

2011 Index of Vernon Tigers News Articles

April 29 - [Tigers revamped for 2011](#)
May 04 - [Tigers hold of Shamrocks](#)
May 11 - [Tigers douse Flames](#)
May 18 - [Point sharp as Cats tame Rattlers](#)
May 20 - [Tigers suffer Venom bite](#)
May 27 - [Shamrocks surge in third to brush back Tigers](#)
May 29 - [Tiger offence sputtering](#)
June 4 - [Juniors earn Lacrosseville draw](#)
June 4 - [Tigers vs Flames](#)
June 8 - [Cat offence comes alive](#)
June 15 - [Rattlers top Tigers](#)
June 22 - [Tigers tracking third place](#)
June 26 - [Tigers tamed in Kelowna](#)
June 29 - [Tigers in playoff mode](#)
July 06 - [Tigers torch shortbenched Flames](#)
July 08 - [Tigers advance](#)
July 13 - [Soleway OT winner forces Game 3](#)
July 17 - [Raiders regroup to turn back Tigers](#)

[TOP](#)

July 17, 2011

Raiders regroup to turn back Tigers

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)

Head coach Myles Brumpton called it a warrior's effort.

Missing six regulars to injury and work commitments, the Vernon Re/Max Tigers visited the Kelowna Raiders Thursday night at Memorial Arena, falling 6-5 in a series-deciding Game 3 of their Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League semifinal.

The regular-season champion Raiders advance to the best-of-five league finals, and will host the winner of the Armstrong Shamrocks-Kamloops Venom semifinal for Game 1, Tuesday at Memorial. The Rocks hosted the Venom for Game 3 of their semi Saturday night at Nor-Val Sports Centre.

"It was our game. We were up 2-0 (on goals by Riley Soleway and Cole Lawrie) right out of the gate," said Brumpton.

"For the second game in a row, we really punished them. And once again, it was a great team effort."

Tyler French, who plays with the BCHL Westside Warriors, answered for the Raiders with a deuce later in the first period to tie the game.

Kelowna cranked up the offence in the second frame, scoring three of four goals on clean breakaways. Ryan Phillips, Ryley McLennan, Shawn Hochhausen and Evan Helgesen all found the net for the hosts.

Braden Barr and Connor Payne replied for Vernon.

"They started to figure out our wheel and we didn't adjust," said Brumpton.

Speedy Jay Seaton pulled Vernon within a goal in the third frame, but Kelowna keeper Tanner Belsham (35 saves) shut the door after that. Josh Point recorded 29 stops for the Cats.

"Josh Point played an outstanding game. He figured their shooters out very quickly," said Brumpton.

The Tigers will lose five veterans to graduation – Mitch Steele, Brennan Plante, Joey Klein, Soleway and Darren Kirby.

“I thank the veterans for their leadership and guidance. It is going to help us bring forward a strong work ethic and solid foundation to build on.

“As much as it hurts to lose those guys, we’re going to have a dynamite team next year with the seasoning our rookies had this year.”

[TOP](#)

July 13, 2011

Soleway OT winner forces Game 3

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers rallied from an early deficit to clip the Kelowna Raiders 7-6 in double-overtime in Game 2 of the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League semifinals Monday night at Wesbild Centre.

The Cats’ Riley Soleway, who finished with three goals and an assist, buried the winner on a pick-and-roll, faking low and shooting high early in sudden death, ensuring a series-deciding Game 3 Thursday night in Kelowna.

“I won’t say it’s the best game we’ve played all year, but it was a great game. We just ran them into the ground,” said Tigers’ head coach Myles Brumpton, who celebrated the birth of his third child, daughter Chloey Grace Brumpton, Thursday.

“Defensively, we punished them. Offensively, we just continued to cycle the ball and capitalized on our opportunities.”

Down 3-0 in the first period, the Tigers recomposed themselves and cut the lead to one on goals by Midget call-up Jordan Orr and Soleway before the intermission.

Said Soleway: “We played pretty hard. Our defence was excellent. Our offence was good enough to win.

“They (Raiders) don’t like to lose, so it’s good to see them down sometimes.”

Vernon had to juggle its lineup after Mitch Steele left the game in the first period. He is questionable for Game 3.

“We didn’t get rattled,” said Brumpton, crediting Austin Lewarne for his tenacious two-way play, Soleway for his willingness to take punishment to provide offence and netminder Josh Point for anchoring the Tigers’ defence with a terrific 46-save showing.

“We had some big individual performances, but they were weaved into an overall team effort.”

Singles by Braden Barr and Connor Payne, another call-up, handled Vernon’s second-period attack. Jordan Urban answered for Kelowna to make it 4-4 after 40 minutes.

Goals by Soleway and Kelowna’s Sheldon McDonald kept the score deadlocked after regulation, and in a 10-minute non-sudden death period, singles by Payne (2+1) and Patrick McMillan pushed it to sudden death.

Jay Seaton recorded three helpers for the Tigers, Craig Bigsby had two.

Kelowna netminder Tanner Belsham recorded 47 stops.

In Game 1 Saturday night in Kelowna, the Raiders scored off the opening faceoff and never looked back, cruising to an 11-4 rout.

Tyler French (3+2), Brendan Urban (2+2) and McDonald (2+1) were the main scoring threats for Kelowna. Brennan Plate, Bigsby, Nolan Frame and Steele handled Vernon’s offence.

“Third period was a much closer game, but they didn’t take their foot off the pedal. They wanted to send a message,” said Brumpton.

“We just couldn’t penetrate their defence.”

