

2004
Sun Valley Source for Sports
VERNON TIGERS JUNIOR LACROSSE CLUB



Front Row: Brodie MacDonald (G), Jon Holmes (G), Rob Gray 'A', Rob Rintoul 'C', Andrew Hamilton 'A', Glen Clissold (G)

Middle Row: Jim Point (Ass Coach), James Grant, Jeff Stairs, Tyler Plante, Tanner Skolrood, Ryan Minchenko, Brandon Ditchfield, Dan Holte (Ass Coach), Rich Zecchel

Back Row: Bill Kirkland (Head Coach), Kyle Bronson, Andy Holte, Brodie Vern, Karl Friesen, Scott Stevens, Luke Lecavalier, Kyle Point, Matt Holte, Mitch Schochter, Dennis Taylor (Ass Coach)

Missing: Scott Juniper, Chris Usselman, Chris Evans, Taylor Grant, Jon Gee (G)

Roster: 00 Jon Holmes (G), 31 Glen Clissold (G), 50 Jon Gee (G), 2 Chris Evans, 3 James Grant, 4 Scott Juniper, 6 Jeff Stairs, 7 Karl Friesen, 8 Matt Holte 'A', 9 Rob Rintoul 'C', 10 Mitch Schochter, 11 Tanner Skolrood, 12 Ryan Minchenko, 14 Kyle Bronson, 15 Andrew Hamilton 'A', 16 Kyle Point, 22 Christian Madsen, 33 Rob Gray, 34 Luke Lecavalier, 44 Taylor Grant, 55 Tyler Plante, 56 Chris Usselman, 67 Scott Stevens, 80 Brodie Vern

Staff: Coach: Bill Kirkland, Asst. Coaches': Dennis Taylor, Dan Holte & Garry Holte,
Trainer: Fred Usselman & Dan Proulx, President & GM: Rich Zecchel, Provincial Chairpersons:
Dale Rintoul & Jim Hamilton

Tigers Awards: MVP – Chris Evans, Top Scorer – Rob Rintoul, Coaches Choice – Andrew Hamilton,
Unsung Hero – Taylor Grant, Most Improved – Glen Clissold

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Gold/Silver Medal Game:
Adanacs punish Posse

by: Kevin Mitchell - Sports Editor: The Morning Star

Uncovering gold at the B.C. Junior B Lacrosse Championships in Vernon was high on the Coquitlam Adanacs' summer holiday list compiled way back in April.

The Prince George Posse, meanwhile, felt fortunate just getting a full roster of players together for the five-team tournament at the Multiplex.

The Adanacs flashed a powerplay smoother than a lime margarita, kept the Posse shooters to the perimeter and received clutch

goaltending from Arlen Chudley in a 14-3 stuffing of Prince George in the gold-medal final Sunday afternoon before 300 fans.

Coquitlam, who sleepwalked to the West Coast League title at 16-1-1 (only loss of the year was to the Delta Islanders), opened the provincials with a 15-6 win over Prince George and topped the preliminary round at 3-0-1. "Our goal was to win provincials this year," said Adanac head coach Greg Holland, an assistant the last three years. "We knew we had the talent to win. I didn't expect us to beat Prince George like we did today, but we were confident we were going to win."

Holland said only Chudley and Justin Tellis were part of Coquitlam's provincial championship team two years ago. "We had 18 rookies," said Holland, seconds after receiving a champagne shower from his players. "Our team chemistry is great. It's a closeknit bunch of guys who are close friends on and off the floor."

The Adanacs outshot the Posse 63-28 and chased starting goalie Russ Mills when lefty Shaun O'Leary scored shorthanded to make it 8-2 with seven minutes left in the second period.

O'Leary, who had the hat-trick, and Chris Cowieson, who finished with two goals, gave Coquitlam a 2-0 first-period lead. Cowieson, also a southpaw, ended a gorgeous sequence of quick passes by burying a shot from the left side of the crease on a powerplay.

The roadrunning Adanacs added five goals in seven minutes to go in front 13-2 midway through the final period. Big Bubba Westwood stopped the goal-a-thon by outmuscling two Adanac defenders in front of the net and scoring shorthanded on a fabulous solo effort.

"We thought it would be a little tighter," said Coquitlam captain Nick Augustine, 21, one of four graduating Adanacs. "We're solid on every line and it showed today. Arlen played outstanding all tournament and throughout the playoffs. We talked before the game and said, 'Nothing gets by us today.' We decided this was going to be our game." Jaret Bradley with two goals, Eli Woodscowcroft, Augustine, Dane Reelie, Paul Jarvie, Matt Brasica, Tellis and Patrick Lowe completed the Coquitlam offence.

Jesse Huffman scored a pair of second-period goals for the defending champion Posse, who struggled to a sixth-place showing at 6-11-1 in the Rocky Mountain loop this season.

"It's kind of sad," said Prince George captain Chris Madsen. "We worked so hard all year and to fall short like this was embarrassing."

But at the start of the year it didn't look like we'd have a team. We had to pull guys out of the closet. Every game I think we only had 15 runners. This was the first time we had a full team."

Prince George went 3-1 in the round-robin, grounding the Kamloops Rattlers 12-7, icing the Peninsula Falcons of Sidney 15-10 and thumping the Vernon Tigers 8-2. Coquitlam tied the Falcons 7-7, outlasted Vernon 11-9 and shut out Kamloops 8-0 in their other preliminary games.

"Coquitlam's a good team, they're fast and they've got a good offence, probably the best offence in the tournament," said Madsen. "One of our problems was discipline (they took 50 of 65 penalty minutes in the final) and we knew that coming here."

Augustine said the Adanacs basically check their egos at the door and have a blast playing boxla.

"Everyone's friends and we're all here to have fun," he said. "Some guys eat, breathe and live lacrosse, but not us. Everyone's a part of this team. Different guys have to sit out each game and nobody complains."

On the Posse, he added: "Prince George is a good team with some big guys. I'm sure it could have gone either way had we not stepped it up."

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Bronze Medal Game:
Rattlers upend Falcons

by: Kevin Mitchell - Sports Editor: The Morning Star

Denied at the tournament banquet buffet table Sunday night, the Kamloops Rattlers pampered their palate Monday morning by pocketing a bronze medal at the B.C. Junior B Lacrosse Championships.

Alex Turner, a 50-goalman during the regular Thompson-Okanagan League season, scored four times as the Rattlers stopped the Peninsula Falcons of Sidney 6-5. Turner's fourth goal at 8:46 of the third period stood as the winner.

A sad sack Sunday which saw the Rattlers lose 13-10 to the Falcons and 8-0 to the eventual champion Coquitlam Adanacs got even worse at the banquet when there wasn't enough food to go around. Red-faced tourney officials ordered pizzas to feed the

Rattlers.

Kamloops snuck into the bronze-medal game at 1-3. The Rattlers shaded the winless Vernon Tigers 7-6 in their opener Saturday and then fell 12-7 to the defending champion Prince George Posse.

Coquitlam punished Prince George 14-3 in the final.

"We just came out hard today," said the Rattlers' Sheldon Araki, a co-captain with Joss Sveinson. "Those few losses kind of put us in our place and we came out today and played strong defence and put the ball on net. Our usual scorers got the big goals."

Nathan Woldum and Greg Schulte completed the Kamloops offence in the medal tilt. Shawn Donahue added three assists, while Araki and goalie Scott Helton each had two helpers. Helton made 48 saves.

Peninsula (14-0 on the regular season) grabbed period leads of 4-2 and 5-4 on a hat-trick from Ryan Werk and singles from Michael Morris and Trevor Walton. The Falcons were 2-1-1 in preliminary play.

The Rattlers, who recorded the lowest penalty minutes in the five-team championships at 68, got three goals from Turner, including the winner with 41 seconds remaining, to stop Vernon.

Sveinson (2), Mark Jurista and Kyle LeBlond helped out offensively. Kin Kelsey had four assists.

In their loss to Prince George, the Rattlers received goals from Jordan Foster, Sveinson, Turner, Greg and Gary Schulte, LeBlond and Craig Mattioli.

Sveinson, Jurista and Jared Emery each scored twice in the round-robin loss to the Falcons. Werk had six goals for Peninsula. Arlen Chudley turned back 30 shots and team officials photocopied the scoresheet to get framed as Coquitlam earned a rare shutout win over Kamloops.

"It took us a while to get going," said Araki. "The competition here was very tough and we've played a ton of lacrosse in the last month. Our regular season ended July 4 and our first playoff series went three games and the final series went five games so we're kind of beat up and looking forward to a bit of a rest."

The Rattlers, who only lose two players to graduation, had one of

the youngest teams in the tournament.

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Kirkland ends run behind bench

by: Kevin Mitchell - Sports Editor: The Morning Star

Three years and three straight appearances in the provincials. Toss in an excellent regular-season coaching record and it has been a good run for Bill Kirkland.

The classy bench boss of the Vernon Source For Sports Tigers will step aside and play Masters lacrosse next season. The Cats lose nine players to graduation.

"The kids need a change, they can only listen to me for so long," said Kirkland, a key member of the national senior B championship Vernon Tiger teams of the 1970s. "It's been a real privilege to have coached this crew. They are a great bunch of kids, they were special."

The Tigers suffered some tough breaks in the weekend B.C. Junior B Lacrosse Championships at the Multiplex. They went 0-4 but an 8-2 loss to the Prince George Posse was the only blowout.

"The kids competed hard, we were pleased with the effort," said Kirkland. "Glen Clissold had a great tournament (in goal). They gave us everything was asked for."

The Tigers opened with a 7-6 loss to the Kamloops Rattlers Saturday afternoon and then lost a soul-hurting 11-10 thriller to the Peninsula Falcons of Sidney Saturday night.

The game was tied 10-10 and Kirkland decided to play for the win and pulled Clissold for an extra attacker with 23 seconds remaining.

"We got the look we wanted and Kyle Point scored but the referees on the floor didn't see it go in the net," said Kirkland. "The spectators behind the net were going crazy and our guys were celebrating. Tanner Skolrood scored a few seconds later and the same thing happened. Then they came down and scored in an empty net. It was hugely frustrating, they played so hard."

Trevor Walton, who finished with 4+2, scored the empty-net winner with 12 seconds to go. Point, Andrew Hamilton and Brodie Venn each scored twice for Vernon, singles going to Scott Stevens,

Mitch Schochter, Skolrood and Andy Holte.

The Tigers lost their opener 7-6 to the Kamloops Rattlers, Alex Turner's hat-trick goal with 41 seconds the winner. Skolrood (2), Stevens, Rob Rintoul, Rob Gray and Jeff Stairs had the Vernon goals.

Stairs and Holte each netted two goals against Coquitlam Sunday morning. Ryan Minchenko, Kyle Bronson, Gray, Venn and Hamilton completed the Tiger offence.

"They worked like dogs, Vernon had us going," said Adanac captain Nick Augustine, who joined teammate Chris Cowieson in scoring twice.

Hamilton and Stevens had the Tiger goals in the Sunday night loss to the Posse, who led 5-0 after one period. Bronson said the Tigers highly respected Kirkland.

"He was a great coach," said Bronson. "He knows the game so well and he's got so much experience to draw from. He's just a great guy who's very personable with the players. It was a great experience to have him at the helm."

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July 30: Tigers set for medal

by: Kevin Mitchell - Sports Editor: The Morning Star

Playing on the Vancouver Ravens' pro carpet at the Multiplex doesn't change the mindset of the Vernon Source For Sports Tigers.

The Cats, who lost to the Prince George Posse in last year's B.C. Junior B Lacrosse Championship final, plan to keep things simple as they open the five-team tourney Saturday (12:15 p.m.) against the Thompson-Okanagan kingpin Kamloops Rattlers.

"We're going to play our up-tempo game with good defence and good goaltending," said Tiger head coach Bill Kirkland.

"Goaltending will be the key because there will be some big snipers."

Glenn Clissold gets the start in net for Vernon, who will carry a 22-man roster.

"If we can play for a medal Monday, that would be a good tournament for us," said Kirkland, who won't have Andrew

Hamilton, Brandon Ditchfield and Matt Holte for the opener.

Hamilton and Ditchfield received one-game suspensions and Holte a three-game suspension for their part in a line brawl with 14 seconds left in their final playoff tilt against the Kamloops Rattlers.

"We expect Tanner Skolrood to step up and be a force (with Holte sidelined). He needs to get us some offence," said Kirkland.

The West Coast champion Coquitlam Adanacs meets the Posse in game one at 10 a.m., while the Island champion Peninsula Falcons battle Coquitlam at 2:30 p.m. The Tigers face the Falcons Saturday at 7 p.m.

Peninsula averaged 16 goals a game and gave up an average of 2.92 goals a game in sweeping the Pacific Northwest Junior Lacrosse League.

In Sunday games, Vernon tangles with the Adanacs at 10:15 a.m. and meet Prince George at 4:45 p.m. The gold-medal game goes Monday at 1 p.m. preceded by the bronze-medal game at 10 a.m.

"We could play outstanding and go 0-4," said Kirkland Tuesday night. "Coquitlam will be very good, Peninsula was 14-0 and Prince George will be strong. Kamloops and Rutland both played us tough."

The Rattlers rode the red-hot goaltending of Scott Helton to a 12-6 win over Rutland in the fifth and deciding game of the Thompson-Okanagan playoff final Tuesday night before 500 fans at Prospera Place.

The Rattlers finished the regular season in third spot at 13-5 behind the Cats (14-3-1) and pennant-winning Raiders (16-2-1). Kamloops will welcome back enforcer Mike Tremblay, who received a five-game suspension for starting the line brawl against Vernon by jumping Tiger captain Rob Rintoul from behind.

Fourth-year Tiger Andrew Hamilton, an alternate captain to Rob Rintoul, compares this team to last year.

"They are very similar," said Hamilton, 21. "We have the same core group. Team defence will be the key. Our offence will come from that. We really need to key our defence to stop the strong Coastal teams. Heart and dedication to our team system will give us success."

Jeff Stairs, a 19-year-old in his third year with the Tigers, plans to

play a physical style to jumpstart Vernon.

"I just like to work hard and try to be a leader and score when I can," said Stairs. "Hopefully, we'll get back to the final and get the win this time."

Ryan Minchenko, an 18-year-old in his second season with Vernon, enjoys boxla big-time. He skated with the Revelstoke Grizzlies of the KIJHL last winter.

"Lacrosse is a lot more tiring (than hockey) so you have to be way more fit," he said before a running drill at practice Tuesday night. "It's a great cross-trainer for hockey. Every practice is hard and every game is intense."

The tournament banquet goes Sunday night in the banquet room at the Multiplex. Raffle and jersey tickets will be drawn at 7 p.m.

Tournament passes for all 12 games go for \$20 (adults) and \$18 (students). Day passes for five games either Saturday or Sunday are \$10.

Admission for the medal games is \$5 per game.

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July 28: All Systems "Go" for
Provincial Championships

by: Jim Hamilton

The Vernon Multiplex will showcase the best of BC Junior B Lacrosse this weekend as the Vernon Tigers host the Provincial Championships. Tournament Chair Dale Rintoul looks forward to "an exciting battle between five exceptional teams."

As champions of their respective leagues, the Kamloops Rattlers, Coquitlam Adanacs, Prince George Posse and Peninsula Falcons will join the host Vernon Tigers in pursuit of the gold medal. At last year's provincials, Prince George edged out Vernon for gold in an all-Interior final. The host team will be looking for vengeance but faces formidable opposition.

Rintoul says that this should be the best provincial championship tournament yet. "The caliber of play has been improving every year," he said. "On any given day, any one of these teams could prevail. The Coast teams are always strong and Prince George has been a powerhouse in recent years. Last year, Vernon made its

mark by taking the silver and Kamloops will be a contender this year as well." This will be the fourth appearance at provincials in a row for the Tigers.

A special feature of the championships this year will be that the teams will play on the Ravens artificial floor. Made necessary by the recent CBC filming on ice at the Multiplex, the floor will be an unique experience for all the teams, who are used to concrete surfaces.

Coquitlam and Prince George face off at 10:00 AM Saturday morning to open the tournament. Vernon and Kamloops will square off at 12:15, with Vernon also playing at 7:00 PM against the Peninsula Falcons. Vernon's other round robin games are against Coquitlam at 10:15 Sunday morning and Prince George at 4:45 PM, also on Sunday.

Four of the five teams will advance to the final round. The third and fourth place teams will play for the bronze medal at 10:00 AM Monday. The gold game goes at 1:00 PM. Full details of the schedule and ticket prices are easily accessible at the Tiger website, www.members.shaw.ca/vernontigers

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July 15: Rattlers Eliminate Tigers

by: Jim Hamilton

The Vernon Tigers are focusing on a new goal after being eliminated from the Thompson-Okanagan League playoffs Thursday night at the Civic. A hungry Kamloops Rattlers defeated the Tigers 11-8 to win the semi-final series two games to one. The Rattlers move on to face the Rutland Raiders for the league championships while the Tigers get an extra week to prepare for the Provincial Championships on the August long weekend.

Tigers head coach Bill Kirkland was disappointed with the loss but gave full credit to the Rattlers. "They took advantage of our defensive miscues and hustled for the whole game," he said. "They out-played us and got superb goaltending from Scott Helton. It was a good series between two well-matched teams."

The Rattlers jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period on two goals by Nathan Woldum (3+2) and one from Kin Kelsey (1+1). However, Mitch Schocter (3+0) scored his first of three on the night, Kyle Point (1+0) picked the corner and Karl Friesen (1+0) converted a pass on the run from Andrew Hamilton (0+1) to tie the

game 3-3 by the end of the period. Shots on goal were even at 23 for the period.

The second period also started out badly for the Tigers. Kamloops ran up a 6-3 lead, which Vernon never succeeded in overcoming, although they challenged several times. Andy Holte (1+3), Matt Holte (2+0) and Schocter scored for Vernon. Kamloops captain Joss Sveinson (3+1) scored a trio, with Sheldon Araki (2+0) and Woldum contributing one apiece to make the score 8-6 at the end of the second period. Vernon had a slight 19-18 edge in shots but could not seem to get the ball past Helton, hitting five posts in the period.

The third period was a more even affair although Tiger netminder Glen Clissold faced 25 shots, compared to 20 fired at Helton. Goals by Matt Holte and Schocter kept Vernon in the game but they could not quite catch up. Araki, Alex Turner (1+3) and Greg Schulte (1+0).

Kamloops will play the league finals without the services of their agitator and goon Mike Tremblay. With fourteen seconds in the game, Tremblay jumped Tiger Captain Rob Rintoul from behind. When the dust settled, Tremblay received a game misconduct, a three-game match penalty and a gross misconduct for precipitating a mini-brawl. Rattlers Gary Schulte and Woldum also got the gate, as did the Tigers' Holte, Hamilton and Brandon Ditchfield.

Rob Gray and Ditchfield contributed one assist each in the losing cause. Final shots on goal were 66 for Kamloops and 62 for Vernon. Penalty minutes were even at 65 apiece.

Head coach Bill Kirkland plans on keeping his team busy practicing hard for the Provincial championships, which Vernon hosts over the August long weekend at the Multiplex. "While it will be nice to exact revenge on either the Rattlers or the Raiders at the Provincials, we have our eyes on a bigger goal," he says "Last year we won the silver medal but this year we have our sights set on the gold." Kirkland views the semi-final loss as a temporary setback and expects his team to play their best at the Provincials.

