Old Foes Clash Again In Semis

Blades Open In Kelowna Friday—Back Here Sunday

Perhaps it's only fitting and proper that Vernon Blades should find themselves pitted against Kelowna Buckaroos in the first round of the Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey League playoffs.

Ever since the OJHL was first formed back in 1961 the Blades and Buckaroos have been bitter, implacable enemies.

This intense rivalry has never been more pronounced than it has in playoff competition. When these two clubs tangle on an ice surface anywhere and at anytime, anything can, and usually does, happen.

And you can bet things will start happening as of 8:30 p.m. Friday night when these two "feudin' families" square off down in Kelowna in the opening game of a best of seven semi-final series.

The Blades are hale, hearty and sawing at the bit to get at the Buckaroos—the only team they have failed to beat this season. They've come close on three occasions when they tied the Kelownians but as for a victory—never.

Coach Hap Schaefer is confident his charges have both the ability and the desire to get that first win Friday. They're still a little short on manpower but then the Cowboys have their share of disabling injuries which should tend to even things up.

Still a question mark is the Buckaroos' starry netminder Mike Gaal who has been bedridden with the 'flu for the past two weeks. Should he be out of action Friday the Bucks would have to go with juvenile Terry Lawrenson who, though a good goaltender, hasn't the same ability and experience as Gaal.

The Bucks are also missing the services of winger Lynton Swanson, out with a dislocated shoulder, defenceman Norbert Wildemann (leg injury), forward Reg Saunders (broken wrist), winger Don Evans and defenceman Doug Chisholm (club suspensions).

Nevertheless the Bucks will be as tough and ornery as ever so the Blades will have to come up with a supreme effort if they intend to take that important first game.

The second game of the series goes Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. in Vernon Civic Arena and coach Schaefer is calling for as large a turnout of local fandom as possible to spur the Blades on to victory.

"If we can win both games this weekend we'll be sitting pretty," said Schaefer. "And I know the boys can do it if they want to."

The other best of seven series has league winning Kamloops Rockets versus Penticton-Summerland Broncos and this is expected to be a ding-dong battle of the first degree.

Final OJHL statistics were released Wednesday and they were very flattering indeed to the Rockets' flashy Eric Shishido. As expected he won the league scoring title, collecting 80 points on 30 goals and 50 assists. Second was team mate Dale Sandyke with 56 and third Kelowna's Marcello Verna with 47.

Vernon's Dale Sorochuk finished a strong fifth with 36 points. Bobby Stein was ninth with 30.

Final Okanagan Junior "A" Hockey Leage statistics—1964-65 season:

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Kam.	18	11	3	154	146	37
Kel.	14	11	5	137	99	33
P.-S.	11	15	4	104	115	26
Ver.	10	16	4	99	134	24

LEAGUE SCORING

	G	A	P
Shishido, Kam	30	50	80
Sandyke, Kam	36	20	56
Verna, Kel	22	25	47
Strong, Kel	18	20	38
Sorochuk, Ver	20	17	37
E. Begg, Kam	24	12	36
Meridew, Kam	15	17	32
Kasabuchi, Kel	20	11	31
MacInnes, P-S	11	20	31
Rodgers, Kam	5	26	31
Stein, Ver.	13	17	30
Picco, P-S	17	9	26
Biagioni, P-S	16	10	26
Rogan, Ver	16	10	26
Sherk, Ver.	11	15	26
Rinaldi, Kam	9	17	26
Palanio, P-S	18	7	25

GOALKEEPER AVERAGES

	GP	GA	AVE
Gaal, Kel.	28	88	3.14
Pushkarenko, P-S	21.6	85	3.93
Schiman, Ver.	28	126	4.50
Budarick, Kam.	27.3	128	4.68