Lewarne held his own in his first junior lacrosse tilt against veteran scrapper Scott Renner.

[TOP](#)

July 08, 2011

Tigers advance

By Graeme Corbett - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)

The South Okanagan Flames made them work for it, but the Vernon Re/Max Tigers are through to the second round of the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League playoffs.

The Cats outlasted the visiting Flames 9-8 in a controversial double-overtime thriller Wednesday night at Wesbild Centre, sweeping the best-of-three quarterfinal.

In the second, sudden-death OT (the first OT was 10 minutes, non-sudden death), South Okanagan's Nick Kapusty was assessed an unsportsmanlike minor moments after the Flames erupted over what they felt was a non-call on a crease violation in Vernon's zone. On the ensuing powerplay, Craig Bigsby dished a pass down low to Mitch Steel, who recorded the winner at 7:48.

"They were attacking us and trying to get back for defence, but we got it and I just passed one down to Mitch and he buried it. Going through two guys, I was kind of nervous throwing that one," said Bigsby, who ended the night with two goals and an assist.

Bigsby credited the Flames for not rolling over.

"They wanted to win it to put it to three games so we had to come out here firing and they came out and did the exact same thing as us. It was pretty intense."

Vernon will visit the league-leading Kelowna Raiders in Game 1 of the best-of-three semifinal Saturday at Memorial Arena. The Raiders had a first-round playoff bye.

In the other semi, the Armstrong Shamrocks, who also earned a first-round bye, host the Kamloops Venom for Game 1 Monday night (7:30) at Nor-Val Sports Centre.

Wednesday's game was a seesaw affair, with the two teams exchanging the lead changing four times.

Trailing by a goal in the first period, the Tigers' Riley Soleway equalized with the first of his five-goal performance on a terrific solo effort.

South Okanagan went ahead again, but Bigsby, on a nice feed from Nolan Frame, and Soleway, on the powerplay, made it 3-2 Vernon after the first period.

The Flames surged ahead again in the second period on goals by Tyler Berkholtz and Kapusty, only to have Soleway reply with two of his own, the second set up nicely by roadrunner Jay Seaton to give Vernon a 5-4 lead after 40 minutes.

Bigsby, on a strong second effort, extended Vernon's lead in the third frame, but Berkholtz, intercepting a Tiger clearance attempt, and Derek Grimm fired singles to keep the visitors rolling.

Vernon captain Brett Hanna had the Tigers' other third period marker, while Chris Pond forced OT by spinning around a double team to go in on netminder Tyler Landry.

Hanna had to be helped off the floor in the first OT after he took a hard check from Berkholtz at the side of the net.

Vernon tallied first in the extra frame on a 4-on-3 powerplay. Landry made a stellar breakaway save on Quinn Ramsay and the Tigers' transitioned into a 2-on-1 break, capped by Soleway.

Just 28 seconds away from elimination, the Flames pushed it to sudden death on a Chris Johnson goal.

"We did not give South Okanagan a lot of respect, and they made us pay for that. Fifteen runners and they just about beat us," said assistant coach Dave McWhirter, who credited Tigers young guns Seaton, Braden Barr and Darryl Landels for stepping up their game. v "My hat is off to South Okanagan, they could have packed it in and got ready for a summer holiday, and they gave it to us.

“Our guys could have packed it in too, and mentally they didn’t. They showed a lot of heart in a pressure game.

“But we’re at the point now where we’ve got to take advantage of our opportunities. We’ve got to be better against Kelowna; it’s the only way we’ll win.

For Flames’ head coach Tony Ramsay, it was a disappointing way to end the season.

“It’s frustrating to lose that way; to be put down a man and lose in overtime. That’s all I can say, nicely,” said Ramsay.

“We’re a young team, committed and they’re playing for keeps. It’s all you can ask. Put your best on the floor and let the chips fall where they fall.

“We lose a couple to age, but we have a young team so we should be strong next year with a few Midgets coming up.”

[TOP](#)

July 06, 2011

Tigers torch shortbenched Flames

By Graeme Corbett - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers have an opportunity to advance to the second round of the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League playoffs tonight.

The fortunate thing for them is they can do it in front of a home crowd after a scheduling conflict in Penticton left the South Okanagan Flames with no better option than to play Game 2 of the best-of-three series at Wesbild Centre (7:30 p.m.).

If necessary, Game 3 would go Thursday at Civic Arena.

The Cats’ Nolan Frame played setup man Monday night, pocketing a goal and four helpers as Vernon pummeled the shortbenched Flames 10-2 in Game 1 at Wesbild.

“It’s (offence) finally moving. It’s kind of slow still, but there’s always stuff to work on,” said Frame, adding the team focussed mainly on shooting, running picks and its overall play in the offensive zone leading up to this series.

“We have to work at moving the ball faster on the powerplay. Our powerplay was working tonight, but it can always be better.”

Originally, Game 2 was slated for Oliver Arena because the ice is being put in for summer hockey camps in the Flames’ home rink in Penticton, but the Oliver building had problems with the floor.

“It’s definitely a bonus how that came about. Rumour has it we were going to play in Princeton. That would have been a good three-and-a-half hour bus ride for us. They (Flames) could have stuck it to us but they didn’t, so we’re trying to accommodate them as best we can,” said Tigers’ head coach Myles Brumpton.

“This’ll be their arena. We’ll give them home bench if they want it.”

Mitch Steele put the Cats on the board less than two minutes into the first period Monday. Later singles by Craig Bigsby (second star) and Riley Soleway made it 3-0 before Mitch Walton answered for the Flames late in the frame.