Information on the schedule for provincials is posted on the Tiger website at www.members.shaw.ca/vernontigers

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Mitch Schocter(3+0)Matt Holte(2+2)Andy Holte(1+3)Karl Friesen(1+0)Kyle Point(1+0)Rob Rintoul(0+3)Andrew Hamilton(0+1)Brandon Ditchfield(0+1)Rob Gray(0+1)

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July 13: Tigers Even Semi-Finals

by: Jim Hamilton

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers answered the bell in Kamloops Tuesday night. Facing elimination from the league playoffs after losing game one Saturday night, the Tigers scored a decisive 6-3 victory over the Rattlers. Tiger coach Bill Kirkland was proud of his team's "gutsy effort," citing outstanding goaltending by Glen Clissold and improved defensive play. The Tigers will now face the Rattlers in the third and deciding game at the Civic Arena Thursday night.

The Tigers got off to a strong start, running up a 3-0 lead by the end of the first period. Brandon Ditchfield (1+0), Brodie Venn (1+1) and Andy Holte (1+1) scored the only goals of the frame. Vernon checked their opponents very closely and outshot them 18-15.

The Rattlers got back in the game in the second period on goals by Alex Turner (1+0) and Nathan Woldum (1+0). However, Kyle Bronson (1+2) stepped up and blasted the game winner over Rattler goalie Scott Helton's shoulder. The Rattlers outshot Vernon 22-13 in the second period but didn't get a lot of quality opportunities. When they had a scoring opportunity, Clissold was there to make the save.

As was the case in Vernon last weekend, it was an extremely physical, close checking game, with the referees seemingly willing to turn a blind eye to most infractions. At the beginning of the second period, Rattler captain Joss Sveinson charged Clissold. He then paid dearly for his pains after Tiger captain Rob Rintoul administered a beating that Sveinson will not soon forget. Unfortunately, Rintoul was ejected from the game but will return Thursday.

Vernon played a solid defensive game in the third period and Clissold turned his play up yet another notch, turning aside all but one of the 22 shots he faced. Karl Friesen (1+0) scored what turned out to be the insurance marker and Andrew Hamilton (1+0) gave his team added breathing room by capitalizing on an unassisted drive to the net later in the period. Gary Shulte's (1+0) goal for Kamloops was not enough to get Kamloops back in the game.

Kamloops outshot Vernon 59-45 but Vernon had more quality scoring chances and every goal in the game was a hard-won

marker. Vernon had a slight edge in penalties, taking 24 minutes to Kamloops' 20 minutes. Rintoul (0+1), Mitch Schocter (0+1), and Kyle Point (0+1) all contributed assists.

Head coach Bill Kirkland thought his team played very well and looks forward to an equally hotly contested game three. "Kamloops never lets up," he said. "Fans can expect more hard-hitting, close-checking, good old-style lacrosse on Thursday night. Every game in the series has been an intense contest that could go either way." Kirkland is looking forward to the return of Rintoul and hopes that veterans Matt Holte and Jeff Stairs will also be back Thursday. Both missed Tuesday night's game.

Game three starts at 7:30 Thursday night at the Civic.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Kyle Bronson(1+2)Andy Holte(1+1)Brodie Venn(1+1)Karl Friesen(1+0)Brandon Ditchfield(1+0)Andrew Hamilton(1+0)Rob Rintoul(0+1)Kyle Point(0+1)Mitch Schocter(0+1)

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July 10: Tigers Edged by Rattlers

by: Jim Hamilton

Saturday night at the Civic Arena, the Vernon Tigers ran into a major roadblock on their path to the Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse finals. A fired-up Kamloops Rattlers defeated the Tigers 11-8 in a hard-fought Game One of the semi-finals.

The Tigers got off to a good start, thanks to a quick goal from Rob Gray (2+1). However, the Rattlers fought right back with a goal from Scott Donahue (1+0). The two teams traded goals to end a period of tight defence and gritty, physical play in a 2-2 tie. Matt Holte (1+0) scored the other Tiger goal while Nathan Woldum (2+1) scored for the visitors. The Tigers outshot the Rattlers 17-6 but had a hard time getting clear shots on Rattler net minder Scott Helton.

The second period also ended in a tie, with each team scoring three times. The Tigers appeared to be getting the game under control by running up a two-goal lead. However, the Rattlers did not give up and exploited some defensive lapses to end the period in a 5-5 tie. Andy Holte (1+3), Jeff Stairs (1+1) and Kyle Bronson (2+0) all scored beautiful goals for the Tigers. Woldum, Mark Jurista (3+0) and Craig Mattioli (1+0) replied for the Rattlers, who outshot the

Tigers 25-19.

The Tigers again appeared to be taking the game over in the third period, when they ran up a two-goal lead early on, thanks to goals by Kyle Point (1+0) and Bronson. However, the tide turned as the Rattlers fought relentlessly back to score four unanswered goals. Gray gave the Tigers some hope with his second of the night but the Rattlers scored two more to put the game away. They also outshoot Vernon 23-15 and dominated the play in the last half of the period. Joss Sveinson (3+2) scored three of the Rattler goals, with Jurista adding two and Chris Elliot (1+0) contributing one.

Vernon's Rob Rintoul (0+4) supplied four assists. Ryan Minchenko (0+2) added two helpers, while Taylor Grant (0+1), Chris Evans (0+1) and Tanner Skolrood (0+1) supplied single assists.

Vernon goalie Glen Clissold faced a total of 54 Rattler shots. The Tigers fired 51 shots at Rattler net minder Scott Helton. Both goalies made some outstanding saves at critical points in the game. Vernon had the edge in penalties, with 18 minutes to Kamloops 13.

Head coach Bill Kirkland attributed the loss to "too many defensive lapses against a team that never quit pouring it on." It was a very physical game, played on a smaller surface than the Tigers' usual home floor at the Multiplex, but Kirkland felt the Rattlers won through a more sustained effort, particularly in their own end.

The Tigers find themselves in unfamiliar territory, facing elimination if they do not win in Kamloops Tuesday night. A road victory by Vernon on Tuesday would bring the series back to the Civic for a deciding game on Thursday night at 7:30.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Gray (2+1) Kyle Bronson(2+0) Andy Holte(1+3) Jeff Stairs(1+1) Matt Holte(1+0) Kyle Point(1+0) Rob Rintoul(0+4) Ryan Minchenko(0+2) Taylor Grant(0+1) Tanner Skolrood(0+1) Chris Evans(0+1)

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July 7: Tigers End Season With Win

by: Jim Hamilton

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers' last game of the season turned out to be a yawner, as they mauled the South Okanagan Flames 22-2 at the Multiplex Wednesday night. The victory gives the Tigers a 14-3-1 season record, good for second place in the

league, two points behind the Rutland Raiders.

The Flames were only able to field seven runners, who simply could not withstand the Tiger assault. Vernon outshot South Okanagan 73-25 in a game that moved at a very slow pace. In fact, probably the most exciting part of the very lopsided match was Tiger Mitch Schochter's ten-minute penalty for wearing jewelry.

The Flames struck first when goalie Galen Lenny (0+2) fed a long break-away pass to Kyle Marsh (1+1). However, the Tigers replied immediately and scored seven more times to establish an 8-2 lead at the end of the first. Jeff Stairs and game third star Brodie Venn had two goals each, with Andrew Hamilton (1+1), Rob Rintoul (3+3), Rob Gray (3+5) and Andy Holte (1+3) each adding singles. Colton Wech (1+0) converted another floor-length pass from Lenny to give the Flames their last goal of the game. Glen Clissold faced 14 shots for the Tigers while Lenny was peppered with 27.

The Tigers scored six unanswered goals in the second period. Game second star Rintoul completed his hat trick with a pair. Gray, Luke Lecavalier (1+3) and Karl Friesen (2+0) scored one apiece as did Venn, who also finished off his hat trick. Tiger goalie John Holmes (1+0) took over in net and faced a total of 6 shots. The Tigers had 27 shots on Lenny.

The third period saw eight unanswered goals for the Tigers, who outshot their opponents 19-5. Speedster Rob Gray completed his hat trick to round out an eight-point night and earn first game star. Stairs scored his third of the night while stalwart defensive specialist Chris Evans (2+0) notched a pair. James Grant (1+1), Friesen, Tanner Skolrood (1+3) and Brandon Ditchfield (1+2) scored a goal each to complete the rout.

It was a pretty quiet game. The Tigers ran up 18 minutes in penalties, ten of them due to Schochter's fashion offence. The Flames earned just two minutes.

Head coach Bill Kirkland would have preferred more serious opposition for the final season game. "We are going to face Kamloops in the first game of the playoffs this Saturday," he said. "We will be in for a tough match every time we step onto the floor against the Rattlers." Kirkland expects that his team will bring their A-game Saturday night, when the post-season opens at the Civic Arena. Game time is 7:30.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Gray (3+5) Rob Rintoul(3+3) Brodie Venn(3+2)Jeff Stairs(3+0) Chris Evans(2+0) Karl Friesen(2+0) Andy Holte(1+3)

Tanner Skolrood (1+3) Luke Lecavalier(1+3) Brandon Ditchfield(1+2) Andrew Hamilton(1+1) James Grant(1+1) Mitch Schocter(0+3) Ryan Minchenko(0+2) Chris Usselman(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1) John Holmes(0+1)

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June 30: Tigers Dominate Raiders

by: Jim Hamilton

It was sweet revenge for the Vernon Tigers Wednesday night at the Multiplex as they scored a decisive 12-8 victory over the Rutland Raiders. The Tigers have struggled against the Raiders this season, losing the other two match-ups. But this week, the Vernon team dominated all aspects of the game to possibly set the stage for the league playoffs. Vernon remains in second place in the league, two points behind Rutland.

The Tigers got off to a weak start, falling behind 4-0 early in the game. However, goals by Karl Friesen (1+1), Rob Rintoul (2+0), Chris Usselman (1+1) and Scott Stevens (2+2) got the home team back in the game. The score at the end of the first: 6-4 in favour of Rutland although Vernon enjoyed a 29-15 edge in shots. Scoring for Rutland were Kyle MacLennan (2+1) and Dylan Lye (2+1) with two goals apiece and Matt Morris (1+0) and Aiden Munson (1+1) with one goal each.

The Tigers took control of the game in the second period, scoring four goals to Rutland's two and finishing the period with an 8-8 tie. Game first star Rob Gray (3+2) scored twice for the Tigers, with Andy Holte (1+1) and Kyle Bronson (1+2) adding one apiece. Steve Plasko (1+1) and Travis Wray (1+0) kept Rutland in the game. Tiger goalie Glen Clissold stepped up his game, turning aside 25 of 27 Raider shots, including some outstanding saves. Raiders outshot the Tigers 27-11 in the second.

Fans who came hoping to witness one of the famous tough Rutland-Vernon battles realized their expectations as tempers flared early in the second. Ryan Minchenko fought the Raiders' Travis Lee while Andrew Hamilton roughed up Rutland's Jeff Obrand.

Clissold slammed the door shut in the third period, the Tiger defence went to work and the Vernon snipers peppered Raider goalie Joey Kwasniewski with 31 shots. Gray completed his hat trick and a five-point night. Matt Holte (1+1), Rintoul and Stevens rounded out the scoring.

Rutland's legendary lack of discipline manifested itself in some rough stuff, leading to a bout between Karl Friesen and Raider Mark McLennan. At the same time, Raider cruiser weight Travis Wray faced off with Kyle Bronson in a centre-floor slugfest. Just as Bronson found his range, Wray called to the referees to end the fight. At the very end of the game Rutland's Obrand earned himself two majors and a game misconduct after he attacked Rintoul. The Tiger captain refused to be drawn into a fight with his considerably less-skilled opponent, preferring to remain in the game to savour the victory with his teammates.

Vernon's James Grant (0+4) contributed four assists and earned himself second star of the game. Mitch Schocter (0+2) added two helpers while both Clissold and Tanner Skolrood (0+1) supplied single assists.

Vernon outshot their opponents in the game by a total of 71 to 54 shots. Rutland had a decided edge in penalties, racking up 75 minutes to Vernon's 45.

Head coach Bill Kirkland thought his team played an excellent game. "We recovered well from our shaky start," he said. "Glen Clissold had a terrific game in net, making some exceptional saves at key points in the game. As the game progressed, we got stronger and stronger. I liked the tight defence, good ball movement and hustle."

Next up for the Tigers is their last season game against Summerland at the Multiplex on July 7th.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Gray(3+2) Scott Stevens(2+2) Rob Rintoul(2+0) Kyle Bronson(1+2) Andy Holte(1+1) Matt Holte(1+1) Chris Usselman(1+1) Karl Friesen(1+1) James Grant(0+4) Mitch Schocter(0+2) Tanner Skolrood(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1)

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June 23: Tigers Whip Armstrong

by: Jim Hamilton

It was a big night for Brodie Venn and his teammates Wednesday at the Multiplex. Led by Venn's five goals and three assists, the Tigers crushed the Armstrong Shamrocks 21-4 to improve their season record to 12-3-1.

The Tigers got off to a good start, running up a 4-0 lead at one

point and finishing the first period with an 8-3 lead. Venn scored four times while Andy Holte (2+3), Rob Rintoul (4+2), Matt Holte (2+3) and Rob Gray (1+3) each added singles. Mark Wagner (1+0), Dan Stebbing (1+1) and Jordy Willing (1+1) replied for Armstrong. The Tigers outshot the Shamrocks 24-13.

The Tigers took control of the game in the second period, scoring six unanswered goals. Both of the Holtes scored, as did Rintoul, Kyle Point (1+1) Brandon Ditchfield (1+2) and Venn. The Tigers outshot their opponents 21 to 15 to take a 14-3 lead into the third period.

The third period was basically a replay of the second. Rintoul and Kyle Bronson (2+1) each scored a pair while James Grant (1+1), Tanner Skolrood (1+3) and Chris Madsen (1+1) contributed a goal apiece. Shaun Strohm (1+0) scored the lone Shamrock goal. Vernon outshot Armstrong 23-12 in the third for a game total of 69-40.

Andrew Hamilton had three assists, with Scott Juniper, Ryan Minchenko, Taylor Grant and Glen Clissold added one helper each for the Tigers. Jon Gee started the game for Vernon but Clissold took over part way through the first period. Adam Phillips and Greg Radies shared the loss for Armstrong.

Vernon doubled Armstrong's penalty minutes 40-20. Tempers overflowed only once in the game, when Ryan Minchenko tried to get something going with one of the Shamrocks. Nothing came of it and Minchenko got the gate.

Head coach Bill Kirkland thought his team played an excellent all round game. "Our power play was flawless, the penalty kill teams scored several short-handed goals, our defence and offence were both solid, and Glen played a strong game in net," he said.

Next up for the Tigers is a home game against archrival Rutland on June 30th. The Tigers have struggled against the Raiders this year and look forward to getting some revenge in a game that may well foreshadow the match-up for the league championship.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Brodie Venn(5+3) Rob Rintoul(4+2) Andy Holte(2+3) Matt Holte(2+3) Kyle Bronson(2+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+3) Rob Gray(1+3) James Grant(1+1) Kyle Point(1+1) Chris Madsen(1+1) Andrew Hamilton(0+3) Scott Juniper(0+1) Ryan Minchenko(0+1) Taylor Grant(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1)

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June 21: Tigers Edge Flames

by: Jim Hamilton

It was not pretty but it was nevertheless a victory as the Source for Sports Vernon Tigers eked out a 15-14 win over the South Okanagan Flames in Summerland Monday night. The victory keeps the Tigers in second place in the league with an 11-3-1 record.

The Tigers looked like they were headed for a lopsided win as they ran the score up 4-0 in the first half of the first period. However, the Flames fought back to keep the game close, with the first period ending in a 6-3 lead for the Vernon team. Andy Holte (4+5) scored his first two goals of what turned out to be a nine-point night for him. Kyle Point (2+1) added two more, with Matt Holte (1+2) and Ryan Minchenko (1+0) rounding out the Tiger offence. James Lyons (1+0), Kyle Marsh (4+1), and David Grant (1+2) scored for South Okanagan.

In the second period, the Flames outscored the Tigers to narrow the gap to 11-9 by the end of the frame. Tiger captain Rob Rintoul (2+4) scored twice. Luke Lecavalier (1+0), Brodie Venn (2+1) and Tanner Skolrood (1+2) added one goal apiece. Two goals apiece from Jordan Moss (2+0) and Kelly Spencer (3+2) and singles from Marsh and Kyle Straatsa (2+0) drew the Flames one goal closer to the Tigers.

The third period saw the Flames tie things up several times. Holte scored two, including the game winner with less than two minutes to go. Chris Evans (1+1) and Venn scored the other Tiger goals. Marsh scored twice for the Flames, with Trent Terris (1+2), Straatsa and Spencer adding singles to keep the game within reach.

The third period was when an otherwise clean game fell apart. At the midpoint, Marsh tied the game for South Okanagan but then punched Vernon goalie Glen Clissold, precipitating a near line brawl. Tanner Skolrood rushed to his goalie's defence and pummeled Marsh. When the dust settled, three Tigers and one Flame received game ejections. The tension escalated, with the Flames blowing a chance to even things up twice in the period through poor discipline. Flame Colten Welch was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct with eight minutes to go. With just 22 seconds left on the clock, Flames coach Brian Grey failed to convince the referees that his team should have possession. He flew into a rage, earning himself a game misconduct. He continued to abuse the referees and threw several water bottles onto the floor, which garnered him a match penalty. Grey's conduct inflamed an

already tense situation, so the referees called the game.

The Tigers got one assist each from Glen Clissold and Tyler Plante. Scott Stevens kicked in two more helpers. Clissold played net for the first and third periods, with midget call-up Brodie MacDonald putting in a stalwart effort between the pipes in the second period.

The third-period antics meant that the Flames racked up a total of 82 penalty minutes, compared to 76 for Vernon.

The Tigers host Armstrong Wednesday night at the Multiplex in what will be the third last game of the regular season.. Game time is 7:30.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Andy Holte(4+5) Rob Rintoul(2+4) Kyle Point(2+1) Brodie Venn(2+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+2) Matt Holte(1+2) Chris Evans(1+1) Ryan Minchenko(1+0) Luke Lecavalier(1+0) Scott Stevens(0+2) Glen Clissold(0+1) Tyler Plante(0+1)

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June 17: Tigers Take Over Second Place

by: Jim Hamilton

Thanks to a good team effort backstopped by Midget sensation Brodie MacDonald and prospect John Holmes, the Vernon Tigers defeated the Armstrong Junior Shamrocks 9-7 Thursday night in Armstrong. The victory gives the Tigers sole possession of second place in the league, one point ahead of the Kamloops Rattlers. Vernon's league record is now 10-3-1 with four games left in the season.

Armstrong's Jess Villeneuve (2+0) struck first in what turned out to be a close game. Tiger Ryan Minchenko (1+0) tied the game one minute later but Villeneuve scored again to give Armstrong back the lead. Andy Holte (2+1) and Jeff Stairs (2+2) replied minutes later to give Vernon a 3-2 lead. Mark Wagner tied the game up with six minutes to go and the first period ended in a 3-3 draw. Brodie MacDonald played a stalwart period in net for the Tigers.

