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Oct 23 Tigers Take Home Awards

by Nicole Berg

Vernon Tigers captain Chris Evans repeated as Most Valuable Player as the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse team held their year-end banquet.

Assistant coach Rob Johnson praised Evans on a hard played season. "Chris has an unreal work ethic and never quits. He has tremendous leadership which is why he was captain this year and likely will be again next year."

A 20 year old Winfield product, Evans has provided extreme dedication and leadership on the floor. He will be entering his last season with the Tigers next year and will be looked upon to continue his role.

Fourth year veteran Mitch Schochter finally got his chance to shine as he was honoured as the team's Top Scorer.

Schochter, a Winfield product, who finished 37-40-77 this season, said: "It felt good to win the top scorer because for the last two years Rob Rintoul (last year's graduating player) beat me each year by just a couple points, so it was nice to finally win."

On Schochter's outstanding season Johnson said: "Mitch had a good season. He is a leader on and off the floor. He got chosen to play in the Founders Cup with Kamloops and had a good run. He proves every year he is one of the best players and will continue to grow and mature more."

Tanner Skolrood who was beaten by Schochter by just two points for the top point getter, won the always important Coaches Choice Award.

"It was an honour to get this award," said the 18 year old Vernon product. "It is one that is more meaningful to me because it was the award the coaches choose as their favourite player and they felt you must have played a pretty good season to earn this award."

"Tanner absolutely impressed me this season," added Johnson. He has an excellent work ethic and we feel comfortable with him playing offense or defense at either end of the floor. At the beginning of training camp this year I really got to know him as an individual and player. He is a very nice young man who deserved this award."

Ryan Minchenko who plays a gritty in your face player role was recognized for his defensive efforts as the team's Unsung Hero.

"It felt good to win and to be on the team for the season. Being back on defense your play would usually go unnoticed so I'm glad to win this award," said Minchenko, an 19 year old Vernon native.

Michael Miller who played his first ever season of lacrosse last year, greatly improved from the beginning of the year to be labeled as the team's Most Improved Player.

"Coming from a basketball background, this was Mike's first season ever playing lacrosse," head coach Jim Point elaborated on the rookie. "He was thrown into the defensive system early being teamed up with Ryan. From the start he really picked up his game and his skills improved."

The team's first ever Rookie of the Year award was presented to Tim Gutwald. Gutwald, a 17 year old from Castlegar, started his first season with the Tigers after coming out of midget. He finished the season with eight points.

The Tigers will be opening a Winter Lacrosse Development Camp beginning in early November at the Hassen Arena in Armstrong every Wednesday night at 6:00pm.

The camp will be open to all current and graduated midget players who reside in the Vernon area. The camp will be designed around skills and strategies, technical game and scrimmage. Pre register space is limited. Call the Tigers' ½ General Manager Rich Zecchel at 542-9445 for more information.

****Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League notes****

-There are talks about a second team opening up in Kamloops. 50 midgets graduated from the Kamloops system this year and are anxiously awaiting approval of a second team in the area to start up. -There will be a TOJLL League GM meeting Wednesday, November 23 (7:00pm) at the Village Green Inn in Vernon to discuss the upcoming lacrosse season, tighten up on fighting infractions, and other possible rule changes. Everyone is welcome.

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July 12 Raiders sweep Tigers

by Nicole Berg

The Rutland Raiders stopped the Vernon Source for Sports Tigers' ½ hunt for the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League championship Tuesday night at the Multiplex. The Raiders slashed the Tigers 20-10.

With the regular season champions Kamloops Rattlers stuffing the South Okanagan Flames in two straight games, for the second year in a row the Raiders will face off against the Rattlers for the TOJLL championship.

"It was a tough loss," said Tigers' ½ assistant coach Rob Johnson. "We were out hustled, took dumb penalties and had some mental defensive lapses. The goalies faced a tough night with a lot of shots (56), and didn't really have their best showing. But overall the tenders played better than I expected."

The Raiders who started the game's scoring and never looked back, got a marker from Vic Wiens (1+1) 1:54 into the contest. The Tigers evened the score a few minutes later on a powerplay marker from third star Mitch Schochter (3+2). Kyle Tomiye (4+1) and second star Geoff Wray (6+1) on the powerplay, clicked to put the Raiders ahead by three, before Schochter answered back with his second on a breakaway opportunity. First star Kyle MacLennan (1+9) scored a nice goal that went over Vernon starter Jon Holmes's shoulder and into the net. Minutes later, the Tigers scored a highlight-reel goal as Karl Friesen (4A) who had broken free from a mad scramble in the Tigers' zone, spotted Andy Holte (2G) running off the bench and fed him a nice pass. On the first chance he got, Holte blasted a hard shot that got past Raiders' starter Cam Needham (40 saves) to pull within one goal. After the goal, the Tigers ran into penalty trouble as Ryan Minchenko (1A) was assessed a five minute major for charging. The Raiders took advantage of Vernon's penalty situation, as Tyler Parrent (1+5) scored to pad Rutland's lead to 5-3, to end the first period.

To begin the second, Vernon's Jeff Stairs (2+1) was penalized for a cross checking minor that he received at the end of the first period. Wray added to the Raiders' lead on the Stairs penalty with a quick goal coming off the face-off, which resulted in Holmes being pulled in relief of Midget back-up Brodie MacDonald. Tyler Plante (1+1) brought the Tigers back into the game with a nice breakaway goal, just 16 seconds before Mark MacLennan (2+2), Darcy Leach, and Aiden Munson (3G) on a shorthanded breakaway goal clicked to go ahead 10-4. Tanner Skolrood (2+2) scored two unanswered powerplay goals before Brody Daft and Wray punished the Tigers again with two more straight shorthanded markers to increase their lead to 12-6 after the second.

