Blades Battle Broncs To Stay Out Of Cellar

Penticton-Summerland Crew Here For New Year's Clash

VERNON 2, 4; KAMLOOPS 9, 1

Vernon Blades' first few steps into 1965 will be fraught with no small amount of danger.

The Blades are scheduled to take on Penticton-Summerland Broncos in a two-game Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League series over the New Year's holiday weekend and unless they look sharp and step lively they could well find themselves unwilling inhabitants of the league cellar.

This rather drastic state of affairs was brought on by the startling results of post-Christmas OJHL action last weekend.

While the Blades were busy splitting a home-and-home set with Kamloops Rockets on Boxing Day and Sunday the Broncos pulled off a corker by sweeping both ends of another holiday doubleheader with Kelowna Buckaroos, 4-3 and 4-2.

This twin killing allowed the hot - shot Broncs to creep within a point of the third place Blades. Vernon has 17 points on seven wins and three ties, Penticton - Summerland 16 on seven wins and two ties.

So you see the up-and-coming holiday showdown is of the decidedly crucial variety. Depending on how the series goes the Blades could either stay put, rise five points up on the Broncs or (perish the thought) fall three behind.

The first game of the series is scheduled for New Year's Day at 2 p.m. in Vernon Civic Arena with the Blades as hosts. Saturday night the two clubs go at it again down in Penticton starting at 8:30 p.m.

This represents a change from the original OJHL schedule. The Blades were earlier supposed to visit Penticton on New Year's Day and host the Broncs Saturday but this set-up was switched in order to give the Vernon juniors a home game on the choice January 1 date.

A large holiday crowd is expected to be on hand for the New Year's clash Friday. The encouraging turnout of fans for last Sunday's afternoon game with the Rockets would seem to bear out this prediction.

More than 500 spectators showed up last Sunday and they weren't disappointed as the Blades skated off with a convincing 4-1 victory, their seventh of the season.

The win averaged a 9-2 pasting suffered at the hands of the Rockets in a Boxing Day get-together up in Kamloops.

Marvin Maier, back in full stride after a two-week scoring slump, fired two goals to lead the Blades' relentless attack that unleashed 44 shots on the Kamloops net. Allan Rogan and Ralph Litzenberger came through with one apiece and recording two assists each were Dale Sorochuk and Ike Coulter.

Dale Sandyke tipped in a relay from league scoring leader Eric Shishido for the Rockets' lone reply.

The Blades, with Maier and Litzenberger clicking in that order, jumped to a 2-0 lead early in the first period but the Rockets narrowed the margin to 2-1 on Sandyke's power play tally at the 15-minute mark.

After a scoreless second period which they dominated for the most part the Blues locked up their win with another pair of goals, courtesy Rogan and Maier.

There were ten penalties in the game, six to Kamloops. One figured in scoring.

The Blades called the shots Sunday, there was little doubt of that. But on the preceding Boxing Day the reverse was true.

Playing probably their best game in more than a month the Rockets roared their way to a no nonsense 9-2 decision.

They spotted the Blades' an early goal at the 30-second mark of the first period, then proceeded to rap in five straight in their typically explosive fashion. They added another goal in the second and drilled in a trio in the final 20 minutes.

Eric Shishido continued to fatten his burgeoning point total with two goals and five assists, Eddie Begg triggered a hat-trick and two helpers and Dale Sandyke bagged a brace and one assist. Singletons went to George Meridew and juvenile recruit Roy Sakaki.

Old reliable Buck Sherk accounted for both Vernon goals, scored in the first period. Dale Sorochuk and Bobby Stein assisted on his 30-second opener.

Kamloops outshot Vernon 34-27. The Blades served four of seven penalties.

The Blades, a usual, were shorthanded for both games, icing 11 players in all. Dave MacKay, home from UBC for the Christmas holidays, took over his old spot on defence to help the club out.

Coach Hap Schaefer hopes to have MacKay for the Penticton-Summerland series as well. He is also keeping his fingers crossed that Gary Koski will make it back from Saskatchewan in time for the weekend action. The ace blueliner has been sidelined with a leg injury for the past month.

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REVELSTOKE 6,
GRANDVIEW 3,

Grandview Warriors co path beat in the North Oka weekend.

This time Grindrod Elks were the victims of the green and white war party from the Flatlands following a sudden raid on Vernon Civic Arena Sunday night.

The Warriors, currently the hottest hockey crew in the NOHL, edged to within

NORTH OKANAGAN

SPORTS

BILL HAUTALA
Sports Editor

Sandyke Now Runner-Up

Shishido Shoots Into 18-Point Scoring Lead

An eight - point splurge last weekend has boosted Kamloops Rockets' starry centre Eric Shishido into an all but insuperable lead atop the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League individual scoring race.

Shishido bagged two goals and six assists at the expense of the Vernon Blades to blow his point total sky high. He now has 21 goals and 40 assists for 61 points, 18 ahead of his nearest rival Dale Sandyke who has 43.

Sandyke, who happens to be Shishido's favorite wingmate, leads the OJHL in goal-getting with 30 and has another 13 assists to boot.

Third is Kelowna Buckaroos' Marcello Verna with 38 points and tied for fourth with 30 are Kamloops' George Meridew and Kelowna's John Strong. Vernon's Dale Sorochuk is now fifth with 26.

Mike Gaal of the Buckaroos still has the best goaltending average, a spotless 3.09 mark. Penticton - Summerland's Ernie Pushkarenko is runner-up with 4.15.

Statistics to Dec. 27:

League Standings:

	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Kam.	14	7	1	115	99	29
Kel.	12	8	2	97	68	26
Ver.	7	12	3	71	103	17
P.-S.	7	13	2	77	90	16

League Scoring:

	G	A	P
E. Shishido, Kam.	21	40	61
Sandyke, Kam.	30	13	43
Verna, Kel.	18	20	38
Meridew, Kam.	15	15	30
J. Strong, Kel.	13	17	30
Sorochuk, Ver.	15	11	26
E. Begg, Kam.	15	10	25
Stein, Ver.	10	15	25
MacInnes, P-S.	7	16	23
Rodgers, Kam.	3	19	22
Palanio, P-S.	16	5	21
Swanson, Kel.	9	11	20
T. Strong, Kel.	4	16	20
Kasubuchi, Kel.	11	7	18
Evans, Kel.	9	9	18
Picco, P-S.	11	6	17
Sherk, Ver.	10	7	17
Hays, P-S.	4	13	17

	GP	GA	Ave
Gaal, Kel.	22	68	3.09
Pushkarenko, P-S.	19	79	4.15
Budarick, Kam.	19.3	81	4.19
Schiman, Ver.	20	95	4.75

An estimated 10 million persons were killed during the First World War.