In the second period, prospect John Holmes continued where MacDonald left off, allowing just two goals - from Shamrocks Jordy Willing (1+0) and Wagner. Goals by Tigers Holte and Kyle Point (1+1) kept the game tied until the final five seconds when Rob Rintoul (1+3) let loose a cannon to give Vernon a 6-5 lead at

period's end.

Holmes and MacDonald split the net duties for the Tigers in the third period. Once again, it was a closely fought period, with the Tigers scoring three times and the Shamrocks twice. Karl Friesen (1+0), Stairs and Mitch Schocter (1+2) provided the Tiger offence. Cody Burke (1+2) had one goal for the home team and Wagner rounded out both his hat trick and the Armstrong scoring.

The Tigers got one assist each from John Holmes, Andrew Hamilton, Rob Gray, Scott Juniper, Taylor Grant and Chris Evans. Dan Willing kicked in three helpers for Armstrong , with singles coming from Mason Rail, Jeremy Meredith and Devon Ritter.

It was a very clean game, with the Tigers getting just one penalty and the Shamrocks drawing just four. The Tigers outshot their opponents 52 to 25.

For the second night in a row, Tiger head coach Bill Kirkland was pleased with his team's all-round effort. He was particularly impressed with the play of Midget call-up MacDonald. "I'm proud of the way this fourteen-year old handled himself tonight against players as much as seven years older," he said. "He opened and closed a very close game for us and made some key saves near the end of the third period. I'm also pleased with the way our defence rose to the occasion when it counted."

The Tigers travel to Summerland Monday night to visit the South Okanagan Flames. Wednesday night, they return to the Multiplex to give Armstrong a chance for revenge. Game time is 7:30.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Jeff Stairs(2+2) Andy Holte(2+1) Rob Rintoul(1+3) Mitch Schocter(1+2) Kyle Point(1+1) Karl Friesen(1+0) Ryan Minchenko(1+0) Taylor Grant(0+1) Andrew Hamilton(0+1) John Holmes(0+1) Rob Gray(0+1) Scott Juniper(0+1) Chris Evans(0+1)

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June 16: Tigers Defeat Rattlers

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers defeated the Kamloops Rattlers 12-9 Wednesday night at the Multiplex. The victory improves the Tigers' league record to 9-3-1.

The Tigers got off to a good start, running up a 4-1 lead at one

point and finishing the first period with a 6-4 lead. Rob Rintoul (2+3) scored twice for Vernon, with Jeff Stairs (1+4), Karl Friesen (1+4), Kyle Bronson (1+2) and Taylor Grant (2+0) each providing a goal. Jared Emery (2+0), Chris Elliott (2+0), Alex Turner (2+1) and Craig Mattioli (1+0) kept Kamloops in the game as the Tigers outshot their opponents 22-15.

The Rattlers outscored the Tigers 3-1 in the second period to tie the game 7-7. Andy Holte (2+1) scored the lone goal for the Tigers, with Elliott, Turner and Greg Schulte (1+0) replying for Kamloops. The Tigers outshot the Rattlers 20-16 but seemed to be having a hard time getting the ball past Rattler goalie Scott Helton.

In the third period the Tigers came out firing on all cylinders and took control of the game, capitalizing on Rattler penalties and outthrusting Kamloops. Mitch Schocter (2+2) scored twice while Tanner Skolrood (1+0), Grant and Holte each had one goal to cement the win. Solid all night, Tiger netminder Glen Clissold stepped his play up another notch, turning aside all but two of the shots he faced in the third period. Goals by Kamloops snipers Emery and Gary Schulte ((1+0) kept the game interesting but the Rattlers could not close the gap.

Clissold and Brodie Venn each provided an assist in the winning cause, as the Tigers outshot the Rattlers by a 61-53 margin. The Tigers also played a cleaner game than their opponents. The Rattlers racked up 54 minutes in penalties compared to just 12 for the Tigers. Kamloops player David Reid accounted for eight of the Kamloops penalties, including an outburst at the end of the game that earned him two minors, a game misconduct and a gross misconduct.

Head coach Bill Kirkland was pleased with his team's all-round effort. He liked the ball movement and the way the Tigers came back in the third period to seal the victory. "Glen Clissold had a very good game," he said. "He really closed the door in the third period, helping us to win the important match against a team we may well face in the playoffs." The Tigers have now beaten Kamloops twice after losing the first match-up between the two teams early in the season.

The Tigers journeyed to Armstrong Thursday night to take on the Shamrocks. The next home game is Wednesday, June 23rd when Armstrong comes to town.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Rintoul(2+3) Mitch Schocter(2+2) Andy Holte(2+1) Taylor Grant(2+0) Jeff Stairs(1+4) Karl Friesen(1+4) Kyle Bronson(1+2)

Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Brodie Venn(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1)

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June 12: Tigers Lose To Rutland

by: Jim Hamilton

A fired-up Rutland Raider team capitalized on some defensive lapses and poorly-timed penalties to defeat the Vernon Tigers 19-14 Saturday night in Rutland. The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers dropped to third place in the league, with an 8-3-1 record.

The Tigers fell behind 2-0 early in the hard-fought first period but rallied to end the period 5-5. Mitch Schocter (4+2), Brodie Venn (3+1), Jeff Stairs (1+0), Kyle Bronson (1+3) and Brandon Ditchfield (1+1) provided the Tiger offence. Raiders Tyler Parent (4+2), Kyle MacLennan (3+1), Dylan Lye (4+6) and Steve Plasko (3+4) scored for the home team.

The second period was a seesaw affair until the final few minutes when the Raiders were able to take advantage of Tiger penalties and some defensive miscues to gain a 14-10 lead at the end of the second. Schocter added another to what would be a four-goal performance for him. Newcomer Scott Stevens (1+1) scored his first as a Tiger, with Karl Friesen (1+0), Venn and Matt Holte (1+2) each contributing for the Tigers. Dylan Lye and Matt Morris (2+1) each scored twice for the Raiders. MacLennan, Parrent, Plasko, Travis Wray (1+4) and Geoff Wray each scored singles for Rutland.

The Tigers made it interesting in the third period, pulling to within two goals of the Raiders at one point. However, the Raiders kept replying and held onto their lead to win the game. Venn completed his hat trick for the Tigers while Schocter scored his third and fourth of the night. Andy Holte (1+0) added one in the losing cause. Dylan Lye scored his fourth for the Raiders to round out a ten-point performance. Plasko, Geoff Wray, Parrent and MacLennan added one apiece.

Rob Gray and Rob Rintoul contributed two assist each, with Andrew Hamilton and Jon Gee adding one helper each.

Glen Clissold played the first two periods in net for the Tigers, with Jon Gee taking over for the final frame. Joey Kwasniewski had a solid game for the Raiders, despite being out of commission for a few minutes in the third period after stopping a hard shot from one

of the Tigers.

It was a relatively clean game for a Raiders-Tigers match-up. The Tigers took 27 minutes in penalties, compared to 43 minutes for Rutland. The only fight of the game came in the third period.

Raider Kirt Stewart hit Matt Holte from behind, driving him into the boards. Andy Holte leapt to his brother's defence, acquitting himself well against the much larger Stewart. Holte earned a five-minute fighting major while Stewart got five for fighting, five for attempt to injure and a game misconduct.

Tigers head coach Bill Kirkland was not pleased at the outcome. "The Raiders played a more consistent, skilled game against us tonight," he said. "We shall need a better effort and more consistency to beat this team next time we play."

The Tigers hope to redeem themselves against the Kamloops Rattlers on Wednesday night at the Multiplex at 7:30 PM as the battle between the three top teams in the league continues.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Mitch Schocter(4+2) Brodie Venn(3+1) Kyle Bronson(1+3) Matt Holte(1+2) Scott Stevens(1+1) Brandon Ditchfield(1+1) Karl Friesen(1+0) Andy Holte(1+0) Jeff Stairs(1+0) Rob Gray(0+2) Rob Rintoul(0+2) Andrew Hamilton(0+1) Jon Gee(0+1)

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June 5: Tigers Defeat Braves

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers thumped the Kelowna Braves 19-7 Saturday night at the Multiplex. Led by six-point performances from veterans Andrew Hamilton (5+1), Jeff Stairs (3+3) and Rob Rintoul (2+4), the Tigers improved their league record to 8-2-1. The win keeps the Tigers in second place in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League.

The Tigers got off to a bit of a shaky start but rebounded to establish a first-period lead of 5-2. Game first star Andrew Hamilton scored his first two goals of five on the night. Game third star Rob Rintoul, Tanner Skolrood (1+1), and Brodie Venn (1+1) rounded out the Tiger offence. Cody Mapson (1+0) and Warren Anderson (2+1) replied for the Braves. The Tigers out shot their visitors 21 to 14 in the first period.

The Tigers ran away with the game in the second period, scoring

nine times. Jeff Stairs earned the second star of the game with a hat trick. Hamilton added his third and fourth goals. Karl Friesen (1+3), Rintoul, Luke Lecavalier (1+0), and Chris Usselman (1+1) each scored once to open up an insurmountable lead for the Vernon team. Derek Tymofichuk (1+1) and Dave Gibson (1+0) supplied the Kelowna offence. The Tigers out shot the Braves 31 to 8 in the period to build up a 14-4 lead.

In the third period the Tigers scored five more times. Hamilton started off the period with his fifth of the night. Scott Juniper (1+0), Ryan Minchenko (1+1), Kyle Bronson (1+1) and Taylor Grant (1+1) each chipped in a goal. Cory Anderson (1+1), Bill Blanleill (1+0) and Warren Anderson answered for the Braves. Once again, the Tigers out shot the Braves, this time by a 21 to 12 margin. Overall shots on goal were 73 for the Tigers, compared to 34 for the Braves.

Mitch Schocter provided three assists for Vernon. Rob Gray and goalie Jon Gee contributed two assists each. Tyler Plante added one assist in the winning cause. A total of 16 Tigers earned points in the game.

Vernon netminder Jon Gee earned the victory while Kelowna's Graham Turnbull was the victim of the Tigers' barrage.

The teams were fairly evenly matched in penalty minutes. The Tigers recorded 18 minutes to 16 for the Rattlers.

Head coach Bill Kirkland is readying his team for two critical games coming up. On June 12th, the Tigers travel to Rutland for an opportunity for the Tigers to gain a share of first place in the league. On the 16th the Tigers host the third-place Kamloops Rattlers at the Multiplex. "These three teams have been close all season," Kirkland said. "We will need to be firing on all cylinders both nights."

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Andrew Hamilton(5+1) Jeff Stairs(3+3) Rob Rintoul(2+4) Karl Friesen(1+3) Chris Usselman(1+1) Brodie Venn(1+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+1) Ryan Minchenko(1+1) Kyle Bronson(1+1) Taylor Grant(1+1) Luke Lecavalier(1+0) Scott Juniper(1+0) Mitch Schocter(0+3) Rob Gray(0+2) Jon Gee(0+2) Tyler Plante(0+1)

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May 29: Tigers Defeat Rattlers

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers defeated the Kamloops Rattlers 13-10 in a critical match Saturday night at the Multiplex. The win improves the Tigers' league record to 8-2-1 and gives them sole possession of second place in the league.

The Rattlers opened the scoring with a goal by Sheldon Araki (2+1). However, Tiger Jeff Stairs (4+2) scored twice and Chris Madsen (1+0) added a single to make it 3-1 for the Tigers at the end of the first period.

The Tigers took hold of the game in the second period, scoring eight times. Stairs added two goals, with Matt Holte (2+1) and Kyle Point each also scoring twice. Chris Usselman (2+1) and Andy Holte (1+0) contributed one goal apiece. Mark Jurista (3+2) scored a hat trick for the Rattlers. Two goals from Alex Turner (4+2) and one from Araki kept Kamloops in the game. At the end of the second period, Vernon had built up an 11-7 lead. Tiger captain Rob Rintoul was ejected after taking on Kamloops' tough guy Mike Tremblay.

In the third period the Rattlers actually outscored the Tigers 3-2 but to no avail. Brodie Venn (1+1) and James Grant (1+0) scored to protect the Vernon lead. Rattler sniper Turner added his third and fourth of the night with Shawn Donahue (1+1) adding a single marker.

Rob Gray contributed three assists in the winning cause. Andrew Hamilton and Mitch Schocter had two helpers each, with Rob Rintoul and Karl Friesen providing one assist apiece.

Tiger netminder Glen Clissold was the stronger goalie of the night, turning aside 51 of 61 Kamloops' shots. The Rattlers' Scott Helton faced a total of 68 shots from the Tigers in a fast-paced game.

The teams were fairly evenly matched in penalty minutes. The Tigers recorded 40 minutes to 28 for the Rattlers.

Saturday's game was an important match for the Tigers as they attempt to narrow the slim gap between themselves and first-place Rutland Raiders. It was a good team effort, with a total of thirteen different players participating in the scoring. By comparison, just eight Rattlers had points in the game with four players scoring all their goals.

The Tigers' next game is June 5 at the Multiplex when they take on

the Kelowna Braves.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Jeff Stairs(4+2) Matt Holte(2+1) Kyle Point(2+1) Chris Usselman(1+2) Brodie Venn(1+1) James Grant(1+0) Andy Holte(1+0) Chris Madsen(1+0) Rob Gray(0+3) Andrew Hamilton(0+2) Mitch Schocter(0+2) Karl Friesen(0+1) Rob Rintoul(0+1)

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May 28: Tigers tangle with Rattlers

by: Morning Star Staff

The Vernon Sun Valley Source For Sports Tigers battle the Kamloops Rattlers in a Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League showdown Saturday night (7:30) at the Multiplex.

The Rattlers beat the Tigers for the first time in three years May 9 in Kamloops.

"They outhustled us," said Tigers GM Rich Zecchel. "They've got a strong team with good goaltending and good defence. They have the lowest goals against in the league and we're second."

"We're looking to be more consistent on defence. Offensively, we're rolling much like last year. We can't be lacklustre against the good teams. We have to play with more determination."

The Rattlers have just one player - Nathan Woldum with (7-12-19) - in the top 20 who use defence for success.

The Tigers, who have had 10 days off to heal some bumps and bruises, are led by captain Rob Rintoul (14-17-31), Andy Holte (6-18-24) and Tanner Skolrood (15-7-22).

The Tigers are 6-2-1, while the Rattlers are 6-1. The Rutland Raiders are alone in first place at 7-1.

The Armstrong Shamrocks 2-7 entertained the Raiders Thursday night. The Rocks host Kamloops next Thursday night.

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May 20: Tigers Tie Dragons

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers tied the Kelowna Dragons 13-13 Thursday night in Rutland. Missing veterans Rob Rintoul, Andrew Hamilton, Jeff Stairs, and Kyle Bronson, the Tigers came from behind to grab the tie, which gives them a league record of 6-2-1.

The Dragons established an early lead on two goals by Colby Field (2+0) and one from Kevin Lindquist (3+1). Matt Holte (3+1) provided the lone Tiger goal in the first period.

Both teams scored five times in the second period to make it 8-6 in favour of Kelowna. Tanner Skolrood (1+0), Ryan Minchenko (1+0), Brodie Venn (2+2), Chris Madsen (1+1) and Brandon Ditchfield (2+1) provided the Vernon offence. Replying for the Dragons were Lee Zayonce (1+2), Keyvan McPhail (1+), Chris Philips (1+2), Chris Wagner (4+0) and Lindquist.

The Dragons maintained their lead for most of the third period, adding three goals by Wagner and singles from Lindquist and Phil Faasse (1+2). Thanks to some solid effort in the dying minutes and two goals apiece from Matt Holte and Mitch Schocter (2+3) as well as singles from Andy Holte (1+3), Venn and Ditchfield, the Tigers were able to salvage the tie.

Karl Friesen contributed four assists for the Tigers. Taylor Grant added three while Kyle Point provided two. Rob Gray and Luke Lecavalier had one assist apiece. Jon Gee and Glen Clissold shared the netminding duties for the Tigers, while Steve Wiens defended the Dragons' goal. The Tigers recorded 20 penalty minutes, compared to 29 for the Dragons.

The Tigers' next game is not until the 29th of May when they host the Kamloops Rattlers at the Multiplex.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Matt Holte(3+1) Mitch Schocter(2+3) Brodie Venn(2+2) Brandon Ditchfield(2+1) Andy Holte(1+3) Chris Madsen(1+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Ryan Minchenko(1+0) Karl Friesen(0+4) Taylor Grant(0+3) Kyle Point(0+2) Rob Gray(0+1) Luke Lecavalier(0+1)

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May 18: Tigers Defeat Braves

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers defeated the Kelowna Braves 13-8 Tuesday night in Rutland. The win improves the Tigers' league record to 6-2.

The Braves struck first but that was their last lead of the game. Tanner Skolrood (1+0), Chris Madsen (2+0), Luke Lecavalier (1+2) and Brodie Venn (3+0) scored for the Tigers. The Braves scored once more but the Tigers led 4-2 at the end of the first period.

The Tigers scored six times in the second period but the Braves only managed two goals, making it 10-4 for the Vernon team at the end of the period. Karl Friesen (2+1) netted two for the Tigers, with Rob Rintoul (1+3), Mitch Schocter (2+1) and Venn accounting for one goal apiece.

In the third period the Braves actually outscored the Tigers 4-3 but to no avail. Venn completed his hat trick while Madsen and Schocter each scored their second of the night.

Jeff Stairs contributed four assists and a fight in the winning cause. Andy Holte added three assists while Rob Gray and Taylor Grant each provided one helper.

The teams were evenly matched in penalty minutes. The Tigers recorded 28 minutes to 27 for the Braves. Tiger goalie Glen Clissold faced 37 shots. The Braves Glen Turnbull was the victim of 49 shots from the Tigers.

The Tigers' next game is Thursday night at the Rutland Arena when they take on the Kelowna Dragons.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Brodie Venn(3+0) Karl Friesen(2+1) Mitch Schocter(2+1) Chris Madsen(2+0) Rob Rintoul(1+3) Luke Lecavalier(1+2) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Chris Evans(1+0) Jeff Stairs(0+4) Andy Holt(0+3) Taylor Grant(0+1) Rob Gray(0+1)

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May 16: Tigers Split Exhibition Games

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers had an outstanding game Sunday at the Multiplex to even up their exhibition series against the Calgary Junior B Mountaineers. The Vernon team defeated their visitors 9-3 Sunday after losing the Saturday night

game 18-11. Tigers' head coach Bill Kirkland termed the series "a valuable learning opportunity" for his team. "We showed great character to bounce back from Saturday's loss and play the way we can. Calgary is a powerhouse in their league and it is very encouraging to see us elevate our play to that level."

The Tigers led Sunday's match from start to finish. Game second star Andrew Hamilton (2+2) opened up the scoring early in the period. Andy Holte (3+0) scored the first of his hat trick while Dan McArthur (1+1) scored the only Calgary goal of the period. Tiger net minder Jon Gee, the game's first star, made 17 saves in the first period.

The Mountaineers kept pace with the Tigers in the second. Game third star Brodie Venn (1+4) and Tanner Skolrood (1+0) scored for Vernon. Steve Sucha (1+0) and Chad Evans (1+1) replied for Calgary to leave the score at 4-3 after two periods.