Despite a quick goal from Stairs 20 seconds into the third, the Raiders got right back into the game with two straight goals from Wray on the powerplay and another breakaway goal by Munson 52 seconds apart; which resulted in MacDonald being replaced by Holmes. After the goalie change Vernon cashed in with three goals, with the first coming from Schochter who pocketed his third goal of the night. Holte and Stairs also contributed by scoring 13 seconds apart. However that was the end of any more Tiger goals on the night, as the Raiders exploded with six of their own. Wray with his sixth marker of the night got the scoring going, which was followed by a goal from Munson where the initial shot Holmes saved, but Munson caught the rebound which trickled in behind Holmes. Three straight from Tomiye including one shorthanded, and MacLennan on the powerplay, rounded out the Raiders' attack.

On his first season coaching with the Tigers Johnson said: "I really enjoyed it and learned a lot. I was pretty blessed when Bill (Kirkland) came back behind the bench to help coaching. Overall it was a great learning experience for me."

Head coach Jim Point added: "We believe the core group to be back for next season. There was some hard lessons learned from the early exit. We will be better next year."

On his last season with the Tigers due to age restrictions (the maximum age in the league is 21 years), Holmes said: "It was roller coaster ride this season. At times I doubted the team in the beginning. But we came together to be great near the end. Our record this season didn't show our full potential. I will miss everyone and I had no regrets playing for the Tigers this season."

Point added on the goalie situation next year, "Brodie will be prepared to fill in for Jon next season. Jon played his role well this year and we'll be excited to see Brodie in goal next season as our number one goalie."

Tigers scoring summary:

Andy Holte (2+0) Jeff Stairs (2+1) Karl Friesen (0+4) Mitch Schochter (3+2) Tanner Skolrood (2+2) Ryan Minchenko (0+1) Tyler Plante (1+1) Kyle Whieldon (0+1)

Playoffs, Game 1: July 09 Cats Drop Playoff Opener

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers dropped game one of their best of three playoff series 12-10 against the Rutland Raiders Saturday night at the Memorial Arena in Kelowna.

The Tigers entertain the Raiders Tuesday night at the Multiplex (7:30) hoping for a win and force a game three back in Kelowna Thursday.

"Our wheels just fell off," assistant coach Rob Johnson simply said. "We had terrible discipline, the vets didn't show up to play at all, we didn't have good hustle and we played sloppy on the loose balls."

The Raiders struck first in the game 4:48 in as Aiden Munson (3+0) broke in alone shorthanded on starter Jon Holmes. The Tigers promptly replied back with a powerplay marker from Mitch Schochter (1+3) a minute later. Travis Lee (1+1) who was a thorn in the Tigers' side all night, got a goal with 7:06 remaining in the period to go up 2-1 after the first.

The Tigers played a much better second period out hustling the Raiders. In the dying seconds of the 30 second shot clock, Tanner Skolrood (2+4) tied the game with a powerplay marker. Tyler Parrent (2+1) put Rutland in front again with a quick shot to the top corner, before Geoff Wray (2+3) added to the lead with a powerplay goal less than a minute later. The Tigers then exploded with four straight goals of their own, with the first coming from Karl Friesen (2+2) on the powerplay. Shortly after, Jeff Stairs (0+3) who made his debut back from an upper body injury he suffered mid way through the season, intercepted the ball from a Raider defender and passed it to Friesen who made no mistake with a hard shot. Skolrood soon after pocketed his second goal of the game on a nice steal. Andy Holte (3+0) put the Tigers up 6-4, before Munson brought his Raiders within one goal with just 18 seconds remaining in the second period.

Chris Evans increased the Cats' lead by two more goals to begin the third, as he scored both goals in just 29 seconds, with the second goal coming on a breakaway opportunity.

From that point on, the Tigers seemed to fall asleep and let the Raiders back into the game as they stopped fighting for loose balls and staying on the man.

"We didn't seem to finish off the game in the last period," said Tigers' assistant coach Bill Kirkland. "We just became too individual. If we kept on fighting for the loose balls and not have given up, we may of had a chance to win."

Kyle Tomiye (1+1) scored on a low shot that was followed by a goal from Kyle MacLennan (2+3) on the powerplay. Holte added a goal before Jared MacLennan added a powerplay marker and Wray pocketed his second goal of the game. MacLennan broke in alone shorthanded less than a minute later where he padded the Raiders lead to 11-9. Seven seconds after MacLennan's goal, the Tigers called a timeout. Pulling Holmes for the extra attacker while on the powerplay, their plan worked against them as Munson punished the Tigers once again as he scored shorthanded into the empty net. Holte scored his hat trick in a mad scramble with just a second remaining in the game but it just wasn't enough as the Raiders held on for the win to take a one game lead in the best of three series.

Holmes who saw many Raiders coming in alone at him full force, stopped many of their breakaway opportunities and finished the night with a spectacular 50 saves.

"Jon played well tonight. It seems the defense doesn't want to help him out though and just play proper defense in front of him," said Johnson.