Frame set up Midget call-up Jordan Orr for a gorgeous backdoor one-timer eight minutes into the second frame, but Ryan Harms cut Vernon’s lead to two with a goal on a rush at 13:57.

Bayne Bosquet, capping a gorgeous three-way passing play between Jay Seaton and Ryan Oliverius, completed the second period scoring at 18:11.

“Altogether we gelled pretty well and put together a good effort. We had a good mindset coming in here and we were pretty well rested after the week off,” said Bosquet, noting the week-long rest gave injured Tigers Brett Hanna, Riley Soleway and several other key players a chance to get back in the lineup.

Brumpton, who is expecting the birth of his third child any day now, thought the Tigers lacked intensity at the start, but

credited them for coming on strong as the game progressed.

"I think our guys looked across the bench and saw 14 guys and took them a little lightly. Thankfully our goalie (call-up Tyler Landry) kept us in it," he said.

"I'm treating him very similar to Brodie MacDonald (former Tigers' star goalie). He's a first-year Midget and we've had goalie issues all year. It was a last-minute decision and it turned out to be a good decision.

"We asked the guys to buckle down and they did. Our last 10 minutes of the third period was probably our best play of the game."

With the Flames' energy levels waning, Vernon surged in the third period, recording five unanswered goals.

Orr (first star), with his second of the game, Bigsby, with a rocket from the top of the circle, and Frame, taking a nice dish-off from Steele, made it 8-2 before the period was half over.

Soleway, receiving a slick backdoor pass from Bigsby, and Aaron Green, converting on a breakaway with eight seconds to play, completed the offence.

"Looking at them through the handshake, their eyes told me they didn't want to come back here Wednesday night. So if the boys are smart, they put their foot on their throat and close it out (in Game 2)," said Brumpton.

Flames' head coach Tony Ramsay couldn't fault his team's effort in the early going, but knows he'll need a full lineup to have a chance at pushing the series to third game.

"With the short bench the guys played well in the first and second period. As the game wore on, you need a full bench to go a full 60 minutes," said Ramsay.

"Vernon's a good team and you have to have full strength to be able to compete with them."

Meanwhile, in the other TOJLL quarterfinal, the Kamloops Venom swept cross-town rival Kamloops Rattlers in their best-of-three.

The Venom iced the Rattlers 8-7 in overtime in Game 1, and put the series away with a 9-7 win in Game 2 Thursday night at McArthur Island Sports Complex.

They will face the second-place Armstrong Shamrocks in the second round, while the winner of the Vernon-South Okanagan series will advance to meet the first-place Kelowna Raiders in the other semi.

Both the Raiders and Shamrocks earned first-round byes.

[TOP](#)

June 29, 2011

Tigers in playoff mode

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers have until Monday to heal bodies and get their house in order for the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League playoffs.

They have home-floor advantage in a best-of-three quarterfinal series against the South Okanagan Flames of Penticton, starting with Game 1 Monday at Wesbild Centre.

Game 2 goes Wednesday, July 6 at Oliver Arena and, if necessary, Game 3 would be Thursday, July 7 at Civic Arena.

It is an all-Kamloops affair in the other quarterfinal, with the Venom facing Rattlers. Game 1 went Tuesday night, with Games 2 and 3 slated for Thursday and Monday, respectively.

The Cats ended the regular season Saturday night with a 4-3 win over the Venom at Wesbild.

Rookie netminder Tyler Landry, a Grade 9 VSS student, backstopped the Tigers with 48 saves for his first win in his second start (his other one was a tie).

“It says a lot about a young guy who can save a game for you. They fast-broke us but he shut them down again and again,” said Tigers’ offensive coach Dave McWhirter, noting Landry stoned the Venom on half a dozen second-period breakaways.

Joey Klein potted the winner on a 3-on-1 defensive breakout, unleashing a bounce shot with two minutes to play to help Vernon finish at 6-8-1.

Scoreless at the midway point, the Venom (7-7-1) went ahead on goals by Gage Deacon and Ben Saklofsky. Braden Barr and Nolan Frame responded for the Tigers to make it 2-2 after 40 minutes.

Kamloops’ Chase McLeod and Vernon’s Mitch Steele traded goals in the third frame.

The Tigers were without veterans Craig Bigsby, Brett Hanna, Aaron Green and Riley Soleway, but Darren Kirby travelled from his job in Prince George to play his third game (players need to play three regular-season games to qualify for playoffs) and add some poise on the back end.

McWhirter says there is work to do with their preparation, but with the return of some key veterans, he is confident heading into the postseason.

“Second periods have killed us all year, but we get to wipe that all clean and start over. You get a whole new set of fresh opportunities,” he said.

“We’re not looking past South Okanagan, but we would love a chance to knock Kelowna (Raiders) off their perch.”

[TOP](#)

June 26, 2011

Tigers tamed in Kelowna

excerpt from - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)> June 26

Meanwhile, with the TOJLL title well in hand, the 12-2 Kelowna Raiders could have cruised Thursday night, but decided to send a pre-playoff message with a 13-3 shellacking of the Vernon Re/Max Tigers.

With only 15 runners and trailing 11-2 after 40 minutes, Tigers’ assistant coach Dave McWhirter asked his players “to treat it like a 0-0 game and just give it a go.”

They responded by tying the third frame 2-2 and holding the Raiders’ potent powerplay scoreless.

“They stung us for six in the second and our offence just didn’t produce. It was a hot night; we were short guys and banged up,” said McWhirter.

“For a team that’s already won the league, they must have wanted to send a message because they dressed their A squad.”