The Tigers took complete charge in the third period. Hamilton made it 5-3 on a breakaway goal. Holte added two more while Jeff Stairs (1+1) and Kyle Point (1+0) with an empty-netter sealed the win. Rob Rintoul (0+1), Rob Gray (0+1) and Taylor Grant (0+1) provided assists.

Jon Gee had an outstanding game in goal, allowing just three goals on 46 shots and earning an assist. Calgary net minders Geoff Rainsford and Jordan Pavelich made 26 stops between them on 35 shots. The Tigers earned 15 penalty minutes to the Mountaineers' 16.

Kirkland credited the Sunday win to "good, solid, all round play, from the goal on out." He noted that every aspect of the Tigers' game improved from Saturday's outing, especially ball control and defensive play.

Saturday night, it was a different story. The Tigers found themselves in a 10-6 deficit at the end of a sloppy first period. The high-flying Calgary captain Chad Evans (4+3) scored four times, with teammate Brett Christensen (4+0) earning a hat trick. Cody Ehrhardt (2+3), Steve Sucha (1+1) and Lee Miller (1+1) rounded out the offensive explosion from the Mountaineers. Kyle Point (2+2) potted two for the Tigers. Tiger captain and second game star Rob Rintoul (3+6) added a goal, as did Mitch Schocter (2+1), Tanner Skolrood (1+0) and Taylor Grant (1+0). The Tigers were outshot by 26-18 in the wide-open period.

The Tigers settled down in the second period, matching the Mountaineers goal for goal. Karl Friesen (1+3), Rintoul and

Schocter scored for Vernon. Erhardt, Tyler Farmer (1+2) and Dan McArthur (1+3) replied for Calgary to leave the score at 13-9 after two periods. Tiger goalie Glen Clissold faced 20 shots in the second frame.

The Tigers could not hold back the Calgary offence in the third period, allowing another 5 goals. Justin Cyr (1+2), Brian Hardy (1+0), Sean McDonald (1+1), Don Haynes (1+1) and Christensen filled out the scoring for the Mountaineers. Rintoul completed his hat trick and Andrew Hamilton (1+0) added one in a losing cause.

Tigers Rob Gray and Matt Holte provided two assists each, with Clissold, Chris Evans, Ryan Minchenko and Brodie Venn each contributing one helper.

Clissold faced a total of 70 shots in the game, compared to 46 directed at the Mountaineers' Jordan Pavelich. The Tigers recorded 18 penalty minutes; Calgary totaled 38. Erhardt earned himself two five-minute majors and a game misconduct in the final minute as he tried to draw Tiger Matt Holte into a fight.

The Tigers will have little time to regain their energy. They face two road league games this week, both at the Rutland arena. Tuesday night they take on the Kelowna Braves, followed by the Kelowna Dragons Thursday evening.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Saturday:

Rob Rintoul(3+3) Kyle Point(2+2) Mitch Schocter(2+1) Karl Friesen(1+3) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Andrew Hamilton(1+0) Taylor Grant(1+0) Rob Gray(0+2) Matt Holte(0+2) Glen Clissold(0+1) Chris Evans(0+1) Ryan Minchenko(0+1) Brodie Venn(0+1)

Sunday:

Andy Holte(3+0) Andrew Hamilton(2+2) Brodie Venn(1+4) Jeff Stairs(1+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Kyle Point(1+0) Rob Rintoul(0+1) Rob Gray(0+1) Taylor Grant(0+1) Jon Gee(0+1)

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May 12: Tigers Regain Winning Form

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers regained their winning form at the Multiplex Wednesday night. The Tigers defeated the Kelowna Dragons 8-6 to improve their season record to 5-2.

The Tigers got off to a shaky start, falling behind 1-0 on a goal by Dragon Keyvan McPhail (1+0). Game first star Matt Holte (3+0) replied for the Tigers to tie the score at 1-1 by the end of the first period. The Tigers outshot the visitors 20-8 in the first frame but had great difficulty putting the ball past Steve Weins.

The Tigers began to look more like their old selves in the second period as they ran the score to 7-4. Holte rounded out his hat trick while Mitch Schocter (2+1) added a pair and Tanner Skolrood (2+1) and Jeff Stairs (1+0) each scored once. Goals by Joe Brown (1+0), Mike Phillips (1+0) and Danny Richards (1+0) kept the Dragons in the game. The Tigers outshot the Dragons by a 24-17 margin in the period.

The third period was a back-and-forth affair, with goals by the Dragons' Phil Fasse (1+0) and Chris Wagner (1+0) making it interesting. However, Tiger netminder Glen Clissold made some key saves and Skolrood scored to help cement the victory.

Kyle Bronson (0+3) turned in his best performance of the season, earning the second star honours for his three assists and gritty defence. Andy Holte added a couple of helpers, with single assists coming from James Grant, Karl Friesen, Rob Rintoul, Christian Madsen, Taylor Grant, Brodie Venn and Glen Clissold. Clissold faced a total of 44 shots compared to the 60 the Tigers unleashed on Dragon netminder Steve Weins.

Tigers' coach Bill Kirkland was pleased to get the two points for the win. "Glenn Clissold was solid in net tonight and made some game-saving stops in the third period," he said. "However, we still have a lot of work to do as a team to reach our potential."

Fans will have an opportunity this weekend to see one of Alberta's best teams in action. The Tigers host Calgary in exhibition play at the Multiplex at 7:00 PM Saturday night. The two teams will square off again on Sunday at 1:00 PM, also at the Multiplex.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Matt Holte(3+0) Tanner Skolrood(2+1) Mitch Schocter(2+1) Jeff Stairs(1+0) Kyle Bronson(0+3) Andy Holte(0+2) James Grant(0+1) Karl Friesen(0+1) Rob Rintoul(0+1) Christian Madsen(0+1) Taylor Grant(0+1) Brodie Venn(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1)

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May 9: Tigers Lose To Kamloops

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers fell to second place in the league, thanks to an 11-4 loss Sunday night to the Kamloops Rattlers.

The Tigers fell behind 1-0 early in the first period but captain Rob Rintoul (3+0) evened the score soon after. With the Rattlers up 2-1, Andrew Hamilton (1+0) again evened the score. The Rattlers re-established the lead but Rintoul tied the game once more. The Tigers gave up two more at the end of the period to trail 5-3 at the first break. Kamloops' Chris Elliot (2+1) scored twice for the home team, with Nathan Woldum (2+3, Joss Sveinson (1+0) and Craig Mattioli (1+0) providing singles.

The Rattlers outscored the Tigers again in the second period. Rintoul got the lone marker for the Tigers. Jared Emery (1+1), Alex Turner (1+1), and David Reid (2+0) scored for the Rattlers. Rattlers led 8-4 at the end of the second period.

That was pretty well it for the hapless Tigers, who were missing veterans Jeff Stairs, Kyle Point, Matt Holte and Rob Gray. The Rattlers scored three more times to clinch their first victory over the Tigers in three years. Jordan Foster (1+0), Reid and Woldum provided the offence for Kamloops, who are now tied with the Tigers for second place in the league.

John Gee took the loss in net for the Tigers while Scott Helton recorded the victory. The Rattlers outshot the Tigers 60-48. The Rattlers took 20 minutes in penalties, compared to 17 minutes for the Tigers. Karl Friesen assisted on all three Rintoul goals.

The Tigers hope to redeem themselves against the Kelowna Dragons on Wednesday night at the Multiplex at 7:30 PM. They will also plan on being in top form against Calgary for a pair of exhibition games on May 15 and 16.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Rintoul(3+0) Andrew Hamilton(1+0) Karl Friesen(0+3)

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May 5: Tigers Lose To Rutland

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers lost their first game in three years to the Rutland Raiders Wednesday night at the

Multiplex by a score of 16-12. With a season record of 4 victories and one loss, the Tigers are now tied with Rutland for first place in the league.

The Tigers came out flat and dug themselves a deep hole in early in the first by giving up three unanswered goals. They fought back on goals by Rob Rintoul (2+2), Mitch Schocter (2+2) and Tanner Skolrood (3+0) but remained on the losing end of 6-3 score at the end of the first period. Jamie Klarenbeek (3+1) and Matt Morris (2+3) each scored twice for Rutland, with Owen Barski (1+0) and Steve Plasko (5+3) each chipping in a single goal.

Things looked better for the Tigers in the first half of the second period. By capitalizing on Raider penalties, the Vernon squad narrowed the gap to one goal, thanks to scoring by Jeff Stairs (2+2), Schocter, Skolrood and Brandon Ditchfield (2+0). However, the Raiders came right back with one goal by Nick Ivan (1+1) and a hat trick from Plasko. The period ended with Rutland leading 10-7.

The Tigers showed some signs of life periodically in the third period, at one point drawing to within two goals of Rutland. However, they just could not quite catch up to the Raiders, who seemed to be firing on all cylinders. Stairs, Rintoul, Skolrood, Ditchfield and Kyle Point (1+0) scored in the losing cause. Plasko, Klarenbeek, Aiden Munson (1+0), Mark MacLennan (1+2), Darcy Leach (1+1) and Tyler Parent all scored for the Raiders.

Glen Clissold took the loss in net for the Tigers while Joey Kwasniewski recorded the victory. The Tigers actually outshot the Raiders by a narrow 74-73 margin. The Raiders took 41 minutes in penalties, compared to 34 minutes for the Tigers.

Andy Holte and Karl Friesen each had two assists, with Kyle Bronson and Glen Clissold providing one helper apiece. Matt Holte provided three helpers before being ejected late in the third period after a vigorous scrap with Raider Cory Davy.

The Tigers' journey to travel to Kamloops on Sunday for their next game. They will host the Kelowna Dragons at the Multiplex on the 12th.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Tanner Skolrood(3+0) Rob Rintoul(2+2) Jeff Stairs(2+2) Mitch Schocter(2+2) Brandon Ditchfield(2+0) Kyle Point(1+0) Matt Holte(0+3) Andy Holte(0+2) Karl Friesen(0+2) Matt Holte(0+3) Kyle Bronson(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1)

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May 2: Tigers Crush Shamrocks

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers cemented their hold on first place in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse league with a convincing 15-4 victory over the Armstrong Shamrocks Saturday night at the Civic. With a 4-0 record this season, the powerhouse Tigers are well on their way to yet another strong season.

It was the underdog Shamrocks who struck first in the game when Jaime Stebbing (2+0) blasted a shot past the Tigers' Jon Gee. The Tigers had a difficult time solving Armstrong netminder Adam Philps, managing just one goal by Rob Rintoul (2+3). The Tigers outshot Armstrong by a wide margin but the first period ended in a 1-1 tie.

The second period was a very different story as the Tiger's potent offence found its range. By the end of the period, the Tigers had built up a 10-3 lead. Game first star Mitch Schocter (3+2) led the charge with a hat trick. Andy Holte (1+4), Karl Friesen (1+0), Rintoul, and Tyler Venn (1+1) each added singles. Veteran Kyle Bronson (2+1) celebrated his first start of the season with a two-goal period. The Shamrocks were able to score twice thanks to Hudson Rail (1+0) and Dan Stebbings (1+0).

The Tigers dominated the third period as well, scoring five more times. Jeff Stairs (1+0) scored on a dive across the front of the net. Tanner Skolrood (1+2), Rob Gray (1+0), Kyle Point (1+2) and Brodie Venn (1+1) accounted for the rest of the Vernon offence. Newcomer Brodie Venn established the fact that he can handle all aspects of the game, coming out on the winning end of a bout with Armstrong's Adam Philps. Jaime Stebbings provided the lone Armstrong goal.

Big Jon Gee had a solid game in net for the Tigers, turning back all but four of 4 of the 27 shots he faced. Philps and Darcy Heuver split the duties for the Shamrocks, facing 54 shots between them.

It was a fast-paced game with very few penalties being assessed. The Tigers garnered 15 minutes while the Shamrocks earned a total of 21 minutes.

Tigers' coach Bill Kirkland thought his team showed their strength in the second and third periods. "We got off to a shaky start," he

said. "However, we found our stride in the the last two periods and took good advantage of our speed, hands and defence."

Kirkland expects that his team will need to bring all of their many talents to the floor on Wednesday night at the Multiplex. The Tigers take on their perennial rivals, the Rutland Raiders at 7:30 PM.

"Judging by past experience, fans can look forward to a tough battle," Kirkland said.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Mitch Schocter(3+2) Rob Rintoul(2+3) Kyle Bronson(2+1) Andy Holte(1+4) Kyle Point(1+2) Tanner Skolrood(1+2) Brodie Venn(1+1) Tyler Plante(1+1) Rob Gray(1+0) Karl Friesen(1+0) Jeff Stairs(1+0) Chris Evans(0+1)

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Tigers Pumped For "Home Opener" ...

by: Morning Star Staff

On a night where almost 50 per cent of their shots went in, the Vernon Source For Sports Tigers went into practice mode after building up a comfortable lead.

The Tigers improved to 3-0 with a 22-6 stuffing of the host Kelowna Braves in Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League play Tuesday night at Memorial Arena.

"We dominated so it gave us a chance to work on some plays and improve on some other things we want to improve on," said Tiger GM Rich Zecchel. "We had 15 of 17 players hit the scoresheet and Glenn (Clissold) was solid in net (37 saves) in his debut."

The Tigers, who battle the Armstrong Shamrocks in their home opener Saturday night (7:30) at Civic Arena, got hat-tricks from Jeff Stairs, Tanner Skolrood and Brandon Ditchfield against the Braves.

Andy Holte and Rob Gray each added 2+1, while Andrew Hamilton also scored twice before leaving with a knee injury early in the game. Christian Madsen also joined the injury list with a pulled calf muscle.

Rob Rintoul with 1+4, James Grant with 1+2, Matt Holte, Brody Venn, Kyle Point, Luke Lecavalier and Tyler Plante compled the Tiger offence. Clissold chipped in with two assists.

Jesse Lee and Warren Andersen each scored twice for the Braves, while Jacob Illichmann and Derek Tymofichuk added singles.

The Tigers will hopefully welcome back veteran Kyle Bronson, who has Junior A experience, to the lineup Saturday night. Bronson has been taking extra shifts at work.

Ryan Minchenko is available for the home opener after serving a three-game suspension for verbal abuse of an official.

After Saturday night, the Tigers will play their remaining eight home games at the Multiplex with six Wednesday games and two Saturday night tilts. Vernon will host the Calgary Junior Mountaineers May 15-16 and host the B.C. Junior B Championships, July 31-Aug. 2.

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April 22: Tigers Win Again

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers out-shot, out-played and out-hustled the Kelowna Dragons en route to their second victory of the 2004 season. Thursday night's 11-7 victory gives the Tigers a perfect 2-0 record this season.

The Tigers had a shaky start, falling behind 1-0 on a goal by the Dragons' Kurt Casavant (1+0) on the first shot of the game. Then the Vernon players settled down. Karl Friesen (1+3), Matt Holte (1+0), Taylor Grant (1+0) and Rob Rintoul (3+2) gave the Tigers the lead. Dragon Lee Zayonce (2+1) scored to make it 4-2 for the Tigers at the end of the first period.

The Tigers doubled the Dragons scoring in the second period as well. Mitch Schocter (1+0), Tanner Skolrood (1+1), Rob Gray (2+1), and Brandon Ditchfield (1+1) provided the offence for the Tigers. Chris Phillips (1+0) and Bart Huth (1+0) replied for the Dragons, who trailed 8-4 at the end of the second frame. The Dragons' Phillips made the mistake of slashing the Tigers' feisty Matt Holte across the face mask and received a bit of a thrashing in return.

The teams each scored three times in the third period. Tiger Captain Rob Rintoul finished off his hat trick with two more goals and Rob Gray added his second of the night. Scoring for the Dragons were Colby Field (1+1) and Keyvan McPhail (1+2). Jon Gee, the Tigers' giant 6 foot 7 inch goaltender, proved not to be so

gentle, giving a charging Kevin Lindquist an elbow before wrestling him into submission. Gee got two minors. Lindquist escaped that incident without a penalty but was ejected from the game shortly afterwards when he earned his fifth minor penalty of the match.

The Tigers dominated play throughout most of the game, outshooting the Dragons 66 to 34. The Tigers earned a total of 32 penalty minutes to the Dragons 53 in what was a relatively clean game.

Tigers Andy Holte and Brodie Venn contributed a pair of assists apiece. Chris Evans and Jon Gee had one helper each.

Tigers' coach Bill Kirkland was happier with his team's play in the second half of the game. "We were a bit disorganized and undisciplined in the early part of the game," he said. "However, we recovered our form in the second half, out shooting the Dragons by a wide margin, dominating loose balls, and using our speed and passing game to better advantage." Kirkland singled out Rob Gray for praise, saying that the defensive specialist had "an outstanding game."

The Tigers' next game is in Kelowna on Tuesday the 27th of April when they take on the Braves.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Rintoul(3+2) Rob Gray(2+1) Karl Friesen(1+3) Brandon Ditchfield(1+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+1) Matt Holte(1+0) Mitch Schocter(1+0) Taylor Grant(1+0) Brodie Venn(0+2) Andy Holte(0+2) Jon Gee(0+1) Chris Evans(0+1)

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April 19: Tigers Win Season Opener

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers started off their 2004 Thompson Okanagan league play the same way they finished last season. The Tigers recorded a convincing 16-6 victory over the South Okanagan Flames in the season opener Monday night in Summerland.

The Tigers asserted their dominance early on, running up a 6-1 lead by the end of the first period. Matt Holte (3+2) led the Tiger offence with two goals, while Andy Holte (2+1), Rob Rintoul (2+2), Tanner Skolrood (3+2) and Andrew Hamilton (2+1) added

singles. Kyle Marsh (4+1) accounted for the only tally for the Flames.

The second period was more of the same. Matt Holte completed his hat trick, with Skolrood, Rintoul and Andy Holte each scoring their second goals of the game. Newcomer Brodie Venn (1+0) notched his first goal as a Tiger while veteran Kyle Pointe (1+1) added another for the Vernon team. Tyson Huber (2+2) scored twice for the Flames and Marsh added a singleton to bring the score to 12-4 at the end of two frames.

The Tigers gave up two more goals by Marsh in the third period. In reply, Skolrood rounded out his hat trick, Hamilton scored his second and both Karl Friesen (1+2) and rookie Brandon Ditchfield (1+0) contributed a goal apiece.

Big Jon Gee easily handled the net duties for periods one and two, chipping in two assists in the winning cause. Midget call-up goalie Brodie MacDonald took over for the third period. MacDonald made a stellar debut, stopping several difficult shots as well as stoning two Flames on break-aways and assisting on a Tiger goal. Flames netminder Galon Cenny faced a barrage at the other end of the floor, as the Tigers peppered him with shot after shot.

Rob Gray (0+2) and Luke Lecavalier (0+2) each had two assists, with Taylor Grant (0+1) and Scott Juniper (0+1) providing one helper apiece.

It was a relatively quiet game, with the Tigers serving 40 penalty minutes to the Flames 35.

Tigers' coach Bill Kirkland was very happy with his team's first outing. "We dominated every aspect of the game," he said. "Our power play was impressive, especially for this early in the season. Our penalty kill units played well and overall we played a strong first game." Kirkland was pleased to see that fifteen different players participated in the scoring, a clear indication of the depth of last year's league champions.