At the other end of the floor, Rutland's starter Cam Needham was equally as busy stopping 42 Tiger shots.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (2+0) Andy Holte (3+0) Jeff Stairs (0+3) Karl Friesen (2+2) Mitch Schochter (1+3)
Tanner Skolrood (2+4) Josh Taylor (0+1)

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July 10 Tigers primed for Rutland

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon source for sports Tigers' began their playoff drive Saturday night when they squared off against the Rutland Raiders.

The Tigers are coming off a third-place finish in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League standings with a record of 10-7-1. The Raiders finished at 14-4, two of those losses coming against the Tigers.

The Raiders hosted game one Saturday night, while the series shifts to Vernon for game two Tuesday (7:30) at the Multiplex. If needed, game three would go Thursday night back in Kelowna.

In other playoff action, the first-place Kamloops Rattlers (15-2-1) will battle the fourth-place South Okanagan Flames (8-10).

"The series against Rutland will be tight. Both teams will be prepared to advance to the finals. Our goal is to be disciplined and take no penalties." said Tigers' head coach Jim Point.

Assistant coach Rob Johnson added: "We've had our good and bad games this season. The guys have come a long way since the first couple games of the year. The playoffs are a whole new season. We could be done Tuesday or keep going on. Rutland's going to come out full of energy. They're a talented squad."

On the standout players this year Point said: "Ryan (Minchenko) was great on defense. Chris Evans, our captain, is always a very good leader on the floor and in the dressing room. Mitch (Schochter) has been a real team leader and role model to the team this year. Tanner (Skolrood) and Mitch are always good in big games like the playoffs. Chris and Ryan will both be factors on defense."

Added Johnson: "This season I was really impressed with Tanners' play and the rookies have learned a lot. The goalies Jon Holmes and Brodie MacDonald both played good games this year. As a Midget player, Brodie has really developed this season and will only get better."

For the Tigers to have a good series against the Raiders, Johnson believes it all starts with the goaltending.

"We need to take care of the basics by dominating and shutting them down. If we do that then the goals will come."

Point and Johnson are both hopeful Jeff Stairs will be back for the playoffs from an upper body injury he suffered a month ago. Todd Currie who finished third in the teams scoring with 69 points, will not be suiting up for the battle against Rutland.

"Todd suffered a knee injury a few games ago and won't be healthy enough to go Saturday." said Point.

Luke Lecavalier injured his back a couple games ago and also won't be taking part in the playoffs.

Schochter who will be suiting up for his fourth and final year as a Tiger next season, had a phenomenal year finishing first in scoring with 76 points, just one point ahead of Skolrood.

"We played pretty good this season despite the rough start. We've been coming together near the end of the season for the playoffs. Everybody's contributed and stepped up to the plate. Jon had a great season in net. Tanner and Todd had an awesome season too. If we play Rutland like we have in the past couple games where we beat them, we should do good against them in the playoffs."

A Kelowna native, Schochter has been playing lacrosse since the age of 13. His younger brother Jordie also plays and is in his rookie season with the basement dwelling Kelowna Braves.

"I got into the game from Andy's (Holte, fellow teammate) dad. He coached for the Tigers a couple years ago."

Schochter says he hopes to keep playing lacrosse in the future at a higher level after he grads from the Tigers or become a firefighter.

Outside of lacrosse Schochter enjoys hockey which he has played since the young age of four. In his spare time he works in construction and volunteers at the local fire hall. In his spare time he likes camping, fishing and windsurfing.

Skolrood who has been playing lacrosse for 12 years and his third with the Tigers this season, had nothing but good things to say about the team this season.

"Mitch had a tremendous year. Jon has really stepped up since last season. Todd came to us from Saskatchewan this year where he was the leading scorer for his team. As well, all the rookies came up to play at a higher level."

Agreeing with his coaches Skolrood believes that in order to beat the Raiders, the Tigers will need to stay out of penalty trouble and play a smart game.

"They're an aggressive team. If we play smart by keeping out of the penalty box and just play good lacrosse, we'll be able to pull a huge upset. We should get a good game out of Jon, and Brodie will come out strong if needed. The defensive core will shine and shut down their offense. We'll use our offense to our advantage.

Skolrood who was born in Regina, moved to Vernon when he was four. His dad Lawrie played in the CFL for the Saskatchewan Roughriders for 14 years and retired when Skolrood was one year old.

Other than lacrosse, Skolrood enjoys football and beach volleyball. In his spare time he likes hanging out with friends and working on his truck.

In the future Skolrood hopes to continue playing lacrosse at a higher level or go to college and study fine arts like drawing or photography and go into the trades.

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June 30 Tigers dust off Shamrocks

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers wrapped up their 2005 regular season on a positive note, as they held off the Armstrong Shamrocks for a 10-7 win in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse

League Action Thursday night at the Hassan Arena.

The playoffs begin next Saturday with the second place Rutland Raiders (14-4) hosting the third place Tigers (10-7-1). The Cats host the Raiders Tuesday night at the Multiplex and if needed game three goes Thursday, July 14 back in Rutland. In other action the powerhouse Kamloops Rattlers (15-2-1) will tangle with the fourth seed South Okanagan Flames (7-9). The Flames still have one more game to play.

Despite the win, Tigers' assistant coach Rob Johnson wasn't too happy with the outcome of the game. "We played an undisciplined game. There was lack of effort and we had no drive."

With seven players out due to injury or work commitments, the Tigers called up two midget players Robbie Short and Brady Webb.

"The two call-ups played phenomenal. Short scored two goals and Webb also played well and added an assist. Chris Evans played awesome. He gives a 150% hustle every game. Jon (Holmes) played well in net. He made a couple good saves. Overall the team didn't have much hustle or movement," added Johnson.

