Broncos Snap Blades' Long Unbeaten String

But Blues Rally With Win Saturday To Split Series

VERNON 3, 4; PENTICTON-SUMMERLAND 4, 1

Vernon Blades marched into Penticton Friday night brandishing their seven-game unbeaten record but that's as far as they carried it.

Penticton - Summerland Broncos, in a snarly mood and anything but overawed by the Blades' presence in their home arena, edged the Blues 4-3 in a rough-and-tumble Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League encounter.

It was the first loss suffered by the Blades in more than a month, a streak of perfection they haven't been able to boast of in their entire four-year junior hockey career.

But it was only a momentary setback. Saturday night back here at the Civic Arena the Blades skated to a no nonsense 4-1 win before a small but thoroughly enthusiastic crowd.

Elsewhere in the league the situation remained as is. Kelowna Buckaroos and Kamloops Rockets split a two-game set, the Buckaroos winning 6-1 in Kelowna Friday and the Rockets finally ending their losing string at five games with a tight 6-5 victory on their home ice Saturday.

This left the Rockets still two points out in front in league standings. And the Buckaroos are still seven points ahead of the Blades who in turn remain four up on the cellar dwelling Broncos.

Given a break or two the Blades might have won down in Penticton Friday but it just wasn't to be. The Broncos jumped into an early 3-0 lead in the first period and although Vernon tied the score by the third frame the Combines added a fourth goal which managed to hold up for the distance.

Penalties cut down the Blades' effectiveness somewhat. Of 12 penalties called Vernon received eight.

That wasn't all. In the third period goalie Norm Schiman was injured and forced to leave the game. However, Brian Woodward, who toiled for the Blades last season, was on hand for the trip and took over his old spot. He held the Broncos scoreless the rest of the game.

Scoring for Penticton-Summerland Friday were Ray Picco, Larry Palanio, Ken Lawson and Dwayne Biagioni. Biagioni's proved to be the winner.

Dale Sorochuk continued to set a hot scoring pace with the Blades, netting two goals. Buck Sherk added a singleton and one assist.

The Blades waited until the third period to lower the boom Saturday night. Tied 1-1 going into the final frame the Boys in Blue cut loose with three unanswered goals to salt away their sixth win of the season.

It was Ralph Litzenberger's night to fly. The hustling little winger scored two goals and one assist before leaving the game prematurely with a banged-up knee in the third period. Thankfully the injury wasn't serious and won't keep him out of the lineup.

Allan Rogan and the still red-hot Sorochuk picked up one apiece. Bobby Stein, playing defence in the absence of regular Gary Koski collected two assists.

Russ Chernoff triggered the Broncos' lone goal unassisted in the second period after Litzenberger had put the Blades out in front midway through the opening stanza.

Brian Woodward went the distance for Vernon and came up with some fine saves, even though he wasn't called on for as much duty as Penticton-Summerland's Ernie Pushkarenko who blocked 28 shots all told compared to his 17.

The game had its wild moments too. Late in the third period a fight broke out between Vernon's Marvin Maier and a former team mate Dwayne Biagioni. Stein tried to interfere for the Blades and Jim O'Neil did likewise for the Broncos with the result that referee Alex Kashuba waved them both to the exits with automatic game miscounducts.

Maier had a rough weekend indeed, on and off the scoreboard. Down in Penticton he only managed one assist and had trouble staying out of the penalty box. He was involved with one scuffle with Penticton's Moe Hays.

Saturday night wasn't much different. Marvelous Marv was blanked on the scoreboard but collected 13 more minutes in the sin bin, for the most part the end result of altercations with former team mates.

PIN ..POINTS..

Lincoln Lanes

Friday Ladies: Team high three, Kal Hotel 2764; single, Pythians No. 3 1015. High triple and single, Kay Morphy, 746 and 282; average, Muriel Forslund 192.

Friday Mens: Team high three and single, Triangle Service, 4003 and 1414. High triple and single, Paul Piche, 784 and 348. High average, Shig Tabata 243.

Wednesday Mixed, 9-11: Team high three, Genier's TV 3728; single, Hiliters 1322. Men's triple and single, Dave Harding, 790 and 312. Ladies' triple and single, Laureen McLean, 749 and 311.

Monday Mens: Team high three, King Pins 3735; single, Sportsmen 1337. High triple and single, Dave Bradley, 667 and 309; average, R. Holland 211.

Tuesday Mixed: Team high three and single, Geniers TV, 3730 and 1287. Men's high three and single, Roy Isobe, 724 and 283; average, Shig Tabata 249. Ladies' high three, Sybil Tinkham 671; single, Linda Mundrell 266; average, Sybil Tinkham 202.

Thursday Ladies: Team high three and single, Lakamalkas, 3407 and 1207. High triple, single and average, Martha Isobe, 714, 267 and 192.

Del Mar Lanes

Monday Mixed: Team high triple, Del Mar 3669; single, Woolworths 1280. Men's high triple, Al Hoggard 698; single and average, Ernie Tokaryk, 281 and 204. Women's high triple and single, Betty McGee, 792 and 313; average, Muriel Forslund 207.

Monday Mens: Team high triple and single, Step Ins, 3759 and 1345. High triple and single, Allen Manke, 751 and 332; average, Bill Roth 233. Wilf Van Sickle is King with 341 and Isabel Bodnisky is Queen with 334.

Tuesday Mixed, 9-11: Team high triple and single, Zombies, 2855 and 1008. Men's high triple and single, Eric Palmer, 704 and 286; average, Allen Manke 209. Women's high triple and single, Mary Falconer, 593 and 264; average, Mary Falconer 196.

Wednesday Mixed, 9-11: Team high triple and single, Varcoe's TV, 3719 and 1298. Men's high triple, Sam Kawaguchi 687; single, Henry Krantz 290; average, Wilf Van Sickle 210. Women's high triple, single and average, Julia Varcoe, 670, 263 and 202.

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