The Tigers' journey to Kelowna Thursday night to take on the Dragons.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Matt Holte(3+2) Tanner Skolrood(3+2) Rob Rintoul(2+2) Andy Holte(2+1) Andrew Hamilton(2+1) Karl Friesen(1+2) Kyle Pointe(1+1) Brodie Venn(1+0) Brandon Ditchfield(1+0) Rob Gray(0+2) Luke LeCavalier(0+2) Jon Gee(0+2) Scott Juniper(0+1)

Brodie MacDonald(0+1) Taylor Grant(0+1)

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Gold/Silver Medal Game:
Adanacs punish Posse

by: Kevin Mitchell - Sports Editor: The Morning Star

Uncovering gold at the B.C. Junior B Lacrosse Championships in Vernon was high on the Coquitlam Adanacs' summer holiday list compiled way back in April.

The Prince George Posse, meanwhile, felt fortunate just getting a full roster of players together for the five-team

tournament at the Multiplex.

The Adanacs flashed a powerplay smoother than a lime margarita, kept the Posse shooters to the perimeter and received clutch goaltending from Arlen Chudley in a 14-3 stuffing of Prince George in the gold-medal final Sunday afternoon before 300 fans.

Coquitlam, who sleepwalked to the West Coast League title at 16-1-1 (only loss of the year was to the Delta Islanders), opened the provincials with a 15-6 win over Prince George and topped the preliminary round at 3-0-1. "Our goal was to win provincials this year," said Adanac head coach Greg Holland, an assistant the last three years. "We knew we had the talent to win. I didn't expect us to beat Prince George like we did today, but we were confident we were going to win."

Holland said only Chudley and Justin Tellis were part of Coquitlam's provincial championship team two years ago. "We had 18 rookies," said Holland, seconds after receiving a champagne shower from his players. "Our team chemistry is great. It's a closeknit bunch of guys who are close friends on and off the floor."

The Adanacs outshot the Posse 63-28 and chased starting goalie Russ Mills when lefty Shaun O'Leary scored shorthanded to make it 8-2 with seven minutes left in the second period.

O'Leary, who had the hat-trick, and Chris Cowieson, who finished with two goals, gave Coquitlam a 2-0 first-period lead. Cowieson, also a southpaw, ended a gorgeous sequence of quick passes by burying a shot from the left side of the crease on a powerplay.

The roadrunning Adanacs added five goals in seven minutes to go in front 13-2 midway through the final period. Big Bubba Westwood stopped the goal-a-thon by outmuscling two Adanac defenders in front of the net and scoring shorthanded on a fabulous solo effort.

"We thought it would be a little tighter," said Coquitlam captain Nick Augustine, 21, one of four graduating Adanacs. "We're solid on every line and it showed today. Arlen played outstanding all tournament and throughout the playoffs. We talked before the game and said, 'Nothing gets by us today.' We decided this was going to be our game." Jaret Bradley with two goals, Eli Woodscowcroft, Augustine, Dane Reelie, Paul Jarvie, Matt Brasica, Tellis and Patrick Lowe completed the Coquitlam offence.

Jesse Huffman scored a pair of second-period goals for the defending champion Posse, who struggled to a sixth-place showing at 6-11-1 in the Rocky Mountain loop this season.

"It's kind of sad," said Prince George captain Chris Madsen. "We worked so hard all year and to fall short like this was embarrassing. But at the start of the year it didn't look like we'd have a team. We had to pull guys out of the closet. Every game I think we only had 15 runners. This was the first time we had a full team."

Prince George went 3-1 in the round-robin, grounding the Kamloops Rattlers 12-7, icing the Peninsula Falcons of Sidney 15-10 and thumping the Vernon Tigers 8-2. Coquitlam tied the Falcons 7-7, outlasted Vernon 11-9 and shut out Kamloops 8-0 in their other preliminary games.

"Coquitlam's a good team, they're fast and they've got a good offence, probably the best offence in the tournament," said Madsen. "One of our problems was discipline (they took 50 of 65 penalty minutes in the final) and we knew that coming here."

Augustine said the Adanacs basically check their egos at the door and have a blast playing boxla.

"Everyone's friends and we're all here to have fun," he said. "Some guys eat, breathe and live lacrosse, but not us. Everyone's a part of this team. Different guys have to sit out each game and nobody complains."

On the Posse, he added: "Prince George is a good team with some big guys. I'm sure it could have gone either way had we not stepped it up."

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Bronze Medal Game:
Rattlers upend Falcons

by: Kevin Mitchell - Sports Editor: The Morning Star

Denied at the tournament banquet buffet table Sunday night, the Kamloops Rattlers pampered their palate Monday morning by pocketing a bronze medal at the B.C. Junior B Lacrosse Championships.

Alex Turner, a 50-goalman during the regular Thompson-Okanagan League season, scored four times as the Rattlers stopped the Peninsula Falcons of Sidney 6-5. Turner's fourth goal at 8:46 of the third period stood as the winner.

A sad sack Sunday which saw the Rattlers lose 13-10 to the Falcons and 8-0 to the eventual champion Coquitlam Adanacs got even worse at the banquet when there wasn't enough food to go around. Red-faced tourney officials ordered pizzas to feed the Rattlers.

Kamloops snuck into the bronze-medal game at 1-3. The Rattlers shaded the winless Vernon Tigers 7-6 in their

opener Saturday and then fell 12-7 to the defending champion Prince George Posse.

Coquitlam punished Prince George 14-3 in the final.

"We just came out hard today," said the Rattlers' Sheldon Araki, a co-captain with Joss Sveinson. "Those few losses kind of put us in our place and we came out today and played strong defence and put the ball on net. Our usual scorers got the big goals."

Nathan Woldum and Greg Schulte completed the Kamloops offence in the medal tilt. Shawn Donahue added three assists, while Araki and goalie Scott Helton each had two helpers. Helton made 48 saves.

Peninsula (14-0 on the regular season) grabbed period leads of 4-2 and 5-4 on a hat-trick from Ryan Werk and singles from Michael Morris and Trevor Walton. The Falcons were 2-1-1 in preliminary play.

The Rattlers, who recorded the lowest penalty minutes in the five-team championships at 68, got three goals from Turner, including the winner with 41 seconds remaining, to stop Vernon.

Sveinson (2), Mark Jurista and Kyle LeBlond helped out offensively. Kin Kelsey had four assists.

In their loss to Prince George, the Rattlers received goals from Jordan Foster, Sveinson, Turner, Greg and Gary Schulte, LeBlond and Craig Mattioli.

Sveinson, Jurista and Jared Emery each scored twice in the round-robin loss to the Falcons. Werk had six goals for Peninsula. Arlen Chudley turned back 30 shots and team officials photocopied the scoresheet to get framed as Coquitlam earned a rare shutout win over Kamloops.

"It took us a while to get going," said Araki. "The competition here was very tough and we've played a ton of lacrosse in the last month. Our regular season ended July 4 and our first playoff series went three games and the final series went five games so we're kind of beat up and looking forward to a bit of a rest."

The Rattlers, who only lose two players to graduation, had one of the youngest teams in the tournament.

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Kirkland ends run behind bench

by: Kevin Mitchell - Sports Editor: The Morning Star

Three years and three straight appearances in the provincials. Toss in an excellent regular-season coaching record and it has been a good run for Bill Kirkland.

The classy bench boss of the Vernon Source For Sports Tigers will step aside and play Masters lacrosse next season. The Cats lose nine players to graduation.

"The kids need a change, they can only listen to me for so long," said Kirkland, a key member of the national senior B championship Vernon Tiger teams of the 1970s. "It's been a real privilege to have coached this crew. They are a great bunch of kids, they were special."

The Tigers suffered some tough breaks in the weekend B.C. Junior B Lacrosse Championships at the Multiplex. They went 0-4 but an 8-2 loss to the Prince George Posse was the only blowout.

"The kids competed hard, we were pleased with the effort," said Kirkland. "Glen Clissold had a great tournament (in goal). They gave us everything was asked for."

The Tigers opened with a 7-6 loss to the Kamloops Rattlers Saturday afternoon and then lost a soul-hurting 11-10 thriller to the Peninsula Falcons of Sidney Saturday night.

The game was tied 10-10 and Kirkland decided to play for the win and pulled Clissold for an extra attacker with 23 seconds remaining.

"We got the look we wanted and Kyle Point scored but the referees on the floor didn't see it go in the net," said Kirkland. "The spectators behind the net were going crazy and our guys were celebrating. Tanner Skolrood scored a few seconds later and the same thing happened. Then they came down and scored in an empty net. It was hugely frustrating, they played so hard."

Trevor Walton, who finished with 4+2, scored the empty-net winner with 12 seconds to go. Point, Andrew Hamilton and Brodie Venn each scored twice for Vernon, singles going to Scott Stevens, Mitch Schochter, Skolrood and Andy Holte.

The Tigers lost their opener 7-6 to the Kamloops Rattlers, Alex Turner's hat-trick goal with 41 seconds the winner. Skolrood (2), Stevens, Rob Rintoul, Rob Gray and Jeff Stairs had the Vernon goals.

Stairs and Holte each netted two goals against Coquitlam Sunday morning. Ryan Minchenko, Kyle Bronson, Gray, Venn and Hamilton completed the Tiger offence.

"They worked like dogs, Vernon had us going," said Adanac captain Nick Augustine, who joined teammate Chris Cowieson in scoring twice.

Hamilton and Stevens had the Tiger goals in the Sunday night loss to the Posse, who led 5-0 after one period. Bronson said the Tigers highly respected Kirkland.

"He was a great coach," said Bronson. "He knows the game so well and he's got so much experience to draw from. He's just a great guy who's very personable with the players. It was a great experience to have him at the helm."

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July 30: Tigers set for medal

by: Kevin Mitchell - Sports Editor: The Morning Star

Playing on the Vancouver Ravens' pro carpet at the Multiplex doesn't change the mindset of the Vernon Source For Sports Tigers.

The Cats, who lost to the Prince George Posse in last year's B.C. Junior B Lacrosse Championship final, plan to keep things simple as they open the five-team tourney Saturday (12:15 p.m.) against the Thompson-Okanagan kingpin Kamloops Rattlers.

"We're going to play our up-tempo game with good defence and good goaltending," said Tiger head coach Bill Kirkland. "Goaltending will be the key because there will be some big snipers."

Glenn Clissold gets the start in net for Vernon, who will carry a 22-man roster.

"If we can play for a medal Monday, that would be a good tournament for us," said Kirkland, who won't have Andrew Hamilton, Brandon Ditchfield and Matt Holte for the opener.

Hamilton and Ditchfield received one-game suspensions and Holte a three-gamer for their part in a line brawl with 14 seconds left in their final playoff tilt against the Kamloops Rattlers.

"We expect Tanner Skolrood to step up and be a force (with Holte sidelined). He needs to get us some offence," said Kirkland.

The West Coast champion Coquitlam Adanacs meets the Posse in game one at 10 a.m., while the Island champion Peninsula Falcons battle Coquitlam at 2:30 p.m. The Tigers face the Falcons Saturday at 7 p.m.

Peninsula averaged 16 goals a game and gave up an average of 2.92 goals a game in sweeping the Pacific Northwest Junior Lacrosse League.

In Sunday games, Vernon tangles with the Adanacs at 10:15 a.m. and meet Prince George at 4:45 p.m. The gold-medal game goes Monday at 1 p.m. preceded by the bronze-medal game at 10 a.m.

"We could play outstanding and go 0-4," said Kirkland Tuesday night. "Coquitlam will be very good, Peninsula was 14-0 and Prince George will be strong. Kamloops and

Rutland both played us tough."

The Rattlers rode the red-hot goaltending of Scott Helton to a 12-6 win over Rutland in the fifth and deciding game of the Thompson-Okanagan playoff final Tuesday night before 500 fans at Prospera Place.

The Rattlers finished the regular season in third spot at 13-5 behind the Cats (14-3-1) and pennant-winning Raiders (16-2-1). Kamloops will welcome back enforcer Mike Tremblay, who received a five-game suspension for starting the line brawl against Vernon by jumping Tiger captain Rob Rintoul from behind.

Fourth-year Tiger Andrew Hamilton, an alternate captain to Rob Rintoul, compares this team to last year.

"They are very similar," said Hamilton, 21. "We have the same core group. Team defence will be the key. Our offence will come from that. We really need to key our defence to stop the strong Coastal teams. Heart and dedication to our team system will give us success."

Jeff Stairs, a 19-year-old in his third year with the Tigers, plans to play a physical style to jumpstart Vernon.

"I just like to work hard and try to be a leader and score when I can," said Stairs. "Hopefully, we'll get back to the final and get the win this time."

Ryan Minchenko, an 18-year-old in his second season with Vernon, enjoys boxla big-time. He skated with the Revelstoke Grizzlies of the KIJHL last winter.

"Lacrosse is a lot more tiring (than hockey) so you have to be way more fit," he said before a running drill at practice Tuesday night. "It's a great cross-trainer for hockey. Every practice is hard and every game is intense."

The tournament banquet goes Sunday night in the banquet room at the Multiplex. Raffle and jersey tickets will be drawn at 7 p.m.

Tournament passes for all 12 games go for \$20 (adults) and \$18 (students). Day passes for five games either Saturday or Sunday are \$10.

Admission for the medal games is \$5 per game.

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July 28: All Systems ĩĵ½Goïĵ½ for
Provincial Championships

by: Jim Hamilton

The Vernon Multiplex will showcase the best of BC Junior B Lacrosse this weekend as the Vernon Tigers host the Provincial Championships. Tournament Chair Dale Rintoul

looks forward to it an exciting battle between five exceptional teams.

As champions of their respective leagues, the Kamloops Rattlers, Coquitlam Adanacs, Prince George Posse and Peninsula Falcons will join the host Vernon Tigers in pursuit of the gold medal. At last year's provincials, Prince George edged out Vernon for gold in an all-Interior final. The host team will be looking for vengeance but faces formidable opposition.

Rintoul says that this should be the best provincial championship tournament yet. The caliber of play has been improving every year, he said. On any given day, any one of these teams could prevail. The Coast teams are always strong and Prince George has been a powerhouse in recent years. Last year, Vernon made its mark by taking the silver and Kamloops will be a contender this year as well. This will be the fourth appearance at provincials in a row for the Tigers.

A special feature of the championships this year will be that the teams will play on the Ravens artificial floor. Made necessary by the recent CBC filming on ice at the Multiplex, the floor will be a unique experience for all the teams, who are used to concrete surfaces.

Coquitlam and Prince George face off at 10:00 AM Saturday morning to open the tournament. Vernon and Kamloops will square off at 12:15, with Vernon also playing at 7:00 PM against the Peninsula Falcons. Vernon's other round robin games are against Coquitlam at 10:15 Sunday morning and Prince George at 4:45 PM, also on Sunday.

Four of the five teams will advance to the final round. The third and fourth place teams will play for the bronze medal at 10:00 AM Monday. The gold game goes at 1:00 PM. Full details of the schedule and ticket prices are easily accessible at the Tiger website, www.members.shaw.ca/vernontigers

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July 15: Rattlers Eliminate Tigers

by: Jim Hamilton

The Vernon Tigers are focusing on a new goal after being eliminated from the Thompson-Okanagan League playoffs Thursday night at the Civic. A hungry Kamloops Rattlers defeated the Tigers 11-8 to win the semi-final series two games to one. The Rattlers move on to face the Rutland Raiders for the league championships while the Tigers get an extra week to prepare for the Provincial Championships on the August long weekend.

Tigers head coach Bill Kirkland was disappointed with the loss but gave full credit to the Rattlers. "They took advantage of our defensive miscues and hustled for the whole game," he said. "They out-played us and got superb goaltending from Scott Helton. It was a good series between two well-matched teams."

The Rattlers jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the first period on two goals by Nathan Woldum (3+2) and one from Kin Kelsey (1+1). However, Mitch Schocter (3+0) scored his first of three on the night, Kyle Point (1+0) picked the corner and Karl Friesen (1+0) converted a pass on the run from Andrew Hamilton (0+1) to tie the game 3-3 by the end of the period. Shots on goal were even at 23 for the period.

The second period also started out badly for the Tigers. Kamloops ran up a 6-3 lead, which Vernon never succeeded in overcoming, although they challenged several times. Andy Holte (1+3), Matt Holte (2+0) and Schocter scored for Vernon. Kamloops captain Joss Sveinson (3+1) scored a trio, with Sheldon Araki (2+0) and Woldum contributing one apiece to make the score 8-6 at the end of the second period. Vernon had a slight 19-18 edge in shots but could not seem to get the ball past Helton, hitting five posts in the period.

The third period was a more even affair although Tiger netminder Glen Clissold faced 25 shots, compared to 20 fired at Helton. Goals by Matt Holte and Schocter kept Vernon in the game but they could not quite catch up. Araki, Alex Turner (1+3) and Greg Schulte (1+0).

Kamloops will play the league finals without the services of their agitator and goon Mike Tremblay. With fourteen seconds in the game, Tremblay jumped Tiger Captain Rob Rintoul from behind. When the dust settled, Tremblay received a game misconduct, a three-game match penalty and a gross misconduct for precipitating a mini-brawl. Rattlers Gary Schulte and Woldum also got the gate, as did the Tigers' Holte, Hamilton and Brandon Ditchfield.

Rob Gray and Ditchfield contributed one assist each in the losing cause. Final shots on goal were 66 for Kamloops and 62 for Vernon. Penalty minutes were even at 65 apiece.

Head coach Bill Kirkland plans on keeping his team busy practicing hard for the Provincial championships, which Vernon hosts over the August long weekend at the Multiplex. "While it will be nice to exact revenge on either the Rattlers or the Raiders at the Provincials, we have our eyes on a bigger goal," he says. "Last year we won the silver medal but this year we have our sights set on the gold." Kirkland views the semi-final loss as a temporary setback and expects his team to play their best at the Provincials.

Information on the schedule for provincials is posted on the Tiger website at www.members.shaw.ca/vernontigers

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Mitch Schocter(3+0)Matt Holte(2+2)Andy Holte(1+3)Karl Friesen(1+0)Kyle Point(1+0)Rob Rintoul(0+3)Andrew Hamilton(0+1)Brandon Ditchfield(0+1)Rob Gray(0+1)

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July 13: Tigers Even Semi-Finals

by: Jim Hamilton

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers answered the bell in Kamloops Tuesday night. Facing elimination from the league playoffs after losing game one Saturday night, the Tigers scored a decisive 6-3 victory over the Rattlers. Tiger coach Bill Kirkland was proud of his team's gutsy effort, citing outstanding goaltending by Glen Clissold and improved defensive play. The Tigers will now face the Rattlers in the third and deciding game at the Civic Arena Thursday night.

The Tigers got off to a strong start, running up a 3-0 lead by the end of the first period. Brandon Ditchfield (1+0), Brodie Venn (1+1) and Andy Holte (1+1) scored the only goals of the frame. Vernon checked their opponents very closely and outshot them 18-15.