First star Mitch Schochter (4+1) opened the game's scoring 7:24 into the first period with a powerplay marker. Just six seconds later Michael Miller (1+1) pocketed his first goal of the season. Schochter padded the Tigers' lead to 3-0 with another powerplay goal. Third star Thomas Belanger (2+2) and Jordy Willing (2+2) clicked to bring the Shamrocks within one goal 13 seconds after Schochter's goal. Schochter cashed in with his third powerplay goal of the period on a low hard shot to put the Tigers up 4-2 after the first period. Armstrong outshot Vernon 16-13.

The Shamrocks hit the scoreboard first in the second period with Belanger connecting on the powerplay. 24 seconds later Shawn Strohm scored to tie the game at four. Things went from bad to worse for the Tigers when Miller slammed a Shamrock defender into the boards that resulted in Miller being docked five minutes for boarding. Ryan Minchenko handed the Rocks a chance to go ahead as he also received a penalty shortly after. Instead of making something happen with the two-man advantage, Evans surprised everyone as broke in alone and scored on starter Adam Phillips to go ahead 5-4. The Cats enjoyed two straight goals coming from Steven Clark (1+2) on a nice pass from Andy Holte (0+3), and Josh Taylor scored on the powerplay in the dying seconds on the 30 second shot clock. Armstrong got back into the game with two late goals in the period coming from Cody Burt on a beautiful backhand goal and Jeremy Meredith with 35 seconds remaining to come within one goal at 7-6.

Just a couple minutes into the third frame, Vernon's head coach Jim Point was tossed from the game. Armstrong's assistant coach Ryan Williamson was also ejected from the game in the second period. Short (2+1) scored on the powerplay shortly after Point was kicked out. Schochter scored a highlight goal after Tanner Skolrood (0+3) had gone to the net deking out Phillips and finally shooting the ball but came up empty. Schochter scooped up the loose ball and made no mistake with a nice goal. Short scored unassisted before Willing came in alone on Holmes and scored through the five hole.

Holmes who was named second star, stopped 38 Shamrock shots while Phillips recorded 27 saves.

Said Schochter: "We played with good effort but there will be a few things to work on for the next game. While we played undisciplined the other team capitalized. The two midget call-ups played great. Jon played a great game between the pipes. The series against the Raiders will be tough. But if we battle hard we'll come out on top."

Holmes added: "We're happy to get the two points. This effort isn't good for playoffs. We will need better effort next game. The call-ups played excellent. The penalties tonight were out of control. For the playoffs we need to avoid Rutland's hits and play a skilled game. We got to

move on from this game and play better next time."

For the playoffs, Johnson said: "It should be good playoff lacrosse. It's a whole new season. Rutland will be a big test. We'll have to come out full of effort and grind. Hopefully we'll have everyone come out to practice and be healthy for the next game."

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (1+0) Andy Holte (0+3) Mitch Schochter (4+1) Tanner Skolrood (0+3) Josh Taylor (1+0) Steven Clark (1+2) Michael Miller (1+1) Brady Webb (0+1) Robbie Short (2+1)

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June 26 Tigers hand Rattlers first place

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers were mauled 25-8 Sunday night in Kamloops. With the win, the Rattlers clinched first place in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League standings. Kamloops beat Vernon in the season series 2-0-1.

The Rattlers will now face the fourth place team: either the South Okanagan Flames or Armstrong Shamrocks (fourth place is still undetermined) and the third place Tigers will face off against the second place Rutland Raiders.

The Cats wrap up their 2005 regular season Thursday night in Armstrong.

Both teams scored four powerplay goals, with the Rattlers enjoying three extra shorthanded markers.

Kamloops got off to a fast start with Mark Jurista (4+5) scoring shorthanded just a couple minutes into the game. Brett Baker (2+2) got a goal before Vernon scored their only goal of the period coming on the powerplay from Andy Holte (2+2). Kamloops scored seven straight goals coming from: Shawn Donahue (1+4) with a wraparound goal, Alex Turner (6+5), A.J. Lockwood (1+3), Kiel Donahue (1+3), two powerplay markers coming from Nathan Woldum (3+6) and Jurista on a fluke goal, as a Tiger defender tried to block the ball with his stick but the ball glanced off and trickled into the net. Jared Emery (3+4) scored with just 23 seconds remaining in the period to increase the Rattlers' lead to 9-1 after the first period.

The teams played a more even second period, with Kamloops scoring six goals and Vernon netting four. Baker scored first just 19 seconds in. Vernon finally bought a goal as Luke Mednis broke in alone and scored on the five hole of Kamloops starter Mike Smith. Turner scored shorthanded before the Tigers scored two straight goals with Karl Friesen on the powerplay and Todd Currie (3+2). The Rattlers then scored four straight markers of their own with the first coming from Emery. Greg Schulte scored a highlight goal as he quietly and unnoticed sneaked off the bench and parked himself right in front of Vernon's starter Jon Holmes. No Tiger picked him up and the first chance Schulte got, he received a pass from Turner and scored a hard shot past Holmes. A minute following Schulte's goal, Turner scored before there was a few altercations and penalties were handed out. The Tigers received the worst of it, as Michael Miller was ejected from the game and received seven minutes for unnecessary roughness. Woldum and Schulte also received a minor each. Turner spoiled the Tigers chance to score on the powerplay with a shorthanded marker. Currie made up for the goal just four seconds later to round out the second period's scoring with the Rattlers still in full control at 15-5.