The Cats (5-8-1) ended the regular season Saturday night against the host Kamloops Venom at Memorial Arena.

Braden Barr, ripping a shot over the Kelowna netminder’s shoulder, and Darryl Landels and Nolan Frame, running hard to the net after some solid cycle play, handled Vernon’s offence.

Jay Seaton and Mitch Steele each supplied two assists.

[TOP](#)

June 22, 2011

Tigers tracking third place

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers’ quest for a third-place finish got a little more difficult after they suffered back-to-back

losses in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League play.

The fourth-place Cats (5-7-1) dropped a couple of close games, falling 7-5 to the first-place Kelowna Raiders Saturday night at Wesbld Centre before bowing 8-7 to the host South Okanagan Flames Monday in Penticton.

Vernon now needs a pair of road wins to lock up third. They visit the Raiders (11-2) Thursday night at Memorial Arena, and end the regular season Saturday in Kamloops against the Venom (7-6-1).

The top two teams get a first-round bye, with the remaining four playing best-of-three series.

The Tigers got off to a solid road start against the 5-9 Flames Monday, getting two goals from Nolan Frame and a single from Midget call-up Jordan Orr, who added another goal in the second period.

“They started fast-breaking us in the second and their goalie (Trent Gabriel) was throwing long bombs all night,” said Tigers’ GM Rich Zecchel.

“We made some adjustments in the third to get guys in front of him, but it was too late by that point.”

Craig Bigsby, with a goal and three helpers, and Riley Soleway also connected for Vernon. Frame and Orr each pocketed two assists. Josh Greenwood, with 2+1, and Quinn Ramsay, with a deuce, were the main threats for South Okanagan.

Tyler Landry took over netminding duties from Josh Point midway through the third period.

The Tigers put on a solid defensive showing against the Raiders Saturday night, but a late penalty swung the game in Kelowna’s favour.

“Tied with two minutes left and we take an untimely penalty and it essentially cost us the game,” said head coach Myles Brumpton.

Defenders Brennan Plante (2+1), Aaron Green and Darryl Landels helped power the Tiger offence with transition goals from the back end. Frame fired the other marker.

“Our defence was the difference in the game. We scored four goals off the transition,” said Brumpton. “It was probably one of the fastest games we have played all year. It was a very pleasing game for fans to watch.”

Meanwhile, the 7-5-2 Armstrong Shamrocks will look to wrap up second place as they entertain the Flames Friday night (7:30) at Nor-Val Sports Centre

[TOP](#)

June 15, 2011

Rattlers top Tigers

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Kamloops Rattlers share last place, but they play their best games against the Vernon Re/Max Tigers.

The Rattlers brushed back the Tigers 11-9 Sunday night at Memorial Arena, beating Vernon for the second time in three Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League meetings this season.

Vernon started the weekend by shading the Kamloops Venom 6-5 Saturday night at the Wesbld Centre.

“We fell asleep in the second period and they scored six,” said Vernon coach Dave McWhirter, of Sunday’s showing. “Mentally, we weren’t tough enough. We shot ourselves in the foot. We weren’t owning the ball and losing our checks on defence.”

Starting goalie Josh Point had to leave the game in the second period when a rivet fell out of his helmet. Midget call-up Tyler Landry was pressed into duty and allowed three goals before finding his groove.

“We threw Tyler to the wolves, but he pulled himself together and knuckled down after those three goals,” said McWhirter, running the bench with head coach Myles Brumpton away.

McWhirter praised Jay Seaton, Craig Bigsby, captain Brett Hanna and Brennan Plante for solid outings.

“The rest of the guys were passengers until the third period,” said McWhirter.

It was 2-2 after one period and 8-5 Rattlers after 40 minutes. The Rattlers went to 3-8, tied with the South Okanagan Flames for sixth spot. Vernon dipped to 5-5-1, tied with the Venom for third.

In Saturday’s tilt, Nolan Frame (2+1) scored the winner with less than two minutes to go on a nice play that was set up on the bench in an attempt to open up Kamloops’ stifling zone defence. Frame leads the Tigers with 13 goals and 33 points.

Cole Lawrie, with 1+3, Riley Soleway and Mitch Steel completed the Tigers’ offence.

Said Brumpton: “The game was a good opportunity for the coaching staff to show the younger players that we can win in any situation, seeing as we led the entire game until about halfway through the third period, when Kamloops went up 5-4, and then the boys had to put on their work boots to take the lead back and then hold on to it for the win in the last few minutes.”

Brumpton was pleased with the Cats’ discipline (two minor penalties) and how they adjusted to a new system implemented just a few weeks ago.

“Brennan Plante delivered some bone- crushing hits in the second and third that left a few of the Kamloops boys wondering if it was really all that necessary (or worth it) to cut through the middle just to score – we noticed more outside shots in the third,” added Brumpton.

Hanna scored the tying goal that began with a great steal on defence.

He then rushed down the floor to bury it with less than five minutes left.

Riley Donahue scored twice for the Venom, who outshot the Tigers 42-35.

Vernon hosts Kelowna Saturday night at Wesbild Centre.

Kelowna leads the circuit with 103 goals after blasting the Flames 11-2 last Thursday night.

Tyler French of the Raiders, who plays hockey for the BCHL Westside Warriors, is the league’s points king with 19-29-48 in nine games.

Brett Hawrys of Armstrong is third with 24-18-42 and Frame is fourth with 20-13-33.

[TOP](#)

June 8, 2011

Cat offence comes alive

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers snapped a five-game winless streak with a 12-4 shellacking of the South Okanagan Flames in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League play Saturday night at Wesbild Centre.