The Rattlers got back in the game in the second period on goals by Alex Turner (1+0) and Nathan Woldum (1+0). However, Kyle Bronson (1+2) stepped up and blasted the game winner over Rattler goalie Scott Helton's shoulder. The Rattlers outshot Vernon 22-13 in the second period but didn't get a lot of quality opportunities. When they had a scoring opportunity, Clissold was there to make the save.

As was the case in Vernon last weekend, it was an extremely physical, close checking game, with the referees seemingly willing to turn a blind eye to most infractions. At the beginning of the second period, Rattler captain Joss Sveinson charged Clissold. He then paid dearly for his pains after Tiger captain Rob Rintoul administered a beating that Sveinson will not soon forget. Unfortunately, Rintoul was ejected from the game but will return Thursday.

Vernon played a solid defensive game in the third period and Clissold turned his play up yet another notch, turning aside all but one of the 22 shots he faced. Karl Friesen (1+0) scored what turned out to be the insurance marker and Andrew Hamilton (1+0) gave his team added breathing room by capitalizing on an unassisted drive to the net later in the period. Gary Shulte's (1+0) goal for Kamloops was not enough to get Kamloops back in the game.

Kamloops outshot Vernon 59-45 but Vernon had more quality scoring chances and every goal in the game was a hard-won marker. Vernon had a slight edge in penalties, taking 24 minutes to Kamloops' 1½ 20 minutes. Rintoul (0+1), Mitch Schocter (0+1), and Kyle Point (0+1) all contributed assists.

Head coach Bill Kirkland thought his team played very well and looks forward to an equally hotly contested game three. "Kamloops never lets up," he said. "Fans can expect more hard-hitting, close-checking, good old-style lacrosse on Thursday night. Every game in the series has been an intense contest that could go either way." Kirkland is looking forward to the return of Rintoul and hopes that veterans Matt Holte and Jeff Stairs will also be back Thursday. Both missed Tuesday night's game.

Game three starts at 7:30 Thursday night at the Civic.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Kyle Bronson(1+2)Andy Holte(1+1)Brodie Venn(1+1)Karl Friesen(1+0)Brandon Ditchfield(1+0)Andrew Hamilton(1+0)Rob Rintoul(0+1)Kyle Point(0+1)Mitch Schocter(0+1)

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July 10: Tigers Edged by Rattlers

by: Jim Hamilton

Saturday night at the Civic Arena, the Vernon Tigers ran into a major roadblock on their path to the Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse finals. A fired-up Kamloops Rattlers defeated the Tigers 11-8 in a hard-fought Game One of the semi-finals.

The Tigers got off to a good start, thanks to a quick goal from Rob Gray (2+1). However, the Rattlers fought right back with a goal from Scott Donahue (1+0). The two teams traded goals to end a period of tight defence and gritty, physical play in a 2-2 tie. Matt Holte (1+0) scored the other Tiger goal while Nathan Woldum (2+1) scored for the visitors. The Tigers outshot the Rattlers 17-6 but had a hard time getting clear shots on Rattler net minder Scott Helton.

The second period also ended in a tie, with each team scoring three times. The Tigers appeared to be getting the game under control by running up a two-goal lead. However, the Rattlers did not give up and exploited some defensive lapses to end the period in a 5-5 tie. Andy Holte (1+3), Jeff Stairs (1+1) and Kyle Bronson (2+0) all scored beautiful goals for the Tigers. Woldum, Mark Jurista (3+0) and Craig Mattioli (1+0) replied for the Rattlers, who outshot the Tigers 25-19.

The Tigers again appeared to be taking the game over in the third period, when they ran up a two-goal lead early on, thanks to goals by Kyle Point (1+0) and Bronson. However, the tide turned as the Rattlers fought relentlessly back to score four unanswered goals. Gray gave the Tigers some hope with his second of the night but the Rattlers scored two more to put the game away. They also outshoot Vernon 23-15 and dominated the play in the last half of the period. Joss Sveinson (3+2) scored three of the Rattler goals, with Jurista adding two and Chris Elliot (1+0) contributing one.

Vernon's Rob Rintoul (0+4) supplied four assists. Ryan Minchenko (0+2) added two helpers, while Taylor Grant (0+1), Chris Evans (0+1) and Tanner Skolrood (0+1) supplied single assists.

Vernon goalie Glen Clissold faced a total of 54 Rattler shots. The Tigers fired 51 shots at Rattler net minder Scott Helton. Both goalies made some outstanding saves at critical points in the game. Vernon had the edge in penalties, with 18 minutes to Kamloops 13.

Head coach Bill Kirkland attributed the loss to too many defensive lapses against a team that never quit pouring it on. It was a very physical game, played on a smaller surface than the Tigers' usual home floor at the Multiplex, but Kirkland felt the Rattlers won through a more sustained effort, particularly in their own end.

The Tigers find themselves in unfamiliar territory, facing elimination if they do not win in Kamloops Tuesday night. A road victory by Vernon on Tuesday would bring the series back to the Civic for a deciding game on Thursday night at 7:30.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Gray (2+1) Kyle Bronson(2+0) Andy Holte(1+3) Jeff Stairs(1+1) Matt Holte(1+0) Kyle Point(1+0) Rob Rintoul(0+4) Ryan Minchenko(0+2) Taylor Grant(0+1) Tanner Skolrood(0+1) Chris Evans(0+1)

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July 7: Tigers End Season With Win

by: Jim Hamilton

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers' last game of the season turned out to be a yawner, as they mauled the South Okanagan Flames 22-2 at the Multiplex Wednesday night. The victory gives the Tigers a 14-3-1 season record, good for second place in the league, two points behind the Rutland Raiders.

The Flames were only able to field seven runners, who simply could not withstand the Tiger assault. Vernon

outshot South Okanagan 73-25 in a game that moved at a very slow pace. In fact, probably the most exciting part of the very lopsided match was Tiger Mitch Schochter's ten-minute penalty for wearing jewelry.

The Flames struck first when goalie Galen Lenny (0+2) fed a long break-away pass to Kyle Marsh (1+1). However, the Tigers replied immediately and scored seven more times to establish an 8-2 lead at the end of the first. Jeff Stairs and game third star Brodie Venn had two goals each, with Andrew Hamilton (1+1), Rob Rintoul (3+3), Rob Gray (3+5) and Andy Holte (1+3) each adding singles. Colton Wech (1+0) converted another floor-length pass from Lenny to give the Flames their last goal of the game. Glen Clissold faced 14 shots for the Tigers while Lenny was peppered with 27.

The Tigers scored six unanswered goals in the second period. Game second star Rintoul completed his hat trick with a pair. Gray, Luke Lecavalier (1+3) and Karl Friesen (2+0) scored one apiece as did Venn, who also finished off his hat trick. Tiger goalie John Holmes (1+0) took over in net and faced a total of 6 shots. The Tigers had 27 shots on Lenny.

The third period saw eight unanswered goals for the Tigers, who outshot their opponents 19-5. Speedster Rob Gray completed his hat trick to round out an eight-point night and earn first game star. Stairs scored his third of the night while stalwart defensive specialist Chris Evans (2+0) notched a pair. James Grant (1+1), Friesen, Tanner Skolrood (1+3) and Brandon Ditchfield (1+2) scored a goal each to complete the rout.

It was a pretty quiet game. The Tigers ran up 18 minutes in penalties, ten of them due to Schochter's fashion offence. The Flames earned just two minutes.

Head coach Bill Kirkland would have preferred more serious opposition for the final season game. "We are going to face Kamloops in the first game of the playoffs this Saturday," he said. "We will be in for a tough match every time we step onto the floor against the Rattlers." Kirkland expects that his team will bring their A-game Saturday night, when the post-season opens at the Civic Arena. Game time is 7:30.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Gray (3+5) Rob Rintoul(3+3) Brodie Venn(3+2)Jeff Stairs(3+0) Chris Evans(2+0) Karl Friesen(2+0) Andy Holte(1+3) Tanner Skolrood (1+3) Luke Lecavalier(1+3) Brandon Ditchfield(1+2) Andrew Hamilton(1+1) James Grant(1+1) Mitch Schocter(0+3)Ryan Minchenko(0+2) Chris Usselman(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1) John Holmes(0+1)

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June 30: Tigers Dominate Raiders

by: Jim Hamilton

It was sweet revenge for the Vernon Tigers Wednesday night at the Multiplex as they scored a decisive 12-8 victory over the Rutland Raiders. The Tigers have struggled against the Raiders this season, losing the other two matchups. But this week, the Vernon team dominated all aspects of the game to possibly set the stage for the league playoffs. Vernon remains in second place in the league, two points behind Rutland.

The Tigers got off to a weak start, falling behind 4-0 early in the game. However, goals by Karl Friesen (1+1), Rob Rintoul (2+0), Chris Usselman (1+1) and Scott Stevens (2+2) got the home team back in the game. The score at the end of the first: 6-4 in favour of Rutland although Vernon enjoyed a 29-15 edge in shots. Scoring for Rutland were Kyle MacLennan (2+1) and Dylan Lye (2+1) with two goals apiece and Matt Morris (1+0) and Aiden Munson (1+1) with one goal each.

The Tigers took control of the game in the second period, scoring four goals to Rutland's two and finishing the period with an 8-8 tie. Game first star Rob Gray (3+2) scored twice for the Tigers, with Andy Holte (1+1) and Kyle Bronson (1+2) adding one apiece. Steve Plasko (1+1) and Travis Wray (1+0) kept Rutland in the game. Tiger goalie Glen Clissold stepped up his game, turning aside 25 of 27 Raider shots, including some outstanding saves. Raiders outshot the Tigers 27-11 in the second.

Fans who came hoping to witness one of the famous tough Rutland-Vernon battles realized their expectations as tempers flared early in the second. Ryan Minchenko fought the Raiders' Travis Lee while Andrew Hamilton roughed up Rutland's Jeff Obrand.

Clissold slammed the door shut in the third period, the Tiger defence went to work and the Vernon snipers peppered Raider goalie Joey Kwasniewski with 31 shots. Gray completed his hat trick and a five-point night. Matt Holte (1+1), Rintoul and Stevens rounded out the scoring.

Rutland's legendary lack of discipline manifested itself in some rough stuff, leading to a bout between Karl Friesen and Raider Mark McLennan. At the same time, Raider cruiser weight Travis Wray faced off with Kyle Bronson in a centre-floor slugfest. Just as Bronson found his range, Wray called to the referees to end the fight. At the very end of the game Rutland's Obrand earned himself two majors and a game misconduct after he attacked Rintoul. The Tiger captain refused to be drawn into a fight with his considerably less-skilled opponent, preferring to remain in

the game to savour the victory with his teammates.

Vernon's James Grant (0+4) contributed four assists and earned himself second star of the game. Mitch Schocter (0+2) added two helpers while both Clissold and Tanner Skolrood (0+1) supplied single assists.

Vernon outshot their opponents in the game by a total of 71 to 54 shots. Rutland had a decided edge in penalties, racking up 75 minutes to Vernon's 45.

Head coach Bill Kirkland thought his team played an excellent game. "We recovered well from our shaky start," he said. "Glen Clissold had a terrific game in net, making some exceptional saves at key points in the game. As the game progressed, we got stronger and stronger. I liked the tight defence, good ball movement and hustle."

Next up for the Tigers is their last season game against Summerland at the Multiplex on July 7th.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Gray(3+2) Scott Stevens(2+2) Rob Rintoul(2+0) Kyle Bronson(1+2) Andy Holte(1+1) Matt Holte(1+1) Chris Usselman(1+1) Karl Friesen(1+1) James Grant(0+4) Mitch Schocter(0+2) Tanner Skolrood(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1)

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June 23: Tigers Whip Armstrong

by: Jim Hamilton

It was a big night for Brodie Venn and his teammates Wednesday at the Multiplex. Led by Venn's five goals and three assists, the Tigers crushed the Armstrong Shamrocks 21-4 to improve their season record to 12-3-1.

The Tigers got off to a good start, running up a 4-0 lead at one point and finishing the first period with an 8-3 lead. Venn scored four times while Andy Holte (2+3), Rob Rintoul (4+2), Matt Holte (2+3) and Rob Gray (1+3) each added singles. Mark Wagner (1+0), Dan Stebbing (1+1) and Jordy Willing (1+1) replied for Armstrong. The Tigers outshot the Shamrocks 24-13.

The Tigers took control of the game in the second period, scoring six unanswered goals. Both of the Holtes scored, as did Rintoul, Kyle Point (1+1) Brandon Ditchfield (1+2) and Venn. The Tigers outshot their opponents 21 to 15 to take a 14-3 lead into the third period.

The third period was basically a replay of the second. Rintoul and Kyle Bronson (2+1) each scored a pair while James Grant (1+1), Tanner Skolrood (1+3) and Chris Madsen (1+1) contributed a goal apiece. Shaun Strohm

(1+0) scored the lone Shamrock goal. Vernon outshot Armstrong 23-12 in the third for a game total of 69-40.

Andrew Hamilton had three assists, with Scott Juniper, Ryan Minchenko, Taylor Grant and Glen Clissold added one helper each for the Tigers. Jon Gee started the game for Vernon but Clissold took over part way through the first period. Adam Phillips and Greg Radies shared the loss for Armstrong.

Vernon doubled Armstrong's penalty minutes 40-20. Tempers overflowed only once in the game, when Ryan Minchenko tried to get something going with one of the Shamrocks. Nothing came of it and Minchenko got the gate.

Head coach Bill Kirkland thought his team played an excellent all round game. Our power play was flawless, the penalty kill teams scored several short-handed goals, our defence and offence were both solid, and Glen played a strong game in net, he said.

Next up for the Tigers is a home game against archrival Rutland on June 30th. The Tigers have struggled against the Raiders this year and look forward to getting some revenge in a game that may well foreshadow the match-up for the league championship.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Brodie Venn(5+3) Rob Rintoul(4+2) Andy Holte(2+3) Matt Holte(2+3) Kyle Bronson(2+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+3) Rob Gray(1+3) James Grant(1+1) Kyle Point(1+1) Chris Madsen(1+1) Andrew Hamilton(0+3) Scott Juniper(0+1) Ryan Minchenko(0+1) Taylor Grant(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1)

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June 21: Tigers Edge Flames

by: Jim Hamilton

It was not pretty but it was nevertheless a victory as the Source for Sports Vernon Tigers eked out a 15-14 win over the South Okanagan Flames in Summerland Monday night. The victory keeps the Tigers in second place in the league with an 11-3-1 record.

The Tigers looked like they were headed for a lopsided win as they ran the score up 4-0 in the first half of the first period. However, the Flames fought back to keep the game close, with the first period ending in a 6-3 lead for the Vernon team. Andy Holte (4+5) scored his first two goals of what turned out to be a nine-point night for him. Kyle Point (2+1) added two more, with Matt Holte (1+2) and Ryan Minchenko (1+0) rounding out the Tiger offence. James Lyons (1+0), Kyle Marsh (4+1), and David Grant (1+2)

scored for South Okanagan.

In the second period, the Flames outscored the Tigers to narrow the gap to 11-9 by the end of the frame. Tiger captain Rob Rintoul (2+4) scored twice. Luke Lecavalier (1+0), Brodie Venn (2+1) and Tanner Skolrood (1+2) added one goal apiece. Two goals apiece from Jordan Moss (2+0) and Kelly Spencer (3+2) and singles from Marsh and Kyle Straatsa (2+0) drew the Flames one goal closer to the Tigers.

The third period saw the Flames tie things up several times. Holte scored two, including the game winner with less than two minutes to go. Chris Evans (1+1) and Venn scored the other Tiger goals. Marsh scored twice for the Flames, with Trent Terris (1+2), Straatsa and Spencer adding singles to keep the game within reach.

The third period was when an otherwise clean game fell apart. At the midpoint, Marsh tied the game for South Okanagan but then punched Vernon goalie Glen Clissold, precipitating a near line brawl. Tanner Skolrood rushed to his goalie's defence and pummeled Marsh. When the dust settled, three Tigers and one Flame received game ejections. The tension escalated, with the Flames blowing a chance to even things up twice in the period through poor discipline. Flame Colten Welch was ejected for unsportsmanlike conduct with eight minutes to go. With just 22 seconds left on the clock, Flames coach Brian Grey failed to convince the referees that his team should have possession. He flew into a rage, earning himself a game misconduct. He continued to abuse the referees and threw several water bottles onto the floor, which garnered him a match penalty. Grey's conduct inflamed an already tense situation, so the referees called the game.

The Tigers got one assist each from Glen Clissold and Tyler Plante. Scott Stevens kicked in two more helpers. Clissold played net for the first and third periods, with midget call-up Brodie MacDonald putting in a stalwart effort between the pipes in the second period.

The third-period antics meant that the Flames racked up a total of 82 penalty minutes, compared to 76 for Vernon.

The Tigers host Armstrong Wednesday night at the Multiplex in what will be the third last game of the regular season.. Game time is 7:30.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Andy Holte(4+5) Rob Rintoul(2+4) Kyle Point(2+1) Brodie Venn(2+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+2) Matt Holte(1+2) Chris Evans(1+1) Ryan Minchenko(1+0) Luke Lecavalier(1+0) Scott Stevens(0+2) Glen Clissold(0+1) Tyler Plante(0+1)

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June 17: Tigers Take Over Second Place

by: Jim Hamilton

Thanks to a good team effort backstopped by Midget sensation Brodie MacDonald and prospect John Holmes, the Vernon Tigers defeated the Armstrong Junior Shamrocks 9-7 Thursday night in Armstrong. The victory gives the Tigers sole possession of second place in the league, one point ahead of the Kamloops Rattlers. Vernon's league record is now 10-3-1 with four games left in the season.

Armstrong's Jess Villeneuve (2+0) struck first in what turned out to be a close game. Tiger Ryan Minchenko (1+0) tied the game one minute later but Villeneuve scored again to give Armstrong back the lead. Andy Holte (2+1) and Jeff Stairs (2+2) replied minutes later to give Vernon a 3-2 lead. Mark Wagner tied the game up with six minutes to go and the first period ended in a 3-3 draw. Brodie MacDonald played a stalwart period in net for the Tigers.

In the second period, prospect John Holmes continued where MacDonald left off, allowing just two goals from Shamrocks Jordy Willing (1+0) and Wagner. Goals by Tigers Holte and Kyle Point (1+1) kept the game tied until the final five seconds when Rob Rintoul (1+3) let loose a cannon to give Vernon a 6-5 lead at period's end.

Holmes and MacDonald split the net duties for the Tigers in the third period. Once again, it was a closely fought period, with the Tigers scoring three times and the Shamrocks twice. Karl Friesen (1+0), Stairs and Mitch Schocter (1+2) provided the Tiger offence. Cody Burke (1+2) had one goal for the home team and Wagner rounded out both his hat trick and the Armstrong scoring.

The Tigers got one assist each from John Holmes, Andrew Hamilton, Rob Gray, Scott Juniper, Taylor Grant and Chris Evans. Dan Willing kicked in three helpers for Armstrong, with singles coming from Mason Rail, Jeremy Meredith and Devon Ritter.

It was a very clean game, with the Tigers getting just one penalty and the Shamrocks drawing just four. The Tigers outshot their opponents 52 to 25.