The third period didn't look much better for the Tigers as Jurista jumped out with a quick goal 38 seconds in. The early goal resulted in Holmes being yanked and Brodie MacDonald finished the night in net. MacDonald didn't do much better as Woldum and Craig Mattioli (3+1) scored. Holte unassisted scored on the powerplay before Jurista also netted a powerplay marker followed by Turner and Mattioli rounding out the Rattlers' attack. After their string of goals, Chris Elliot face masked Tim Gutwald that resulted in Elliot being docked with a ten minute misconduct and an extra five minutes for unnecessary roughness. Gutwald received two minutes for roughing. After the altercations, Currie pocketed a quick goal. Emery and Turner both scored before another Rattler was ejected from the game. Lockwood received a ten minute misconduct along with two other minors with 6:45 remaining. Instead of making something happen on the powerplay opportunity, Vernon drew a penalty of their own that resulted in Mattioli getting a goal. Tanner Skolrood scored a desperation goal for the Tigers a minute before Woldum sunk another fang into the Tigers with 52 seconds remaining in the game for the win.

Smith saved 43 shots while Holmes and MacDonald stopped a massive 74.

Tigers scoring summary:

Luke Mednis(1+0) Andy Holte(2+2) Karl Friesen(1+0) Mitch Schochter(0+4) Tanner Skolrood(1+0) Josh Taylor(0+1) Todd Currie(3+2) Steven Clark(0+1)

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June 25 Tigers Sweep Raiders

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers clawed their way to victory with a 16-12 win over the host and first place Rutland Raiders. The Tigers won the season series against the Raiders 2-1. With the win, the Tigers improve their record to 9-6-1 while the Raiders dropped to 14-4. Sunday night the Cats travel to Kamloops to battle the second place Rattlers.

"I was tremendously proud of our hard effort tonight. Coming from behind 7-3 and coming back to be within one (7-6) to end the first was awesome. There was a better commitment on defense. It was nice to see the offense explode when needed. We didn't quit and kept going even when we were down for a part of the game earlier. You can't win a game unless you have discipline. You need to walk away from those altercations and think of the team," said Tigers' fill in coach Dennis Taylor. Head coach Jim Point was coaching in a midget lacrosse tournament and Rob Johnson was serving a one game suspension. Johnson will be back for Sunday's game.

The Raiders received 38 minutes in penalties, while Vernon saw 30. Each team connected on four powerplay opportunities.

Rutland opened the scoring 26 seconds in to the game on a goal from Geoff Wray (2+2). Brody Daft scored on a low hard shot to go ahead 2-0. Andy Holte (1+1) got Vernon on the board with a powerplay marker before Vic Wiens replied back on a nice backhand goal. Tanner Skolrood (3+3) received a nice pass from Mitch Schochter (4+3) to score on a delayed penalty call. Raiders' captain Kyle MacLennan (1+2) answered back before Todd Currie (2+6) connected. Eric Sage (1+1) scored a powerplay marker during a mad scramble a couple minutes later. Wray, followed by Aiden Munson on the breakaway put the Raiders ahead 7-3. That would be all the goals Vernon starter Jon Holmes would let in for over a period of play, while the Tigers exploded with nine straight goals. Steven Clark (2+0) and two from Schochter with the second coming on the powerplay, all scored to bring the Tigers within one goal at 7-6 to end the first period.

Schochter opened the scoring in the second period 1:03 in. Captain Chris Evans scored the go

ahead goal in the dying seconds of the 30 second clock. Shortly after, Evans scored his second straight goal that resulted in Rutland's starter Cam Needham being replaced with Joey Kwasniewski. Karl Friesen (1+5), and a goal from Schochter put Vernon ahead 11-7 and Kwasniewski was pulled in relief of Needham. A few minutes later, Skolrood put a shot on Needham. On the rebound, a Raider defender appeared to have put the ball in his own net as he tried to clear the ball out. Rutland finally woke up with 5:54 remaining in the second period to score three straight goals coming from Darcy Leach (2+0) and two from Tyler Parrent (3+2). Score after the second period was 12-10.

The Raiders got on the board first in the third on a powerplay marker from Leach. Clark, Schochter with a powerplay marker, Skolrood and Currie on the powerplay rounded out the Tigers' attack. Nick Ivan received a two minute minor for check from behind when he slammed Ryan Minchenko in the boards. With just 41 seconds remaining Parrent scored a powerplay marker to come within four goals but it was a little too late, as the Raiders ran out of time and the Tigers won the game 16-12.

Holmes stopped 57 Raider shots while Needham and Kwasniewski combined saved 35.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (2+1) Luke Mednis (0+1) Andy Holte (1+1) Karl Friesen (1+5) Mitch Schochter (4+3) Tanner Skolrood (3+3) Tim Gutwald (0+1) Josh Taylor (0+1) Todd Currie (2+6) Brandon Ditchfield (0+1) Steven Clark (2+0) Tyler Plante (0+2)

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June 22 Tigers Clinch Playoff Berth

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers (8-6-1) came out on top with a 14-11 win over the first place Rutland Raiders (14-3) Wednesday night at the Multiplex. With the win, the Cats secured a spot in the playoffs. Vernon's next game is Saturday in part two of the home and home with Rutland, at the Memorial Arena in Kelowna. The Tigers also travel to Kamloops and Armstrong next week to wind up their 2005 regular season.

For the second straight game the Tigers excelled on the special teams, by scoring five goals on the powerplay and also netted two shorthanded markers. Rutland connected on three powerplay chances.