Ahead 3-1 after 20 minutes, the Tigers (4-4-1) exploded for seven goals in the second period to take a commanding lead.

Nolan Frame paced the Tiger assault with a monster eight-point night (3+5), giving Vernon a much-needed boost on offence. Saturday night’s offensive output matched the Tigers’ three previous games combined.

Also chipping in offensively were Mitch Steele, with 2+2, Braden Barr and Riley Soleway, with two goals each, and Jordan Orr, Craig Bigsby and Jay Seaton, each with 1+2.

Derek Grimm was the Flames’ top threat with two goals.

“We were pleased with the win as South OK wanted the win just as badly as we did. The win keeps us in contention to land in the top-two if we carry our weekend work ethic forward,” said head coach Myles Brumpton, who noted his

team's discipline in taking just four penalty minutes.

“As a collective group we worked hard during the week to close the holes in our game which we felt were the contributing factors for our four-game slide. Our defence is now executing as a group (as opposed to) trying to win the individual battles, and they are now beginning to reap the benefits of this transformation.”

Vernon hosts the Kamloops Venom (4-5-1) Saturday at Wesbild.

[TOP](#)

June 4, 2011

Tigers vs Flames

The Tigers, using a 2nd period 7 goal outburst plus, throwing a defensive blanket to smother the Flames' offense, won tonight's game 12-4.

First star honors went to #12 Nolan Frame (3+4), 2nd star #3 Mitch Steele (2+2) and 3rd star went to Cranbrook native #00 goalie Joel Frunchillo (allowing 4 goals on 34 shots).

Other Tigers to get points were #6 Jay Seaton (1+2), #8 Craig Bigsby (1+2), #10 Darrin Kirby (1A), #14 Aaron Green (2A), #45 Braden Barr (2G), #55 Riley Soleway (2G), #67 Brett Hanna (1A) and last but certainly not least #9 Jordan Orr (1+1).

The Tigers will look to continue their winning ways next Saturday June 11 when they take on the defending TOJLL Champion Kamloops Venom. This will be a battle for sole possession of third place in the league. Both the Tigers (4-4-1) and Venom (4-5-1) have earned 9 points a piece.

ROAR! TIGERS, ROAR!

[TOP](#)

June 4, 2011

Juniors earn Lacrosseville draw

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers used a natural hat trick from Braden Barr to salvage a 5-5 draw with the Armstrong Shamrocks in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League play Friday night at Nor-Val Sports Centre.

Playing the opening game of Armstrong's annual Lacrosse Night in Lacrosseville doubleheader, the baby Rocks came out flying, jumping out to an early 3-0 lead. Goals came from Willy Hanley, firing a low shot, Milan Marcetta, with a laser into the top right corner, and Owen Barker, who intercepted an outlet pass on the goal crease and threw the ball into an empty net.

Armstrong then fell into penalty trouble and Barr made them pay, scoring three straight goals, including a buzzer beater, to end the first period 3-3.

“We knew Vernon was going to be hungry for a win after a few losses, and we had our chances but we have to give them credit for hustling for loose balls and controlling the ball in the second period,” said Shamrocks' assistant coach Ryan Nitchie.

Despite being outplayed in the second period, the Shamrocks (5-3-2) managed to keep the game tied on a nice outside shot by Joel Castle.

Jay Seaton, with his first of the season, answered for the Tigers to keep the score deadlocked after two periods.

The Tigers (3-4-1) took the lead in the third period on a goal by Midget call-up sniper Jordan Orr, but Marcetta ripped a hard point shot past netminder Tyler Landry in the dying minutes to equalize.

Landry, who plays first-year Midget, didn't disappoint in his first start for the Tigers, and was exceptional in the third period when the Shamrocks' offence threatened to take over the game.

"He tightened up his game after the (first) three goals and was outstanding," said Vernon head coach Myles Brumpton, likening the Vernon keeper to a young Brodie MacDonald.

Added Brumpton: "Disappointed we only walked away with a tie, but we'll take the point. We closed some holes in our game. I'm proud of the boys for how they played defensively."

He also credited assistant coach Dave McWhirter for revamping the Tiger offence, and had praise for Darren Kirby, calling the Tiger veteran a "floor general" in his season debut.

The Tigers hosted the 3-4 South Okanagan Flames Saturday night, and Armstrong is in Kamloops tonight (7 p.m.) to face the 2-7 Rattlers.

Meanwhile, the North Okanagan Butcher Boys Legends got a buzzer-beater from Liam Drabiuk with 2.7 seconds remaining as they iced the Kamloops Rattlers 7-6 in Midget A2 lacrosse action Thursday night.

The Legends' Jordan Orr, who assisted on Drabiuk's winner, sniped a shoot past the Kamloops goalie, assisted by Jonathan Grant and Jake Thomson, to open the scoring, but the Rattlers answered with two of their own.

Orr scored again while flat on the floor as the Rattler goalie never saw the ball trickle past him.

Kamloops answered once more to end the first period with a 3-2 lead.

The second frame saw Kamloops earn a two-goal cushion before Liam Drabiuk and Mitchell Anderson drew singles for North Okanagan, assists to Dustin Copeland and Sean Connors.

Kamloops jumped ahead again in the third, but Ryan Sarazin pulled the Legends even.

The Rattlers staked another lead, only to watch the Legends' Mike Hanley answer yet again, assisted by Conor Payne.

[TOP](#)

May 29, 2011

Tiger offence sputtering

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

Three up, three down is supposed to be a good thing. At least in baseball it is.

