# OJHL Standings Still Undecided

## *Blades Split With Rockets; Broncs Tie Two With Bucks*

VERNON 7,3 KAMLOOPS 6,5

Vernon Blades failed to effect their hoped-for escape from the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League cellar on the weekend but at least they didn't lose any ground trying.

The Blades split a two-game series with Kamloops Rockets, winning 7-6 behind third place Penticnight and dropping a 5-3 decision Sunday afternoon in Kamloops, to stay close behind third place Penticton-Summerland Broncos.

In the other OJHL weekend series the Broncos and Kelowna Buckaroos battled to a pair of ties. The two clubs finished in a 3-3 deadlock Friday night in Penticton and Saturday in Kelowna the count was 2-2.

In other words no one gained or lost anything. The Rockets and Bucks are still tied for first place in the OJHL and the Broncos continue to hold a two-point edge over the tail-end Blades.

Meaning that final league standings, which will determine who meets who in the first round of the Valley playoffs, won't be resolved until the very last games of the regular schedule are completed.

Still in doubt are first and third place and appropriately enough the teams directly involved in the battles for these two berths will be meeting head-on next weekend.

The Rockets and Bucks will of course, be vis-a-vis in the two-game set that will decide top spot and the Broncos and Blades will be likewise positioned in a struggle for third.

Whatever the outcome the Blades will be meeting either Kamloops or Kelowna in the semi-finals which get underway in two weeks time.

For the first time in weeks the Blades were operating at what to them is full strength —12 players—in their back-to-back tangle with the Rockets and with a little more luck and effort they might have duplicated an earlier two-game sweep over the front-running Hubsters.

Saturday night's game at the Civic Arena was a fast, free-wheeling, thrill-a-minute affair that had the handful of loyal fans tied in knots.

The Blades jumped into what looked like a runaway 3-0 lead early in the first period but the Rockets recouped with three goals themselves to throw doubt into the issue as the second stanza opened.

Vernon struck for two more goals in the sandwich session to one by Kamloops to carry a tense 5-4 edge into the final frame. The Rockets quickly evened things up again six minutes into the period and it stayed that way until the 12-minute mark when the Blues went ahead 6-5. Another Rocket goal fast on the heels of this one set the stage for the last minute heroics of Dale Sorochuk who flipped in a power play goal at 15:07 for the winner.



**ALLAN ROGAN**
**. . . six more points**



**RON PENNO**
**. . . weekend hat-trick**

Sorochuk's important goal, plus two assists, singled him out for "hero" honors but he had lots of competition.

Particularly from Allan Rogan and Ron Penno. Rogan figured in all but two of the seven Vernon goals Saturday, scoring twice and assisting three times, the third time on the winner. Penno, a recruit from Golden who has seen little action this season, suddenly blossomed forth with a bang, tallying two goals—his first and second of the year.

Others aiding the cause with single goals included Bobby Stein and Marvin Maier. Buck Sherk added two assists, one on the winning counter.

Eddie Begg led the Kamloops attack with three goals. Begg's centre mate Eric Shishido continued his assault on the league scoring title with a goal and two assists. Other singletons went to juvenile rookies Joe Bedard and Ken Begg.

The Blades had most of the play as the shots-on-goal record reveals, 28-22. Kamloops took four of six penalties called, one of which figured in the winning Vernon goal.

Immediately following the game Rockets' manager Don Brown stated he was lodging an official protest over the referring of Alex Kashuba.

The Blades exploded into another quick 3-0 lead up in Kamloops Sunday afternoon but alas, this time they were unable to maintain their hot pace. The Rockets whittled away and whittled away and eventually tied things up by the end of the second period and in the third they put together two unanswered goals to skate away with a 5-3 win.

The prolific Eric Shishido-Eddie Begg-Dale Sandyke line handled all the scoring for Kamloops. Shishido bagged a brace and two assists, Begg hit for a pair and Sandyke blinked the light once.

Penno netted his third goal of the weekend, and the season, to lead off Vernon's early barrage. Maier and Rogan followed with singles in that order.

The game featured standout goaltending by both sides, particularly Kamloops' Harvey Budarick who robbed the Blades cold on a number of dangerous scoring drives. Norm Schiman blocked 31 shots in the Vernon net, Budarick 28.

There were 10 penalties in all, six to Kamloops including a misconduct to Ken Rinaldi. One fight broke out between Vernon's Stein and Bedard of the Rockets late in the third period.

OJHL Standings

| | W | L | T | GF | GA | P |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kam. | 16 | 11 | 1 | 143 | 137 | 33 |
| Kel. | 14 | 9 | 5 | 128 | 88 | 33 |
| P.-S. | 10 | 14 | 4 | 99 | 109 | 24 |
| Ver. | 9 | 15 | 4 | 93 | 129 | 22 |

## CURLING

Monday, January 18

7 p.m.: Business Girls.
9 p.m.: Men's League, "A" Div.: 1, Schmidt vs Kashuba; 2, Briggs vs Ferguson; 3, Wetherill vs G. Green; 4, Henschke vs Shockey; 5, Brown vs Hall.

Tuesday, January 19

7 p.m.: Men's Commercial. 1, Wholesalers vs National Hotel; 2, Coldstream Hotel vs Wilson Furs; 3, Bloom & Sigalet vs Lions; 4, Firemen vs Elks; 5, Vernon Motors vs Reliance.

9 p.m.: Men's League "B" Div.: 1, A. Green vs Scott; 2, Kurbis vs LeBlond; 3, Clark vs Stephen; 4, Ogasawara vs Hamilton; 5, Brisco vs Little.

Wednesday, January 20

7 p.m.: Men's League, "A" Div.: 1, Henschke vs Hall; 2, Brown vs Kashuba; 3, Schmidt vs Briggs; 4, Wetherill vs Ferguson; 5, G. Green vs Shockey.

9 p.m.: Men's League, "C" Div.: 1, Siemans vs Copan; 2, Blantchford vs Mills; 3, Morrow vs Coley; 4, Sammartino vs Wadsworth; 5, Bell vs Woods.

# Two Bantam Games Sat