For the second night in a row, Tiger head coach Bill Kirkland was pleased with his team's all-round effort. He was particularly impressed with the play of Midget call-up MacDonald. "I'm proud of the way this fourteen-year old handled himself tonight against players as much as seven years older," he said. "He opened and closed a very close game for us and made some key saves near the end of the third period. I'm also pleased with the way our

defence rose to the occasion when it counted. ½

The Tigers travel to Summerland Monday night to visit the South Okanagan Flames. Wednesday night, they return to the Multiplex to give Armstrong a chance for revenge. Game time is 7:30.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Jeff Stairs(2+2) Andy Holte(2+1) Rob Rintoul(1+3) Mitch Schocter(1+2) Kyle Point(1+1) Karl Friesen(1+0) Ryan Minchenko(1+0) Taylor Grant(0+1) Andrew Hamilton(0+1) John Holmes(0+1) Rob Gray(0+1) Scott Juniper(0+1) Chris Evans(0+1)

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June 16: Tigers Defeat Rattlers

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers defeated the Kamloops Rattlers 12-9 Wednesday night at the Multiplex. The victory improves the Tigers' ½ league record to 9-3-1.

The Tigers got off to a good start, running up a 4-1 lead at one point and finishing the first period with a 6-4 lead. Rob Rintoul (2+3) scored twice for Vernon, with Jeff Stairs (1+4), Karl Friesen (1+4), Kyle Bronson (1+2) and Taylor Grant (2+0) each providing a goal. Jared Emery (2+0), Chris Elliott (2+0), Alex Turner (2+1) and Craig Mattioli (1+0) kept Kamloops in the game as the Tigers outshot their opponents 22-15.

The Rattlers outscored the Tigers 3-1 in the second period to tie the game 7-7. Andy Holte (2+1) scored the lone goal for the Tigers, with Elliott, Turner and Greg Schulte (1+0) replying for Kamloops. The Tigers outshot the Rattlers 20-16 but seemed to be having a hard time getting the ball past Rattler goalie Scott Helton.

In the third period the Tigers came out firing on all cylinders and took control of the game, capitalizing on Rattler penalties and outlasting Kamloops. Mitch Schocter (2+2) scored twice while Tanner Skolrood (1+0), Grant and Holte each had one goal to cement the win. Solid all night, Tiger netminder Glen Clissold stepped his play up another notch, turning aside all but two of the shots he faced in the third period. Goals by Kamloops snipers Emery and Gary Schulte ((1+0) kept the game interesting but the Rattlers could not close the gap.

Clissold and Brodie Venn each provided an assist in the winning cause, as the Tigers outshot the Rattlers by a 61-53 margin. The Tigers also played a cleaner game than their opponents. The Rattlers racked up 54 minutes in

penalties compared to just 12 for the Tigers. Kamloops player David Reid accounted for eight of the Kamloops penalties, including an outburst at the end of the game that earned him two minors, a game misconduct and a gross misconduct.

Head coach Bill Kirkland was pleased with his team's all-round effort. He liked the ball movement and the way the Tigers came back in the third period to seal the victory. "Glen Clissold had a very good game," he said. "He really closed the door in the third period, helping us to win the important match against a team we may well face in the playoffs." The Tigers have now beaten Kamloops twice after losing the first match-up between the two teams early in the season.

The Tigers journeyed to Armstrong Thursday night to take on the Shamrocks. The next home game is Wednesday, June 23rd when Armstrong comes to town.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Rintoul(2+3) Mitch Schocter(2+2) Andy Holte(2+1)
Taylor Grant(2+0) Jeff Stairs(1+4) Karl Friesen(1+4) Kyle
Bronson(1+2) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Brodie Venn(0+1)
Glen Clissold(0+1)

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June 12: Tigers Lose To Rutland

by: Jim Hamilton

A fired-up Rutland Raider team capitalized on some defensive lapses and poorly-timed penalties to defeat the Vernon Tigers 19-14 Saturday night in Rutland. The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers dropped to third place in the league, with an 8-3-1 record.

The Tigers fell behind 2-0 early in the hard-fought first period but rallied to end the period 5-5. Mitch Schocter (4+2), Brodie Venn (3+1), Jeff Stairs (1+0), Kyle Bronson (1+3) and Brandon Ditchfield (1+1) provided the Tiger offence. Raiders Tyler Parent (4+2), Kyle MacLennan (3+1), Dylan Lye (4+6) and Steve Plasko (3+4) scored for the home team.

The second period was a seesaw affair until the final few minutes when the Raiders were able to take advantage of Tiger penalties and some defensive miscues to gain a 14-10 lead at the end of the second. Schocter added another to what would be a four-goal performance for him. Newcomer Scott Stevens (1+1) scored his first as a Tiger, with Karl Friesen (1+0), Venn and Matt Holte (1+2) each contributing for the Tigers. Dylan Lye and Matt Morris (2+1) each scored twice for the Raiders. MacLennan, Parent, Plasko, Travis Wray (1+4) and Geoff Wray each scored

singles for Rutland.

The Tigers made it interesting in the third period, pulling to within two goals of the Raiders at one point. However, the Raiders kept replying and held onto their lead to win the game. Venn completed his hat trick for the Tigers while Schocter scored his third and fourth of the night. Andy Holte (1+0) added one in the losing cause. Dylan Lye scored his fourth for the Raiders to round out a ten-point performance. Plasko, Geoff Wray, Parrent and MacLennan added one apiece.

Rob Gray and Rob Rintoul contributed two assist each, with Andrew Hamilton and Jon Gee adding one helper each.

Glen Clissold played the first two periods in net for the Tigers, with Jon Gee taking over for the final frame. Joey Kwasniewski had a solid game for the Raiders, despite being out of commission for a few minutes in the third period after stopping a hard shot from one of the Tigers.

It was a relatively clean game for a Raiders-Tigers match-up. The Tigers took 27 minutes in penalties, compared to 43 minutes for Rutland. The only fight of the game came in the third period. Raider Kirt Stewart hit Matt Holte from behind, driving him into the boards. Andy Holte leapt to his brother's defence, acquitting himself well against the much larger Stewart. Holte earned a five-minute fighting major while Stewart got five for fighting, five for attempt to injure and a game misconduct.

Tigers head coach Bill Kirkland was not pleased at the outcome. "The Raiders played a more consistent, skilled game against us tonight," he said. "We shall need a better effort and more consistency to beat this team next time we play."

The Tigers hope to redeem themselves against the Kamloops Rattlers on Wednesday night at the Multiplex at 7:30 PM as the battle between the three top teams in the league continues.

Tiger Scoring Summary:
Mitch Schocter(4+2) Brodie Venn(3+1) Kyle Bronson(1+3)
Matt Holte(1+2) Scott Stevens(1+1) Brandon Ditchfield(1+1)
Karl Friesen(1+0) Andy Holte(1+0) Jeff Stairs(1+0) Rob Gray(0+2) Rob Rintoul(0+2) Andrew Hamilton(0+1) Jon Gee(0+1)

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June 5: Tigers Defeat Braves

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers thumped

the Kelowna Braves 19-7 Saturday night at the Multiplex. Led by six-point performances from veterans Andrew Hamilton (5+1), Jeff Stairs (3+3) and Rob Rintoul (2+4), the Tigers improved their league record to 8-2-1. The win keeps the Tigers in second place in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League.

The Tigers got off to a bit of a shaky start but rebounded to establish a first-period lead of 5-2. Game first star Andrew Hamilton scored his first two goals of five on the night. Game third star Rob Rintoul, Tanner Skolrood (1+1), and Brodie Venn (1+1) rounded out the Tiger offence. Cody Mapson (1+0) and Warren Anderson (2+1) replied for the Braves. The Tigers out shot their visitors 21 to 14 in the first period.

The Tigers ran away with the game in the second period, scoring nine times. Jeff Stairs earned the second star of the game with a hat trick. Hamilton added his third and fourth goals. Karl Friesen (1+3), Rintoul, Luke Lecavalier (1+0), and Chris Usselman (1+1) each scored once to open up an insurmountable lead for the Vernon team. Derek Tymofichuk (1+1) and Dave Gibson (1+0) supplied the Kelowna offence. The Tigers out shot the Braves 31 to 8 in the period to build up a 14-4 lead.

In the third period the Tigers scored five more times. Hamilton started off the period with his fifth of the night. Scott Juniper (1+0), Ryan Minchenko (1+1), Kyle Bronson (1+1) and Taylor Grant (1+1) each chipped in a goal. Cory Anderson (1+1), Bill Blanleill (1+0) and Warren Anderson answered for the Braves. Once again, the Tigers out shot the Braves, this time by a 21 to 12 margin. Overall shots on goal were 73 for the Tigers, compared to 34 for the Braves.

Mitch Schocter provided three assists for Vernon. Rob Gray and goalie Jon Gee contributed two assists each. Tyler Plante added one assist in the winning cause. A total of 16 Tigers earned points in the game.

Vernon netminder Jon Gee earned the victory while Kelowna's Graham Turnbull was the victim of the Tigers' 1/2 barrage.

The teams were fairly evenly matched in penalty minutes. The Tigers recorded 18 minutes to 16 for the Rattlers.

Head coach Bill Kirkland is readying his team for two critical games coming up. On June 12th, the Tigers travel to Rutland for an opportunity for the Tigers to gain a share of first place in the league. On the 16th the Tigers host the third-place Kamloops Rattlers at the Multiplex. "These three teams have been close all season," Kirkland said. "We will need to be firing on all cylinders both nights."

Tiger Scoring Summary:
Andrew Hamilton(5+1) Jeff Stairs(3+3) Rob Rintoul(2+4)

Karl Friesen(1+3) Chris Usselman(1+1) Brodie Venn(1+1)
Tanner Skolrood(1+1) Ryan Minchenko(1+1) Kyle
Bronson(1+1) Taylor Grant(1+1) Luke Lecavalier(1+0) Scott
Juniper(1+0) Mitch Schocter(0+3) Rob Gray(0+2) Jon
Gee(0+2) Tyler Plante(0+1)

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May 29: Tigers Defeat Rattlers

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers defeated the Kamloops Rattlers 13-10 in a critical match Saturday night at the Multiplex. The win improves the Tigers' $\frac{1}{2}$ league record to 8-2-1 and gives them sole possession of second place in the league.

The Rattlers opened the scoring with a goal by Sheldon Araki (2+1). However, Tiger Jeff Stairs (4+2) scored twice and Chris Madsen (1+0) added a single to make it 3-1 for the Tigers at the end of the first period.

The Tigers took hold of the game in the second period, scoring eight times. Stairs added two goals, with Matt Holte (2+1) and Kyle Point each also scoring twice. Chris Usselman (2+1) and Andy Holte (1+0) contributed one goal apiece. Mark Jurista (3+2) scored a hat trick for the Rattlers. Two goals from Alex Turner (4+2) and one from Araki kept Kamloops in the game. At the end of the second period, Vernon had built up an 11-7 lead. Tiger captain Rob Rintoul was ejected after taking on Kamloops' $\frac{1}{2}$ tough guy Mike Tremblay.

In the third period the Rattlers actually outscored the Tigers 3-2 but to no avail. Brodie Venn (1+1) and James Grant (1+0) scored to protect the Vernon lead. Rattler sniper Turner added his third and fourth of the night with Shawn Donahue (1+1) adding a single marker.

Rob Gray contributed three assists in the winning cause. Andrew Hamilton and Mitch Schocter had two helpers each, with Rob Rintoul and Karl Friesen providing one assist apiece.

Tiger netminder Glen Clissold was the stronger goalie of the night, turning aside 51 of 61 Kamloops' $\frac{1}{2}$ shots. The Rattlers' $\frac{1}{2}$ Scott Helton faced a total of 68 shots from the Tigers in a fast-paced game.

The teams were fairly evenly matched in penalty minutes. The Tigers recorded 40 minutes to 28 for the Rattlers.

Saturday's $\frac{1}{2}$ s game was an important match for the Tigers as they attempt to narrow the slim gap between themselves and first-place Rutland Raiders. It was a good team effort, with a total of thirteen different players

participating in the scoring. By comparison, just eight Rattlers had points in the game with four players scoring all their goals.

The Tigers' ½ next game is June 5 at the Multiplex when they take on the Kelowna Braves.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Jeff Stairs(4+2) Matt Holte(2+1) Kyle Point(2+1) Chris Usselman(1+2) Brodie Venn(1+1) James Grant(1+0) Andy Holte(1+0) Chris Madsen(1+0) Rob Gray(0+3) Andrew Hamilton(0+2) Mitch Schocter(0+2) Karl Friesen(0+1) Rob Rintoul(0+1)

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May 28: Tigers tangle with Rattlers

by: Morning Star Staff

The Vernon Sun Valley Source For Sports Tigers battle the Kamloops Rattlers in a Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League showdown Saturday night (7:30) at the Multiplex.

The Rattlers beat the Tigers for the first time in three years May 9 in Kamloops.

"They outhustled us," said Tigers GM Rich Zecchel. "They've got a strong team with good goaltending and good defence. They have the lowest goals against in the league and we're second."

"We're looking to be more consistent on defence. Offensively, we're rolling much like last year. We can't be lacklustre against the good teams. We have to play with more determination."

The Rattlers have just one player - Nathan Woldum with (7-12-19) - in the top 20 who use defence for success.

The Tigers, who have had 10 days off to heal some bumps and bruises, are led by captain Rob Rintoul (14-17-31), Andy Holte (6-18-24) and Tanner Skolrood (15-7-22).

The Tigers are 6-2-1, while the Rattlers are 6-1. The Rutland Raiders are alone in first place at 7-1.

The Armstrong Shamrocks 2-7 entertained the Raiders Thursday night. The Rocks host Kamloops next Thursday night.

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May 20: Tigers Tie Dragons

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers tied the Kelowna Dragons 13-13 Thursday night in Rutland. Missing veterans Rob Rintoul, Andrew Hamilton, Jeff Stairs, and Kyle Bronson, the Tigers came from behind to grab the tie,

which gives them a league record of 6-2-1.

The Dragons established an early lead on two goals by Colby Field (2+0) and one from Kevin Lindquist (3+1). Matt Holte (3+1) provided the lone Tiger goal in the first period.

Both teams scored five times in the second period to make it 8-6 in favour of Kelowna. Tanner Skolrood (1+0), Ryan Minchenko (1+0), Brodie Venn (2+2), Chris Madsen (1+1) and Brandon Ditchfield (2+1) provided the Vernon offence. Replying for the Dragons were Lee Zayonce (1+2), Keyvan McPhail (1+), Chris Philips (1+2), Chris Wagner (4+0) and Lindquist.

The Dragons maintained their lead for most of the third period, adding three goals by Wagner and singles from Lindquist and Phil Faasse (1+2). Thanks to some solid effort in the dying minutes and two goals apiece from Matt Holte and Mitch Schocter (2+3) as well as singles from Andy Holte (1+3), Venn and Ditchfield, the Tigers were able to salvage the tie.

Karl Friesen contributed four assists for the Tigers. Taylor Grant added three while Kyle Point provided two. Rob Gray and Luke Lecavalier had one assist apiece. Jon Gee and Glen Clissold shared the netminding duties for the Tigers, while Steve Wiens defended the Dragons' ½ goal. The Tigers recorded 20 penalty minutes, compared to 29 for the Dragons.

The Tigers' ½ next game is not until the 29th of May when they host the Kamloops Rattlers at the Multiplex.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Matt Holte(3+1) Mitch Schocter(2+3) Brodie Venn(2+2)
Brandon Ditchfield(2+1) Andy Holte(1+3) Chris
Madsen(1+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Ryan Minchenko(1+0)
Karl Friesen(0+4) Taylor Grant(0+3) Kyle Point(0+2) Rob
Gray(0+1) Luke Lecavalier(0+1)

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May 18: Tigers Defeat Braves

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers defeated the Kelowna Braves 13-8 Tuesday night in Rutland. The win improves the Tigers' ½ league record to 6-2.

The Braves struck first but that was their last lead of the game. Tanner Skolrood (1+0), Chris Madsen (2+0), Luke Lecavalier (1+2) and Brodie Venn (3+0) scored for the Tigers. The Braves scored once more but the Tigers led 4-2 at the end of the first period.

The Tigers scored six times in the second period but the Braves only managed two goals, making it 10-4 for the Vernon team at the end of the period. Karl Friesen (2+1)

netted two for the Tigers, with Rob Rintoul (1+3), Mitch Schocter (2+1) and Venn accounting for one goal apiece.

In the third period the Braves actually outscored the Tigers 4-3 but to no avail. Venn completed his hat trick while Madsen and Schocter each scored their second of the night.

Jeff Stairs contributed four assists and a fight in the winning cause. Andy Holte added three assists while Rob Gray and Taylor Grant each provided one helper.

The teams were evenly matched in penalty minutes. The Tigers recorded 28 minutes to 27 for the Braves. Tiger goalie Glen Clissold faced 37 shots. The Braves Glen Turnbull was the victim of 49 shots from the Tigers.

The Tigers' next game is Thursday night at the Rutland Arena when they take on the Kelowna Dragons.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Brodie Venn(3+0) Karl Friesen(2+1) Mitch Schocter(2+1)
Chris Madsen(2+0) Rob Rintoul(1+3) Luke Lecavalier(1+2)
Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Chris Evans(1+0) Jeff Stairs(0+4)
Andy Holt(0+3) Taylor Grant(0+1) Rob Gray(0+1)

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May 16: Tigers Split Exhibition Games

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers had an outstanding game Sunday at the Multiplex to even up their exhibition series against the Calgary Junior B Mountaineers. The Vernon team defeated their visitors 9-3 Sunday after losing the Saturday night game 18-11. Tigers' head coach Bill Kirkland termed the series a valuable learning opportunity for his team. We showed great character to bounce back from Saturday's loss and play the way we can. Calgary is a powerhouse in their league and it is very encouraging to see us elevate our play to that level.

The Tigers led Sunday's match from start to finish. Game second star Andrew Hamilton (2+2) opened up the scoring early in the period. Andy Holte (3+0) scored the first of his hat trick while Dan McArthur (1+1) scored the only Calgary goal of the period. Tiger net minder Jon Gee, the game's first star, made 17 saves in the first period.

The Mountaineers kept pace with the Tigers in the second. Game third star Brodie Venn (1+4) and Tanner Skolrood (1+0) scored for Vernon. Steve Sucha (1+0) and Chad Evans (1+1) replied for Calgary to leave the score at 4-3 after two periods.

The Tigers took complete charge in the third period. Hamilton made it 5-3 on a breakaway goal. Holte added two

more while Jeff Stairs (1+1) and Kyle Point (1+0) with an empty-netter sealed the win. Rob Rintoul (0+1), Rob Gray (0+1) and Taylor Grant (0+1) provided assists.

Jon Gee had an outstanding game in goal, allowing just three goals on 46 shots and earning an assist. Calgary net minders Geoff Rainsford and Jordan Pavelich made 26 stops between them on 35 shots. The Tigers earned 15 penalty minutes to the Mountaineers' 16.

Kirkland credited the Sunday win to "good, solid, all round play, from the goal on out." He noted that every aspect of the Tigers' game improved from Saturday's outing, especially ball control and defensive play.

