Blades Face Kamloops In Crucial Twin Bill

Vernon Hosts Kamloops This Sunday Afternoon

This weekend is crucial for Vernon Blades in Okanagan Junior Hockey League action.

Blades play a home and home series with third place Kamloops Kraft Kings and could finish the weekend just three games back of the Hub City team —or if Kamloops won both contests, a disheartening seven games out of third.

Blades are looking on the optimistic side of the ledger. A pair of wins is the least they will settle for is the official word from their camp.

Kamloops is just the team to try their wings on according to statistics released this week from the league office. The Kraft Kings have fallen nine times in 16 games this season for an unimposing record. Only Vernon can boast the dubious honor of a poorer one.

On the other hand, Vernon drubbed Kelowna Buckaroos last weekend in their first triumph of the campaign and are determined to show no letup in the ferocity of their attack.

They suddenly sprung an amazingly strong forechecking game against Kelowna and will unleash the same bull-dog like tenacity in checking Kamloops.

Game time for the Vernon contest has been set at two o'clock Sunday afternoon.

The same two teams play in Kamloops Saturday night. This will allow Vernon fans to attend both the Christmas basketball tournament and the junior hockey game.

Bob Stein has joined Dale Sorochuk on the top 10 in league scoring. Both Vernonites are tied with Biagioni of Penticton for eighth spot with 21 points. Eric Shishido leads for Kamloops with 30.

However, they are just five points out of third spot and with another point outburst such as in Vernon last Saturday could move into that spot.

Complete statistics as released by the league statistician follow:

Team Standings

	GP	W	L	T	P
Kelowna ..	14	12	2	0	24
Pent.-Sum.	15	9	5	1	19
Kamloops .	16	7	9	0	14
Vernon	15	1	13	1	3

Scoring Leaders

	G	A	P
Shishido, Kam. .	10	20	30
Sandyke, Kam. .	15	14	29
Picco, P.-S.	18	8	26
Rizzuto, Kel. ...	15	11	26
Palanio, P.-S. ..	10	14	24
J. Strong, Kel. .	9	14	23
Rebelato, P.-S. .	9	13	22
Biagioni, P.-S. .	14	7	21
Sorochuk, Ver. .	10	11	21

Goal tenders averages

	GP	GA	Ave.
Kamminga ..	6	15	2.50
Lawrenson .	8	26	3.25
Belbin	15	55	3.67
Deneault	7.3	35	4.72
Budarick	8.6	51	5.89
Schiman	15	101	6.73

Penalties in Minutes: Rizzuto, Kel., 46; Brent, P.-S., 40; Clark, Ver., 40.

Grindrod Well Ahead In NOHL Points Race

Grindrod is having things all their own way in the North Okanagan Hockey League according to statistics released this week.

Elks lead second place Lumby Flying Frenchmen and Grandview Warriors by six big points after six rounds of play.

The high stepping Elks have yet to be headed in action this year although they were held to one draw. By no coincidence Tony Praill, the agile netminder for the Grindrod squad leads the goaltending department with an impressive 2.00 goals against average over six games.

Armstrong Cougars son, H.L., 9. Most Assists, Ron Miciuk, H.L., 5. Most Hat Tricks, Willie Wilson, H.L., 2. Most Game Winning Goals: George Czepil, Grind., and Richard Poirier, Grand., 2 each. Most Penalized Player, Ralph Beck, Grand., 22 mins. Most Penalized Team, Grandview, 85 mins.

Goaltenders Records

	GP	GA	Ave
Praill, Grind. .	6	12	2.00
Jones, Grand. .	2	4	2.00
Beck, Arm.	4	10	2.50
Smith, Lumby .	5	19	3.80
Phillips, H.L. .	6	26	4.33