"We did well on the special teams. Rutland is a speedy team and are known for their shorthanded goals. For the most part we did good to hold them to only three powerplay goals. Our powerplay did alright, we continued to move the ball around. We finished strong with the empty net goal (scored by Karl Friesen)," said Tigers' assistant coach Rob Johnson.

Vernon struck the scoreboard first with a goal from Steven Clark (2G) three minutes in. Rutland struck right back with third star Erik Sage (3+2) connecting. 37 seconds later the Tigers went up 2-1 on a goal from second star Tanner Skolrood (1+6), before the Raiders tied the game on a powerplay marker from Geoff Wray (1+2). Vernon enjoyed a powerplay goal shortly after from Mitch Schochter (2+3). Sage on the powerplay and Kyle MacLennan (2+3) scored to put the Raiders ahead 4-3. Clark tied the game at four with just two seconds left on the 30 second shot clock and 20.6 seconds left in the period. Vernon outshout Rutland 22-18.

The Tigers again scored first to go ahead 5-4 with Schochter connecting 31 seconds into the second period. Darcy Leach quickly tied the game before Aiden Munson broke in alone

shorthanded with a nice side to side deke to go up 6-5. Andy Holte (2+2) cashed in with a hard shot on the powerplay to tie the game at six. Four minutes later Vernoni's starting goaltender Jon Holmes was assessed four minutes for tripping and unsportsmanlike conduct. After being handed the double minor (his first penalty came from a back checking minor, that the Raiders capitalized on), he was replaced with Brodie MacDonald. MacDonald had a shaky start as Tyler Parrent on the powerplay scored less than a minute after MacDonald went in net. The Tigers came back with two straight shorthanded goals just six seconds apart from Ryan Minchenko and Tyler Plante. Friesen (4+2) who was named first star scored three straight goals, with the third coming on the powerplay. Holte rounded out the period on a powerplay opportunity to go ahead 13-7. During the period, Rutland's starting goalie Cam Needham was replaced with Joey Kwasniewski.

To start the third, the Raiders again made a goalie change by replacing Kwasniewski with starter Needham. There wasn't any scoring until the 10:09 mark, as Brandon Ditchfield (1+2) scored a powerplay goal. The Raiders gave the Tigers fans a scare, as they started a string of four straight goals coming from MacLennan, Sage, Victor Wiens and Alex Diamond on a steal to pull within two goals at 13-11. Rutland took a time out with 28.7 remaining and pulled Needham for the extra attacker, but it worked against them as Friesen scored into the empty net on his fourth of the night.

Combined, Holmes and MacDonald stopped 51 Raider shots while the duo of Needham and Kwasniewski saved 49.

Said Friesen: "The team played good tonight. There was a lot of pressure during the game and fighting for loose balls. It was a pretty clean contest tonight between both teams. For Saturday's game, Rutland will be tough to beat and they'll want redemption."

Added Johnson on part two of the home and home battle: "We are two teams that are fighting hard for the playoffs. Rutland will come back with full force and will want a piece of us."

Tigers scoring summary:

Brodie MacDonald (0+1) Chris Evans (0+5) Andy Holte (2+2) Karl Friesen (3+2) Mitch Schochter (2+3) Tanner Skolrood (1+6) Ryan Minchenko (1+0) Tim Gutwald (0+1) Josh Taylor (0+1) Luke Lecavalier (0+1) Brandon Ditchfield (1+2) Tyler Plante (1+0) Steven Clark (2+0) Michael Miller (0+1)

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June 18 Tigers Slay Dragons

by Nicole Berg

In a penalty filled game, the Source for Sports Vernon Tigers came out on top with a 15-6 slaying of the Kelowna Dragons in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League action Saturday night at the Muiltplex.

With the win, Vernon improved to third place with a record of (7-6-1). The Dragons dropped to fifth at (4-9-2).

The Tigers won the season series against the Dragons 2-1.

Vernon was handed 68 minutes while Kelowna only received 50. Despite taking more penalties they for once worked for the Tigers, as they cashed in with five shorthanded goals and four

powerplay markers. The Dragons only connected once with the man advantage.

The Tigers begin part one of a home and home series where they will entertain the first place Rutland Raiders Wednesday night and finish up the battle Saturday in Rutland. Against the Raiders this year the Tigers are 0-1.

"We can't keep taking these penalties. For the game the penalty calls seemed to be lopsided, it didn't go our way. We were fortunate to move the ball up the floor on the penalty kill. We caught them on their powerplay with five shorthanded goals. Jon (Holmes) played great, he was solid in net. Mitch (Schochter) and Tanner (Skolrood) played great too as did the whole team." said Tigers' head coach Jim Point.

Kelowna struck first blood in all three periods. Chris Phillips (2+1) scored the Dragons' only goal of the first period, coming five minutes into the game. Skolrood (3+1) who was named second star replied back with a powerplay marker. Josh Taylor (2+0) scored a couple minutes later before Skolrood stole the ball from a Dragon defender in the Tigers' end, and broke in alone shorthanded. On the same penalty being served by Braden Renner (2+1), the Tigers would score another shorthanded goal by Karl Friesen (2+2) 1:11 later. Luke Mednis (1+1) scored a quick goal with 1:50 remaining to round out the first period's scoring at 5-1.