For the Vernon Tigers, it represents three straight wins, followed by three straight losses, to land them mid-pack in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League.

The 3-3 Tiger have posted just seven goals in their last two games, including Wednesday night's 12-4 loss to the league-leading Kelowna Raiders at Memorial Arena.

"Our offence just went flat. We took the second period off and they scored five unanswered goals and that just blew the game open," said Vernon head coach Myles Brumpton.

"They're a team that capitalizes on mistakes. They found holes in our lineup and they used their skill to capitalize."

Mitch Steele, Riley Soleway, Nolan Frame and newcomer Darrel Landels, scoring his third goal in as many games, handled the Tiger attack.

"He has been a nice surprise," said Brumpton of Landels.

Brumpton said another bright spot Wednesday night was the Tigers' short man, which killed off five penalties against a lethal Raider powerplay.

Tyler French, who plays hockey with the BCHL Westside Warriors, led the Kelowna offence with 3+3, and Brendan Urban (KIJHL Revelstoke Grizzlies) supplied 3+1 as the Raiders improved to 7-1.

Brumpton said the Tigers were able to over-whelm the Raiders physically as points, but couldn't sustain the pressure

for 60 minutes. He credited Chris Hamilton for going toe-to-toe with Raider tough guy Scott Renner (BCHLs Powell River Kings).

The Tigers will look to rebound against the last-place Kamloops Rattlers (1-4) tonight (6 p.m.) at McArthur Island Sports Centre.

"We're not about to hit the panic button. We just have to work on a few flaws we've shown in the last few games, our offence being the main one."

[TOP](#)

May 27, 2011

Shamrocks surge in third to brush back Tigers

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Armstrong Shamrocks used a six-goal outburst in the third period to bounce the Vernon Tigers 9-3 in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League play Wednesday night at Wesbild Centre.

Leading 3-2 after 40 minutes, the Shamrocks, now second overall at 3-3-1, used a deuce from Brett Hawrys and singles by Carston Schlaak, Corey Deboer, Cullen Rowan (2+1) and Owen Barker to seal the win.

Hawrys, who finished with three goals, is second overall in league scoring with 18 goals and 10 assists for 28 points in seven games.

"Good first period, we went to sleep a little in the second, and we came out and turned it on in the third," said Armstrong head coach Pat Nelson.

"Our defence played well, our offence was moving and we transitioned the ball well. One of the things we wanted to work on was moving the ball out of our end to give us more time on offence."

At the other end, Tigers' head coach Myles Brumpton credited his team for two periods of solid play, but was far from thrilled with the final frame.

"In the third period we went to sleep and they capitalized on our mistakes," he said. "If recliners were legal on the bench, I would have brought a few in to make sure our guys were comfortable while they took the night off."

After starting the season with three straight wins, the 3-2 Tigers have dropped their last two. Veteran Brennan Plante, who scored in the second period (Craig Bigsby and Darrell Landels had the other Vernon tallies) says it is partially due to a lack of offence.

"We just got into a scoring slump," said Plante, whose older brother, Tyler, plays with the senior Tigers. "Over the last two or three years we've been averaging 10 goals a game, so to score three is unacceptable."

The Rocks' Stephen Ringdal and Barker each finished with a goal and three helpers, and Joel Castle supplied three assists in support of Cole McFarlane (36 saves).

Brumpton pulled netminder Josh Point with eight minutes remaining in the third period. He explained the decision was made to rest his starter for Vernon's Thursday-night tilt against the league-leading Kelowna Raiders (6-1), and to give backup Steve Deshane some floor time.

"There was only so much you can do when the wall comes down in front of you," said Brumpton, of Point's play.

The Shamrocks, who have yet to win at Nor-Val Sports Centre, begin a three-game home stand starting Saturday night against the 2-4-1 Kamloops Venom.

"We seem to be doing a little bit better on the road, but I think things are about to change," said Nelson

[TOP](#)

May 20, 2011

Tigers suffer Venom bite

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers suffered their first setback of the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League season in an 8-7 loss to the Kamloops Venom Wednesday night at Wesbild Centre.

Before they knew it, the 3-1 Tigers were down 3-0 by the 10-minute mark of the first period and struggled to recover.

“We showed up for half the game, and that cost us. We were badly outplayed in the first half,” said Tigers’ head coach Myles Brumpton, who credited Kamloops’ keeper Andrew Copeland (48 saves) for giving his team a chance to win.

“Dropped balls, turnovers and miscommunication in the defensive end definitely cost us some goals.”

Ben Saklofsky, with a pair, and Colten Dunsmore pegged the Venom (2-4-1) to their early lead. Nolan Frame, with his first of two goals, answered for the Tigers later in the period.

Said Tigers’ captain Brett Hanna: “They caught us off-guard early. They got a couple quick ones, but overall we’re still growing. 3-1 is a solid start to any season, and it was only a one-goal game.”

Hanna, a rock-solid defender from Salmon Arm, says it has been an adjustment for some of the rookies to go up against bigger opposition, especially on defence, but he is pleased with their progress.

“You just give them a couple tips to make their lives easier. It’s just a bit different from the minor lacrosse, but they’re adapting well.”

Jerome Thorne’s hat trick accounted for Kamloops’ second-period offence. Vernon countered with singles from Frame, Darrell Landels, playing his first-ever junior game, and Mitch Steel, making his return to the Tiger lineup.

Steel, Riley Soleway and Braden Barr handled the Tigers’ offence in the third period, but Kamloops held on for the win with singles from Gage Deacon and Braden James.

