# High Ridin' Blues Off To Broncoville Rodeo

## Penticton-Summerland Ponies Could Do Some Mean Bucking

Well, those volcanic Vernon Blades head for Broncoville tonight with a seven-game unbeaten string in tow and a "sky's-the-limit" gleam in their eyes.

The Blades, fresh from a double drubbing of the crumbling Kamloops Rockets, are all set to throw a heavy saddle over the Penticton-Summerland cayuses as part of their determined ride towards a "place in the sun" atop the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League.

As the hottest team in the OJHL nowadays the Blades are odds on favorites to ride high and wide in Penticton tonight but don't count those Broncos out.

They'll be there in full force, all mean and snarly after losing a couple of games to Kelowna Buckaroos last weekend, and howling to close the four-point gap separating their cellar suite from the third place pad of the Blades.

Which of course means the fans in attendance at Penticton Memorial Arena are in for a slam-bang doozer of a hockey game.

This goes for Vernon rooters too. Saturday night at 8:30 p.m. these same two clubs butt heads at the Civic Arena in the second act of their weekend melodrama.

Both teams stand to gain plenty from the two-game series. The Blades could use a couple of wins to close the distance between them and the front-running Rockets and Buckaroos. And the Broncos, obviously enough, desire to vacate the league cellar.

The Blades are counting on the Rockets to help them out this weekend. Kenny Stewart's fizzling Missilemen take on the Buckaroos in another home-and-home set whose outcome could very well see the Kelownians perched merrily on top of the OJHL heap. The Blues, seven points back of the Bucks who in turn are two out of first, could creep to within three of second place Kelowna if the Rockets broke their four-game slump with a pair of wins to match Vernon's proposed twin killing.

One thing points in the Rockets' favor — they are the only team the Buckaroos have failed to beat this season.

According to statistics released this week the Rockets are still a shaky first with 11 wins and five losses for 22 points. The Buckaroos are hot on their necks with 20 points on nine wins and two ties.

The Blades, with four wins and three ties in their last seven games, have vaulted into third with 13 points. The Broncos bring up the rear with nine.

The Rockets' star centre Eric Shishido shows little let-up in the individual scoring race despite the way his team has faltered. To date he has 16 goals and 26 assists for 42 points, 11 ahead of Kelowna's Marcello Verna.

Verna has 31 points on 14 goals and 17 helpers and holding down third with 28 on a league leading 20 goals and eight assists is Kamloops' Dale Sandyke.

Two Vernon players have taken a jump up the scoring ladder. Centre Bobby Stein is now fifth with 20 points, Dale Sorochuk sixth with 19.

League Standings

| | W | L | T | F | A | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kam. .. | 11 | 5 | 0 | 85 | 70 | 22 |
| Kel. ... | 9 | 5 | 2 | 69 | 50 | 20 |
| Vernon | 5 | 8 | 3 | 55 | 76 | 13 |
| P-S .... | 4 | 11 | 1 | 52 | 65 | 9 |

League Scoring

| | G | A | P |
|---|---|---|---|
| E. Shishido (Kam) ..... | 16 | 26 | 42 |
| Verna (Kel) ..... | 14 | 17 | 31 |
| Sandyke (Kam) . | 20 | 8 | 28 |
| Meridew (Kam) | 11 | 13 | 24 |
| Stein (Ver) ..... | 9 | 11 | 20 |
| Sorochuk (Ver) . | 11 | 8 | 19 |
| J. Strong (Kel) . | 10 | 9 | 19 |
| MacInnes (P-S) . | 6 | 11 | 17 |
| Rodgers (Kam) . | 3 | 14 | 17 |
| Palanio (P-S) ... | 11 | 4 | 15 |
| Kasubuchi (Kel) | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| Rogan (Ver) ..... | 8 | 5 | 13 |
| Evans (Kel) ..... | 7 | 6 | 13 |
| K. Begg (Kam) . | 3 | 10 | 13 |

Goalkeeper Averages

| | P | GA | Ave |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gaal (Kel) .. | 16 | 50 | 3.12 |
| Pushkarenko (P-S) ..... | 14 | 57 | 4.07 |
| Budarick (Kam) ..... | 14.3 | 60 | 4.19 |
| Schiman (Ver) ..... | 15 | 69 | 4.60 |


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