The Dragons opened the second period with two straight goals by Renner. Seconds after a goal from Vernon's Steven Clark, Kelowna's Darrell Gunn hit Ryan Minchenko into the boards from behind. Todd Currie stood up for his teammate and went after Gunn. Both players were kicked out of the game as each were handed fighting majors. Currie was penalized with an extra minor for holding. A couple minutes following the fight, Holmes passed the ball to Winfield native and first star Mitch Schochter (3+0) as he tore out of the penalty box and broke in alone shorthanded. Tigers' Chris Madsen and Pete Lewis dropped the gloves in the second fight of the period. Each were tossed from the game but Madsen received an extra two minutes for slashing. While Madsen was serving his minor, Phillips on the Dragons only powerplay goal of the game scored before the Cats enjoyed two more straight shorthanded goals by third star Andy Holte (1+4) and Friesen. With only 18.6 seconds remaining, Kelowna got a goal from Deryk McPhail (1+3) to make the score 9-5. At the end of the second, Vernon's assistant coach Rob Johnson was tossed for the remainder of the game.

Kelowna struck first on their only goal of the third from Joe Brown 2:30 in. Schochter scored on a delayed penalty call, seconds after Holmes was pulled for the extra attacker. Kyle Whieldon scored just a minute before Tyler Plante stole the ball at centre and broke in alone on another delayed penalty call. The Tigers enjoyed three straight goals on the powerplay coming from Schochter and Skolrood. With just four seconds remaining on the 30 second clock, and 2:53 in the game, Taylor ended the game's scoring with a powerplay marker.

Holmes finished the night with 44 saves and Kelowna's goaltender Louis Ensign stopped 38 Tiger shots.

On the new fighting rule Holmes said, "It's been strange having no fights lately. It hurts when you lose a player for the next game." (Currie and Madsen will be gone for the next game according to the new no fighting rule that the TOJLL just introduced this season). "I was happy with how hard the penalty kill worked tonight. The guys showed nothing but hustle. Shorthanded we were awesome. We seem to be taking smarter shots on the pk. Rutland will be a good test to see how well we do. Hopefully we'll pull out a win, as these points we need for the playoffs."

Said Schochter: "We came out hard tonight. Being a man down for the most part tonight made the game harder. Shorthanded we had good hustle and lots of determination. Everyone stepped up and contributed. The rookies seem to be scoring a lot more lately. Rutland will be a battle. If we work hard like tonight we'll have a good chance at winning both games."

Skolrood added: "Scoring those shorthanded goals shows lots of effort. It showed we put our hearts on the line tonight. With everyone contributing the flow is easy when everyone works hard."

Like Mitch said, the home and home with Rutland will be an uphill battle. It should be head to head lacrosse. We got to cap on penalties, keep the game clean and play our hearts out."

Pointi's thoughts on the Rutland home and home battle were: "We've played a good game against Rutland in the past. The guys will be up for it and we'll build up on our points and improve our game."

Tigers scoring summary:

Jon Holmes (0+1) Chris Evans (0+1) Luke Mednis (1+1) Andy Holte (1+4) Karl Friesen (2+2) Mitch Schochter (3+0) Tanner Skolrood (3+1) Ryan Minchenko (0+1) Josh Taylor (2+0) Todd Currie (0+4) Luke Lecavalier (0+1) Brandon Ditchfield (0+2) Tyler Plante (1+0) Steven Clark (1+0) Kyle Whieldon (1+0)

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June 15 Tigers Thrash Braves

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Tigers (6-6-1) moved within one point of the South Okanagan Flames with a 17-5 thrashing of the last place Kelowna Braves (1-13-1) Wednesday night at the Multiplex.

The Tigers evened up their season series against the Braves at 1-1 and face the 4th place Kelowna Dragons Saturday night at the Multiplex at 7:30 . With a win, Vernon can move to third place in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League standings.

"We had a much better effort tonight. We shut them down despite a couple mental errors by letting them get a few easy goals. We gave a big effort and played with lots of intensity," said Tigers' coach Rob Johnson.

The game saw very few powerplay opportunities with Vernon going 2-4 and Kelowna only getting one opportunity on four chances.

The Tigers got on the scoreboard first just 11 seconds into the game with third star Brandon Ditchfield's (3+0) first of three goals on the night. The Braves' captain Richard Linde replied back a minute later with a breakaway goal unassisted. Tanner Skolrood (3+3) answered back on a powerplay marker a couple minutes later. Luke Mednis and Tim Gutwald's first goal of the season put Vernon ahead 4-1 before Warren Andersen (2+1) came up with a powerplay marker. Ryan Minchenko (2+1) shortly after broke away running towards the net and was stopped by goalie Cam Brown on the initial shot, but he scooped up the loose ball and put it in the net. Todd Currie (2+4) scored with just one second remaining to go ahead 6-2 after the first period.

Kelowna opened the scoring just 59 seconds into the second on their only goal of the entire period, with Jordie Schochter connecting. Ditchfield scored a low hard shot with just seconds remaining on the 30 second clock. Mitch Schochter (1+4), Skolrood and Ditchfield all scored to go up 10-3. After Ditchfield completed his hat trick, Brown was pulled in relief of Graham Turnbull. Shots after the second period were 41-24 Vernon.

The Tigers continued to pour on the goals with seven in the third. Josh Taylor (1+1) scored followed by Andersen 33 seconds later. Kyle Whieldon (1+3) and second star Todd Currie (2+4) got goals to go ahead 13-5. Minchenko scored another highlight breakaway goal that resulted in Turnbull being yanked and Brown was thrown back in the net with 7:07 remaining. Skolrood on the powerplay and Steven Clark (1+0) with his first of the season rounded out the Tigers' 17

attack. Kelowna got a desperation goal with 57 seconds remaining from Taylor Grant.