“We’ve got to learn from this loss. We’ll have to take something from this and apply it next time,” said Brumpton.

“There’s a lot of parity in the league this year and (Wednesday) night was a good indication of it.”

The Tigers face a tough challenge next week with three games in five days, starting with a Wednesday showdown against the Armstrong Shamrocks (2-2-1) at Wesbild Centre.

Vernon will visit the league-leading Kelowna Raiders (5-1) Thursday at Memorial and the cellar-dwelling Kamloops Rattlers (1-4) on Sunday, May 29, at McArthur Island Sports Centre.

Regarding Kelowna, who merged with the Rutland Raiders in the off-season, Hanna said: “They’ve become a bit stronger and they’re confident right now, but they also lost to the Rattlers which shows they can be beat.”

[TOP](#)

May 18, 2011

Point sharp as Cats tame Rattlers

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

Nolan Frame exploded for a second-period hat trick as the Vernon Tigers iced the Kamloops Rattlers 10-3 in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League play Saturday night at Wesbild Centre.

The Tigers, backstopped by a 37-save performance by Josh Point, raced out to an early lead on a pair of goals by Riley Soleway.

"We were pleased with the win as the Rattlers were hungry to get their first win of the season and one of our goals heading in was to ensure their first win wasn't against us," said Tigers' head coach Myles Brumpton.

"Defensively, the boys threw up a wall the entire game only allowing two goals in the second and one goal in the

third."

Brumpton said it was a very physical match, with players ejected from both sides and 88 minutes in penalties in total. Special teams factored in Vernon's success as they operated at 85 per cent on the penalty kill and went 50 per cent on the powerplay.

The Tigers, now 3-0, used two more goals from Frame and singles from Matt Kolb, Brendan Plante and Craig Bigsby to close out the game.

The 1-4 Rattlers, who rebounded with a 10-5 win over the Kelowna Raiders Sunday, got offence from Brady Jorgensen (2) and Russ McIntosh.

The Tigers host the Kamloops Venom tonight (7:30 p.m.) at Wesbild Centre.

[TOP](#)

May 11, 2011

Tigers douse Flames

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

Having an undefeated team come into their rink was thought to be a good early-season test for the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League's Vernon Re/Max Tigers.

The home team passed the exam.

The Cats outscored South Okanagan 6-2 in the final 20 minutes to post a convincing 13-7 win over the Flames Saturday night at Wesbild Centre.

"We were pleased with the win as South OK was undefeated coming into our barn on Saturday night and the coaches felt it was a good test for us early in the season," said head coach Myles Brumpton.

"Going into the third we shortened our bench in the attempt to open the game up (it was 7-5 Tigers after 40 minutes), and the outcome was exactly what we were after as the boys improvised their play on the floor, when required,

"The team showed serious grit and determination the entire game, and as a collective group, the coaches are very reassured in our group as we feel it speaks volumes about the integrity and type of character that we have on our bench."

Defensively, Brumpton said the Tigers as a unit responded well to their checking assignments and kept South Okanagan's big guns to the outside for the majority of the game.

Of particular note, Brett Hanna (very strong on the penalty kill), Jake Soleway, Joey Klein (great on the PK as well) and Chris Hamilton all played like tanks as they stapled more than a few bodies to the boards and floor.

Brumpton said the tough defensive play really deterred penetration through the middle for the second half of the game.

"The team is continuing to adapt positively to the new systems the coaching staff have implemented," said Brumpton.

"We tweaked their play on the bench (during the game) and they made great strides in adjusting on the fly."

Riley Soleway led the Vernon offence with five goals and an assist while Craig Bigsby chipped in 3+3. Rookie Jay Seaton was a set-up artist, dishing out five assists.

Brennan Plante was strong at both ends of the floor, chipping in 2+1 on offence, and solid D and an aggressive forecheck.

Special teams was one of the keys to the Tigers' win as they took 10 penalties and the penalty kill operated at 70 per cent efficiency. The powerplay converted on 55 per cent of their opportunities.

The 2-0 Tigers host the winless Kamloops Rattlers (0-3) Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesbild Centre.

The 0-2-1 Armstrong Shamrocks visit the 1-1-2 Kamloops Venom Saturday night

[TOP](#)

May 04, 2011

Tigers hold of Shamrocks

By Staff - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

Like most season openers, it featured plenty of holes, turnovers and sloppy play.

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers will take the two points, pick up the pace in practice and move forward in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League.

Veteran Nolan Frame scored four times, including the winner on a hard, outside shot with two minutes remaining, as the Tigers outlasted the rookie-laden Armstrong Shamrocks 10-9 Saturday night at the Wesbild Centre.

The Shamrocks went into Memorial Arena for a Sunday matinee and pocketed a 3-3 draw with the defending champion Venom.

Vernon coach Myles Brumpton said his staff was impressed with the Tigers' discipline as both clubs took just four minor penalties.

"It allows for less fatigued special teams players and provides a better overall flow to the game by getting everyone into their groove," said Brumpton. "Dave (coach McWhirter) and I were very impressed with the composure that the entire team showed on the bench and on the floor as it was basically a one-goal or tied game from buzzer-to-buzzer."

Craig Bigsby, with 1+3, Brennan Plante, with 1+2, Riley Soleway and captain Brett Hanna rounded out the Tigers' scoring. Braden Barr earned three assists and Cranbrook product Joel Fruncillo went the distance in net.

