Blades Bypass Broncs Into 3rd

Gain Three Points On Win, Tie In Key Series

VERNON 5, 2; PENTICTON-SUMMERLAND 3, 2

Vernon Blades continued to put snap, crackle and pop in their hockey last weekend and they were amply rewarded for their efforts.

Showing little or no let-down after their stunning upset defeat of Kamloops Rockets the Blades skated into a crucial two-game series with Pentiction-Summerland Broncos and emerged with a win, a tie, three points and undisputed possession of third place in the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League.

Most important of all the Blades edged three points closer to second place Kelowna Buckaroos who were laced twice on the weekend by the league-leading Rockets.

The Blues now trail the Bucks by seven points, still a fair distance back but enough to start the Kelownians worrying as they prepare for a head-on clash with their hot Vernon rivals this coming weekend.

The series last week was a key one for both Vernon and Penticton-Summerland because whoever lost got free rent on a coldwater flat in the OJHL cellar.

A sparkling 5-3 victory down in Pencticon Friday night combined with a hard-fought 2-2 draw on Civic Arena ice Saturday ensured the Blades of more luxurious surroundings, at least for the moment.

Serving to make the Blades' fine weekend record look even more impressive was the fact that they played both games shorthanded.

For the most part, coach Hap Schaefer was forced to employ only two forward lines along with two defencemen. This can be tiring to a team, and it was to some degree, but the boys still managed to come up with all-out efforts.

In Penticton Friday the Blades pushed the throttle to the floorboards right from the opening whistle and were able, as a result to grab a 2-0 edge in the first period on goals by Ralph Litzenberger and Buck Sherk.

The Broncs, with Dwayne Biagioni doing the honors, rebounded with a quick pair early in the second stanza to knot the count but the Blades were just as fast in rebuilding their lead as Dale Sorochuk and Bobby Stein zipped in a pair.

With the score now 4-2 the Broncs got mobile again in the third period and soon edged within one goal when Keith MacInnes clicked from Biagioni and Bob McAdam.

However, at the eight minute mark Sorochuk, who collected four points all told on the weekend, tipped in a pass from Stein for the necessary insurance.

The Blades put on a terrific display of penalty killing late in the game when they had two men off with minor penalties.

Standouts in Friday's game included Ralph Litzenberger who scored Broncos ragged, Sorochu who tallied twice and assisted on a third marker, and the two iron men on the blueline, Jim Stephen and Gary Koski.

The Blades had the edge in shots-on-goal and also took a healthy share of the 11 penalties issued, seven.

Saturday night's score should have more accurately read: Vernon Blades, 2—Ernie Pushkarenko, 2.

It was only the fantastic goaltending of Pushkarenko that prevented the game from being an utter rout for Vernon. Altogether the alert and agile Summerlander blocked 38 shots, many of them screened and many from difficult angles.

His Vernon counterpart Norm Schiman was only called upon to handle 20 but he also made some key saves.

Stein blazed in a pass from Sorochuk and Buck Sherk on a power play to give Vernon a 1-0 edge in the first period but the Broncs came back with a lone counter in the second, complements of Giagioni.

Allan Rogan triggered in a digout from the boards by Litzenberger at the six-minute mark of the third period and it looked for a while as if the Blades would be able to hold out for a 2-1 victory.

But then with four minutes to play, Litzenberger made a fatal mistake while in the process of killing a penalty and the Broncs capitalized on it. In attempting to pass the puck to an open man at centre he hit Penticton-Summerland's Jim O'Neil right in the clear and the left winger simply flipped it into the net.

Under the new rule adopted by the OJHL no over time was played.

A larger crowd than usual was on hand for the game Saturday which saw four-year Blade veteran Buck Sherk accorded special honors.

Sherk, along with his wife, were presented with a number of fine gifts from various business concerns in Vernon as well as from the Blade players and executive. The presentations took part prior to the start of the second period with Ernie Kowal as master of ceremonies.

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Vernon Fish and Game Club

Annual Election of Officers

Tuesday, November 24th, 1964

ELKS HALL 8:00 p.m.

Nominations Accepted from the Floor

GUEST SPEAKER:

Dave Spalding, regional game biologist.

SUBJECT:

Why he recommends an open season on doe deer.