Saturday night, it was a different story. The Tigers found themselves in a 10-6 deficit at the end of a sloppy first period. The high-flying Calgary captain Chad Evans (4+3) scored four times, with teammate Brett Christensen (4+0) earning a hat trick. Cody Ehrhardt (2+3), Steve Sucha (1+1) and Lee Miller (1+1) rounded out the offensive explosion from the Mountaineers. Kyle Point (2+2) potted two for the Tigers. Tiger captain and second game star Rob Rintoul (3+6) added a goal, as did Mitch Schocter (2+1), Tanner Skolrood (1+0) and Taylor Grant (1+0). The Tigers were outshot by 26-18 in the wide-open period.

The Tigers settled down in the second period, matching the Mountaineers goal for goal. Karl Friesen (1+3), Rintoul and Schocter scored for Vernon. Erhardt, Tyler Farmer (1+2) and Dan McArthur (1+3) replied for Calgary to leave the score at 13-9 after two periods. Tiger goalie Glen Clissold faced 20 shots in the second frame.

The Tigers could not hold back the Calgary offence in the third period, allowing another 5 goals. Justin Cyr (1+2), Brian Hardy (1+0), Sean McDonald (1+1), Don Haynes (1+1) and Christensen filled out the scoring for the Mountaineers. Rintoul completed his hat trick and Andrew Hamilton (1+0) added one in a losing cause.

Tigers Rob Gray and Matt Holte provided two assists each, with Clissold, Chris Evans, Ryan Minchenko and Brodie Venn each contributing one helper.

Clissold faced a total of 70 shots in the game, compared to 46 directed at the Mountaineers' Jordan Pavelich. The Tigers recorded 18 penalty minutes; Calgary totaled 38. Erhardt earned himself two five-minute majors and a game misconduct in the final minute as he tried to draw Tiger Matt Holte into a fight.

The Tigers will have little time to regain their energy. They face two road league games this week, both at the Rutland arena. Tuesday night they take on the Kelowna Braves, followed by the Kelowna Dragons Thursday evening.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Saturday:

Rob Rintoul(3+3) Kyle Point(2+2) Mitch Schocter(2+1) Karl Friesen(1+3) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Andrew Hamilton(1+0) Taylor Grant(1+0) Rob Gray(0+2) Matt Holte(0+2) Glen Clissold(0+1) Chris Evans(0+1) Ryan Minchenko(0+1) Brodie Venn(0+1)

Sunday:

Andy Holte(3+0) Andrew Hamilton(2+2) Brodie Venn(1+4) Jeff Stairs(1+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Kyle Point(1+0) Rob Rintoul(0+1) Rob Gray(0+1) Taylor Grant(0+1) Jon Gee(0+1)

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May 12: Tigers Regain Winning Form

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers regained their winning form at the Multiplex Wednesday night. The Tigers defeated the Kelowna Dragons 8-6 to improve their season record to 5-2.

The Tigers got off to a shaky start, falling behind 1-0 on a goal by Dragon Keyvan McPhail (1+0). Game first star Matt Holte (3+0) replied for the Tigers to tie the score at 1-1 by the end of the first period. The Tigers outshot the visitors 20-8 in the first frame but had great difficulty putting the ball past Steve Weins.

The Tigers began to look more like their old selves in the second period as they ran the score to 7-4. Holte rounded out his hat trick while Mitch Schocter (2+1) added a pair and Tanner Skolrood (2+1) and Jeff Stairs (1+0) each scored once. Goals by Joe Brown (1+0), Mike Phillips (1+0) and Danny Richards (1+0) kept the Dragons in the game. The Tigers outshot the Dragons by a 24-17 margin in the period.

The third period was a back-and-forth affair, with goals by the Dragons $\frac{1}{2}$ Phil Fasse (1+0) and Chris Wagner (1+0) making it interesting. However, Tiger netminder Glen Clissold made some key saves and Skolrood scored to help cement the victory.

Kyle Bronson (0+3) turned in his best performance of the season, earning the second star honours for his three assists and gritty defence. Andy Holte added a couple of helpers, with single assists coming from James Grant, Karl Friesen, Rob Rintoul, Christian Madsen, Taylor Grant, Brodie Venn and Glen Clissold. Clissold faced a total of 44 shots compared to the 60 the Tigers unleashed on Dragon netminder Steve Weins.

Tigers $\frac{1}{2}$ coach Bill Kirkland was pleased to get the two points for the win. $\frac{1}{2}$ Glenn Clissold was solid in net tonight and made some game-saving stops in the third

period,½ he said. ½However, we still have a lot of work to do as a team to reach our potential.½

Fans will have an opportunity this weekend to see one of Alberta's best teams in action. The Tigers host Calgary in exhibition play at the Multiplex at 7:00 PM Saturday night. The two teams will square off again on Sunday at 1:00 PM, also at the Multiplex.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Matt Holte(3+0) Tanner Skolrood(2+1) Mitch Schocter(2+1) Jeff Stairs(1+0) Kyle Bronson(0+3) Andy Holte(0+2) James Grant(0+1) Karl Friesen(0+1) Rob Rintoul(0+1) Christian Madsen(0+1) Taylor Grant(0+1) Brodie Venn(0+1) Glen Clissold(0+1)

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May 9: Tigers Lose To Kamloops

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers fell to second place in the league, thanks to an 11-4 loss Sunday night to the Kamloops Rattlers.

The Tigers fell behind 1-0 early in the first period but captain Rob Rintoul (3+0) evened the score soon after. With the Rattlers up 2-1, Andrew Hamilton (1+0) again evened the score. The Rattlers re-established the lead but Rintoul tied the game once more. The Tigers gave up two more at the end of the period to trail 5-3 at the first break. Kamloops's Chris Elliot (2+1) scored twice for the home team, with Nathan Woldum (2+3, Joss Sveinson (1+0) and Craig Mattioli (1+0) providing singles.

The Rattlers outscored the Tigers again in the second period. Rintoul got the lone marker for the Tigers. Jared Emery (1+1), Alex Turner (1+1), and David Reid (2+0) scored for the Rattlers. Rattlers led 8-4 at the end of the second period.

That was pretty well it for the hapless Tigers, who were missing veterans Jeff Stairs, Kyle Point, Matt Holte and Rob Gray. The Rattlers scored three more times to clinch their first victory over the Tigers in three years. Jordan Foster (1+0), Reid and Woldum provided the offence for Kamloops, who are now tied with the Tigers for second place in the league.

John Gee took the loss in net for the Tigers while Scott Helton recorded the victory. The Rattlers outshot the Tigers 60-48. The Rattlers took 20 minutes in penalties, compared to 17 minutes for the Tigers. Karl Friesen assisted on all three Rintoul goals.

The Tigers hope to redeem themselves against the Kelowna Dragons on Wednesday night at the Multiplex at

7:30 PM. They will also plan on being in top form against Calgary for a pair of exhibition games on May 15 and 16.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Rintoul(3+0) Andrew Hamilton(1+0) Karl Friesen(0+3)

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May 5: Tigers Lose To Rutland

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers lost their first game in three years to the Rutland Raiders Wednesday night at the Multiplex by a score of 16-12. With a season record of 4 victories and one loss, the Tigers are now tied with Rutland for first place in the league.

The Tigers came out flat and dug themselves a deep hole in early in the first by giving up three unanswered goals. They fought back on goals by Rob Rintoul (2+2), Mitch Schocter (2+2) and Tanner Skolrood (3+0) but remained on the losing end of 6-3 score at the end of the first period. Jamie Klarenbeek (3+1) and Matt Morris (2+3) each scored twice for Rutland, with Owen Barski (1+0) and Steve Plasko (5+3) each chipping in a single goal.

Things looked better for the Tigers in the first half of the second period. By capitalizing on Raider penalties, the Vernon squad narrowed the gap to one goal, thanks to scoring by Jeff Stairs (2+2), Schocter, Skolrood and Brandon Ditchfield (2+0). However, the Raiders came right back with one goal by Nick Ivan (1+1) and a hat trick from Plasko. The period ended with Rutland leading 10-7.

The Tigers showed some signs of life periodically in the third period, at one point drawing to within two goals of Rutland. However, they just could not quite catch up to the Raiders, who seemed to be firing on all cylinders. Stairs, Rintoul, Skolrood, Ditchfield and Kyle Point (1+0) scored in the losing cause. Plasko, Klarenbeek, Aiden Munson (1+0), Mark MacLennan (1+2), Darcy Leach (1+1) and Tyler Parent all scored for the Raiders.

Glen Clissold took the loss in net for the Tigers while Joey Kwasniewski recorded the victory. The Tigers actually outshot the Raiders by a narrow 74-73 margin. The Raiders took 41 minutes in penalties, compared to 34 minutes for the Tigers.

Andy Holte and Karl Friesen each had two assists, with Kyle Bronson and Glen Clissold providing one helper apiece. Matt Holte provided three helpers before being ejected late in the third period after a vigorous scrap with Raider Cory Davy.

The Tigers' ½ journey to travel to Kamloops on Sunday for their next game. They will host the Kelowna Dragons at

the Multiplex on the 12th.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Tanner Skolrood(3+0) Rob Rintoul(2+2) Jeff Stairs(2+2)
Mitch Schocter(2+2) Brandon Ditchfield(2+0) Kyle
Point(1+0) Matt Holte(0+3) Andy Holte(0+2) Karl
Friesen(0+2) Matt Holte(0+3) Kyle Bronson(0+1) Glen
Clissold(0+1)

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May 2: Tigers Crush Shamrocks

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers cemented their hold on first place in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse league with a convincing 15-4 victory over the Armstrong Shamrocks Saturday night at the Civic. With a 4-0 record this season, the powerhouse Tigers are well on their way to yet another strong season.

It was the underdog Shamrocks who struck first in the game when Jaime Stebbing (2+0) blasted a shot past the Tiger's ½ Jon Gee. The Tigers had a difficult time solving Armstrong netminder Adam Philips, managing just one goal by Rob Rintoul (2+3). The Tigers outshot Armstrong by a wide margin but the first period ended in a 1-1 tie.

The second period was a very different story as the Tiger's ½'s potent offence found its range. By the end of the period, the Tigers had built up a 10-3 lead. Game first star Mitch Schocter (3+2) led the charge with a hat trick. Andy Holte (1+4), Karl Friesen (1+0), Rintoul, and Tyler Venn (1+1) each added singles. Veteran Kyle Bronson (2+1) celebrated his first start of the season with a two-goal period. The Shamrocks were able to score twice thanks to Hudson Rail (1+0) and Dan Stebbings (1+0).

The Tigers dominated the third period as well, scoring five more times. Jeff Stairs (1+0) scored on a dive across the front of the net. Tanner Skolrood (1+2), Rob Gray (1+0), Kyle Point (1+2) and Brodie Venn (1+1) accounted for the rest of the Vernon offence. Newcomer Brodie Venn established the fact that he can handle all aspects of the game, coming out on the winning end of a bout with Armstrong's ½'s Adam Philips. Jaime Stebbings provided the lone Armstrong goal.

Big Jon Gee had a solid game in net for the Tigers, turning back all but four of 4 of the 27 shots he faced. Philips and Darcy Heuver split the duties for the Shamrocks, facing 54 shots between them.

It was a fast-paced game with very few penalties being assessed. The Tigers garnered 15 minutes while the Shamrocks earned a total of 21 minutes.

Tigers' coach Bill Kirkland thought his team showed their strength in the second and third periods. "We got off to a shaky start," he said. "However, we found our stride in the the last two periods and took good advantage of our speed, hands and defence."

Kirkland expects that his team will need to bring all of their many talents to the floor on Wednesday night at the Multiplex. The Tigers take on their perennial rivals, the Rutland Raiders at 7:30 PM. "Judging by past experience, fans can look forward to a tough battle," Kirkland said.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Mitch Schocter(3+2) Rob Rintoul(2+3) Kyle Bronson(2+1)
Andy Holte(1+4) Kyle Point(1+2) Tanner Skolrood(1+2)
Brodie Venn(1+1) Tyler Plante(1+1) Rob Gray(1+0) Karl Friesen(1+0) Jeff Stairs(1+0) Chris Evans(0+1)

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Tigers Pumped For "Home Opener" ...

by: Morning Star Staff

On a night where almost 50 per cent of their shots went in, the Vernon Source For Sports Tigers went into practice mode after building up a comfortable lead.

The Tigers improved to 3-0 with a 22-6 stuffing of the host Kelowna Braves in Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League play Tuesday night at Memorial Arena.

"We dominated so it gave us a chance to work on some plays and improve on some other things we want to improve on," said Tiger GM Rich Zecchel. "We had 15 of 17 players hit the scoresheet and Glenn (Clissold) was solid in net (37 saves) in his debut."

The Tigers, who battle the Armstrong Shamrocks in their home opener Saturday night (7:30) at Civic Arena, got hat-tricks from Jeff Stairs, Tanner Skolrood and Brandon Ditchfield against the Braves.

Andy Holte and Rob Gray each added 2+1, while Andrew Hamilton also scored twice before leaving with a knee injury early in the game. Christian Madsen also joined the injury list with a pulled calf muscle.

Rob Rintoul with 1+4, James Grant with 1+2, Matt Holte, Brody Venn, Kyle Point, Luke Lecavalier and Tyler Plante compled the Tiger offence. Clissold chipped in with two assists.

Jesse Lee and Warren Andersen each scored twice for the Braves, while Jacob Illichmann and Derek Tymofichuk added singles.

The Tigers will hopefully welcome back veteran Kyle

Bronson, who has Junior A experience, to the lineup Saturday night. Bronson has been taking extra shifts at work.

Ryan Minchenko is available for the home opener after serving a three-game suspension for verbal abuse of an official.

After Saturday night, the Tigers will play their remaining eight home games at the Multiplex with six Wednesday games and two Saturday night tilts. Vernon will host the Calgary Junior Mountaineers May 15-16 and host the B.C. Junior B Championships, July 31-Aug. 2.

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April 22: Tigers Win Again

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers out-shot, out-played and out-hustled the Kelowna Dragons en route to their second victory of the 2004 season. Thursday night's 11-7 victory gives the Tigers a perfect 2-0 record this season.

The Tigers had a shaky start, falling behind 1-0 on a goal by the Dragons' Kurt Casavant (1+0) on the first shot of the game. Then the Vernon players settled down. Karl Friesen (1+3), Matt Holte (1+0), Taylor Grant (1+0) and Rob Rintoul (3+2) gave the Tigers the lead. Dragon Lee Zayonce (2+1) scored to make it 4-2 for the Tigers at the end of the first period.

The Tigers doubled the Dragons scoring in the second period as well. Mitch Schocter (1+0), Tanner Skolrood (1+1), Rob Gray (2+1), and Brandon Ditchfield (1+1) provided the offence for the Tigers. Chris Phillips (1+0) and Bart Huth (1+0) replied for the Dragons, who trailed 8-4 at the end of the second frame. The Dragons' Phillips made the mistake of slashing the Tigers' feisty Matt Holte across the face mask and received a bit of a thrashing in return.

The teams each scored three times in the third period. Tiger Captain Rob Rintoul finished off his hat trick with two more goals and Rob Gray added his second of the night. Scoring for the Dragons were Colby Field (1+1) and Keyvan McPhail (1+2). Jon Gee, the Tigers' giant 6 foot 7 inch goaltender, proved not to be so gentle, giving a charging Kevin Lindquist an elbow before wrestling him into submission. Gee got two minors. Lindquist escaped that incident without a penalty but was ejected from the game shortly afterwards when he earned his fifth minor penalty of the match.

The Tigers dominated play throughout most of the game, outshooting the Dragons 66 to 34. The Tigers earned a total

of 32 penalty minutes to the Dragons 53 in what was a relatively clean game.

Tigers Andy Holte and Brodie Venn contributed a pair of assists apiece. Chris Evans and Jon Gee had one helper each.

Tigers' coach Bill Kirkland was happier with his team's play in the second half of the game. "We were a bit disorganized and undisciplined in the early part of the game," he said. "However, we recovered our form in the second half, out shooting the Dragons by a wide margin, dominating loose balls, and using our speed and passing game to better advantage." Kirkland singled out Rob Gray for praise, saying that the defensive specialist had "an outstanding game."

The Tigers' next game is in Kelowna on Tuesday the 27th of April when they take on the Braves.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Rob Rintoul(3+2) Rob Gray(2+1) Karl Friesen(1+3) Brandon Ditchfield(1+1) Tanner Skolrood(1+1) Matt Holte(1+0) Mitch Schocter(1+0) Taylor Grant(1+0) Brodie Venn(0+2) Andy Holte(0+2) Jon Gee(0+1) Chris Evans(0+1)

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April 19: Tigers Win Season Opener

by: Jim Hamilton

The Sun Valley Source for Sports Vernon Tigers started off their 2004 Thompson Okanagan league play the same way they finished last season. The Tigers recorded a convincing 16-6 victory over the South Okanagan Flames in the season opener Monday night in Summerland.

The Tigers asserted their dominance early on, running up a 6-1 lead by the end of the first period. Matt Holte (3+2) led the Tiger offence with two goals, while Andy Holte (2+1), Rob Rintoul (2+2), Tanner Skolrood (3+2) and Andrew Hamilton (2+1) added singles. Kyle Marsh (4+1) accounted for the only tally for the Flames.

The second period was more of the same. Matt Holte completed his hat trick, with Skolrood, Rintoul and Andy Holte each scoring their second goals of the game. Newcomer Brodie Venn (1+0) notched his first goal as a Tiger while veteran Kyle Pointe (1+1) added another for the Vernon team. Tyson Huber (2+2) scored twice for the Flames and Marsh added a singleton to bring the score to 12-4 at the end of two frames.

The Tigers gave up two more goals by Marsh in the third period. In reply, Skolrood rounded out his hat trick, Hamilton scored his second and both Karl Friesen (1+2) and rookie Brandon Ditchfield (1+0) contributed a goal apiece.

Big Jon Gee easily handled the net duties for periods one and two, chipping in two assists in the winning cause. Midget call-up goalie Brodie MacDonald took over for the third period. MacDonald made a stellar debut, stopping several difficult shots as well as stoning two Flames on break-aways and assisting on a Tiger goal. Flames netminder Galon Cenny faced a barrage at the other end of the floor, as the Tigers peppered him with shot after shot.

Rob Gray (0+2) and Luke Lecavalier (0+2) each had two assists, with Taylor Grant (0+1) and Scott Juniper (0+1) providing one helper apiece.

It was a relatively quiet game, with the Tigers serving 40 penalty minutes to the Flames 35.

Tigers' coach Bill Kirkland was very happy with his team's first outing. "We dominated every aspect of the game," he said. "Our power play was impressive, especially for this early in the season. Our penalty kill unit played well and overall we played a strong first game." Kirkland was pleased to see that fifteen different players participated in the scoring, a clear indication of the depth of last year's league champions.

The Tigers' journey to Kelowna Thursday night to take on the Dragons.

Tiger Scoring Summary:

Matt Holte(3+2) Tanner Skolrood(3+2) Rob Rintoul(2+2)
Andy Holte(2+1) Andrew Hamilton(2+1) Karl Friesen(1+2)
Kyle Point(1+1) Brodie Venn(1+0) Brandon Ditchfield(1+0)
Rob Gray(0+2) Luke LeCavalier(0+2) Jon Gee(0+2) Scott Juniper(0+1) Brodie MacDonald(0+1) Taylor Grant(0+1)

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