"Offensively Nolan Frame had his stick dialed in and basically he had a hand in on the balance of our goals," said Brumpton. "Defensively, Brett Hanna had a strong performance with a couple of end-to-end rushes that helped towards the overall outcome of the game. Hats off to Jake Soleway for just stepping away from two weeks of intense exams at UBC to stepping on the floor and being a defensive anchor for us."

Armstrong captain Milan Marcetta opened the scoring in the first minute, burying a hard shot top corner. It was 4-2 after one.

The Shamrocks battled back in the second period with rookie sensation Brett Hawrys notching his first of five goals on the night, one a beauty as he lept over Fruncillo. It was 6-5 Cats after two.

Armstrong equalized on a flutterball by Hawrys late in the period before Frame's winner.

"We played well for our first-ever league game, said Rocks' head coach Pat Nelson. "There was a bit of nerves that played a factor but we settled down midway through the game and really gave them a great game."

Joel Castle and Owen Barker also scored for Armstrong, who got two helpers each from Hawrys, Stephen Ringdal and Kai Boudreau.

In Kamloops, the game was a see-saw affair with spectacular goaltending and stellar, tight defence.

The Junior Rocks were down 2-0 after one period, but they came out flying in the second period and finally potted their first of the night on an inside shake-n-bake by Hawrys.

Ringdal scored his first of the year on an laser outside shot to tie it 2-2 going into the break. In the third period, the Shamrocks' defence was superb and their shortman special teams and goalie Cole MacFarlane were awesome, stuffing the Venom potent powerplay. Rookie right hander Willy Hanley rolled out of his crease position on the powerplay and ripped a low shot for the equalizer.

"We really played our hearts out in that game and our defence was huge," said Nelson. "The Venom are an older and more experienced team and we played them straight up all game. We had a load of chances to score but their goalie was hot, as was ours, and we really earned the tie, and to do it in back to back games against two of the tougher teams in the league, I was really proud of our team"

The Junior Rocks' home opener is Thursday, 7 p.m., against the Kelowna Raiders at the Nor-Val Sports Centre. The Tigers entertain the South Okanagan Flames Saturday, 7:30, Wesbild.

[TOP](#)

April 29, 2011

Tigers revamped for 2011

By Kevin Mitchell - [The Vernon MorningStar Newspaper](#)>

They are still auditioning goaltenders, waiting for a few veterans to finish university courses and have already listed two players on injury reserve.

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers, however, will have 18 runners ready to go full tilt in their Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League opener versus the Armstrong Shamrocks Saturday night at Wesbild Centre.

Last year's co-coaches Rich Zecchel and Bryan Klein have stepped aside with Zecchel serving as president and GM. In as head coach is Myles Brumpton, the team's bench boss in 2007-08.

"I've really got to thank Bryan and Rich for leaving the team with a winning record and winning attitude," said Brumpton, a 43-year-old with senior A playing experience with Coquitlam Adanacs, Vancouver Burrards and Brampton Excelsiors.

"It's all new systems and coaches so it's a 180 for these guys, but they're smart and willing to learn. I wanted to come back and finish what I started with these guys. It's in my blood."

The Tigers will sorely miss captain Rob Short, goalie Josh Phillips, rock-solid Blake Lewis and rugged Braidy Webb, who all aged out except for Phillips, but Brumpton said Vernon will have a good mix of youth and veterans.

"Those veterans have left a good foundation, much like the Vipers do each year. I'm so impressed with that organization."

Brumpton, who was blessed with major ball handling skill as a player, will get plenty of help behind the bench. Assistants Dave McWhirter, Rob Johnson and Tom Frame all bring years of junior A, senior A and NCAA field lacrosse experience, or what Brumpton calls a "high lacrosse IQ."

The Tigers, who won a provincial silver medal in 2009 and fell to the Kamloops Venom in a heated league final last year, will score by committee but should get consistent offence from roadrunner Bayne Bosquet (out with sprained ankle), Brooks Christensen and Riley Soleway.

Jay Seaton, a field lacrosse star, Braden Barr and Colton Hanley have made the Tigers after sparking Vernon to the B.C. Midget A2 gold medal last year. Mitch Steel, Brumpton's nephew, has joined the Tigers after a year with the Shamrocks.

Veteran Brett Hanna, a Salmon Arm product, will be the Cats' captain.

"We polled the players and then made our decision," said Brumpton, an executive at Okanagan Spring Brewery. "He's kind of like Jonathan Toews (NHL Blackhawks). He's a quiet leader who leads by example, but he's not afraid to speak up. He oozes leadership qualities."

The alternate captains, who Brumpton describes as "key quality guys", are Joey Klein, Craig Bigsby, Brennan Plante and Jake Soleway.

Field lacrosse ace Ryan Landels is at a junior A camp in Edmonton, while Phillips is pegged to play junior A in Coquitlam.

Jake Soleway, who is studying at UBC in Vancouver, is expected to play Saturday. Veteran Miles Jespersen, in the commerce program at the University of Victoria, is doubtful.

Other returnees include Darren Kirby, Nolan Frame, Ryan Oliverius, Austin Lewarne and Matt Kolb. Cole Lawrie, a lefty who separated his shoulder in a fight during the Armstrong Ice Breaker, will be out for a few weeks.

Highly athletic Chris Hamilton, a lefty, is learning the game on the fly in his first year of lacrosse.

Josh Point, who backed up Phillips last season, is in a three-way net detective battle with imports from Cranbrook and Prince George.

The Tigers will play a 15-game schedule in the six-team loop. The Kelowna Warriors and Rutland Raiders have merged and will be known as the Kelowna Raiders.

The provincials are the August long weekend in Kamloops.

[TOP](#)
