf (R. Bulach) 14:20. 2. Vernon, Agar (Harrison, Sorochuk) 19:40. Penalty—Stolz (boarding) 18:20.

Second Period: 3. Kelowna, Stolz (T. Strong) 1:24. 4. Kelowna, Schnepf (Verna) 3:42. 5. Vernon, McNeil (Sherk) 7:35. 6. Kelowna, Schnepf (unassisted) 14:43. Penalties — Stephen, J. Strong (roughing) 8:46; Kineshanko (tripping) 9:27; Schnepf (interference) 9:38; Stolz (tripping) 10:43.

Third Period: 7. Kelowna, Chisholm (Stolz) 1:59. 8. Vernon, Stein (Sherk) 3:10. 9. Vernon, Rogan (unassisted) 8:30. 10. Kelowna, R. Bulach (Verna) 8:57. 11. Kelowna, Verna (R. Bulach, Schnepf) 9:18. 12. Kelowna, Chisholm (J. Strong) 13:26. Penalties—Wildemann (tripping) 10:44; McNeil (high sticking) 11:09; Hokazono (hooking 15:49.

Shots:) Taylor 7, 8, 11—26; Robinson 7, 5, 12—24.

Pee Wee Third Round Schedule

Here is the third round for the Vernon Pee Wee house league:

Saturday, December 14, 8 a.m.— Maple Leafs vs Canadians; 9 a.m.—Redwings vs Blackhawks.

Thursday, December 19, 5 p.m.—Totems vs Warriors; 6 p.m. Stampeders vs Panthers; 7 p.m.—Blackhawks vs Maple Leafs.

Saturday, December 21, 8 a.m.—Panthers vs Totems; 9 a.m.—Redwings vs Canadians.

Thursday, December 26, 5 p.m.—Stampeders vs Warriors; 6 p.m. Redwings vs Maple Leafs; 7 p.m. Blackhawks vs Canadians.

Saturday, December 28, 8 a.m.—Stampeders vs Totems; 9 a.m.—Panthers vs Warriors.

CURLING

Wednesday, December 11

7 p.m., Square 1: 1, Coley vs Foord; 2, Scott vs French; 3, Churchill vs Hall; 4, Kurbis vs Adams; 5, Copan vs Henley.

9 p.m., Square 3: 1, Ferguson vs Henschke; 2, Kinnard vs Brisco; 3, Brown vs Hatch; 4, Wadsworth vs Shockey; 5, Schmidt vs Siemans.

Thursday, December 12

7 p.m., Square 2: 1, Johnston vs Schell; 2, Clark vs Wetherill; 3, Ogasawara vs Litle; 4, Townsend vs Green; 5, Mills vs McWilliams.

9 p.m., Business Girls: 1, Hall vs McCulloch; 2, Hamilton vs Sigalet; 3, Watson vs Wilson; 4, Henry vs Young; 5, Hunter vs Lewers.

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