Vernon blasted 76 shots on the Braves while Kelowna could only muster 29 shots on starter Brodie MacDonald.

Said Johnson on a few of the standout players on the night: "Brodie is playing solid. Our rookies are stepping up with Clark and Gutwald scoring their first goals of the season tonight."

On their big games, MacDonald said, "We started off slow but in the middle of the game we picked it up. We played pretty disciplined. Tim (Gutwald) played good, he hustled a lot tonight. We play the Dragons on Saturday, which should be a tougher game."

Skolrood said: "The team played well. We still have a few things to work on like hustling for loose balls. Overall the guys really stepped up tonight. Brodie's playing awesome. He has proven that he can play at our junior level. There's a few things to work on for the next game against the Dragons. We got to practice hard, get the kinks out, keep a steady pace and keep winning."

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (1+0) Luke Mednis (1+0) Karl Friesen (0+1) Mitch Schochter (1+4) Tanner Skolrood (3+3) Ryan Minchenko (2+1) Tim Gutwald (1+0) Josh Taylor (1+1) Todd Currie (2+4) Brandon Ditchfield (3+0) Steven Clark (1+0) Kyle Whieldon (1+3) Tyler Plante (0+1)

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June 11 Flames Burn Tigers

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Tigers (5-6-1) led 6-4 at the end of the first period and appeared to have the game under control, until the South Okanagan Flames (5-8-0) came charging back in the second and third for a 15-13 win Saturday night at the Multiplex.

"Penalties hurt. We had no discipline," said Tigers' assistant coach Rob Johnson.

Referees Erik Wray and Jeff Connauton dished out 25 minutes in penalties to Vernon, compared to the Flames' 31, which included two ten minute misconducts and a five minute major. Vernon went three for four and Summerland enjoyed eight of eleven powerplay opportunities.

The Flames jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead 3:31 into the game on a goal from Andrew Green. Early into the game, Summerland's Beau Trotter boarded Jeff Stairs (1+1) into the boards that resulted in a five minute major. The Tigers used the powerplay to their advantage with Tanner Skolrood (2+4) connecting twice. Andy Holte (1+1) who made his debut back from the fifth game of the season when he suffered a lower body injury, scored a sweet goal when Stairs intercepted a pass from Flames' starter Rory McDonald who quickly passed it to Holte who went in and scored. Vernon would get another goal from Josh Taylor that resulted in McDonald being yanked in relief of Colby Ramsay. Ramsay's start wasn't much better as Stairs scored to put Vernon in front 4-1 a minute later. Flames' leading scorer and game's first star Kyle Marsh (6+2) answered back a couple minutes later with two goals, one coming on the powerplay. Chris Evans (3+1) got a goal before second star Davis Kelly (4+1) scored to round out the first period.

Vernon got a couple goals from Evans both shorthanded before the Flames got a powerplay marker from Marsh. Luke Lecavalier scored his first of the season for the Tigers on a nice side to

side deke. Captain Spencer Kelly (2+4) answered back seconds before Kyle Whieldon scored in what would be the last of any Tiger goals for a whole period of play. The Flames tied up the game with goals from Elliot Jackson and D. Kelly on a two man advantage and two from Marsh again on the powerplay that tied the game at 10 to end the second.

The Flames went ahead 13-10 with powerplay markers coming from the Davis and Marsh. Vernon finally woke up with three straight goals of their own to tie the game at 13 from third star Mitch Schochter (2+4), Luke Mednis and another from Schochter on the powerplay in a mad scramble. Summerland went ahead again and didn't look back with a goal from D. Kelly. Vernon took a timeout with 1:23 remaining and pulled goaltender Jon Holmes for the extra attacker. The Flames gave Vernon a scare as one of their defenders broke free and ran at the Tiger's goal but missed the net. Kelly soon made up for the missed goal as he broke in alone running full speed ahead and got the ball in the empty net to win the game.

McDonald and Ramsay combined made 43 saves while Holmes stopped 44.

Johnson said on Evans' hat trick, "Chris had excellent heart and a lot of hussle. I wish all the guys could have had his effort. Next game (at home against the last place Kelowna Braves Wednesday at 7:30), Johnson hopes the team comes out with more hussle and have better dicipline.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (3+1) Luke Mednis (1+0) Andy Holte (1+1) Jeff Stairs (1+1) Mitch Schochter (2+4) Tanner Skolrood (2+4) Josh Taylor (1+0) Todd Currie (0+3) Luke Lecavalier (1+0) Brandon Ditchfield (0+2) Kyle Whieldon (1+0)

Tiger notes:

Midget callup Josh Phillips filled in for regular backup Brodie MacDonald as his midget team played in a tournament on the coast for the weekend. MacDonald is expected to be in the lineup Wednesday.

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June 06 Stairs Leads Tigers to Victory

by Nicole Berg

Veteran Jeff Stairs had three goals and six assists to lead the Source for Sports Vernon Tigers in a 14-7 win over the South Okanagan Flames in Penticton Monday.

The Tigers improved to 5-5-1 while the Flames dropped to 4-8. Summerland was handed only nine minutes in penalties, while Vernon saw 15.

"We were happy to go to their arena and take the two points. We played fairly well. Overall I was very impressed. Jeff (Stairs) played a strong game with the hat trick plus six assists. Brodie (MacDonald) also played well," said Tiger's assistant coach Rob Johnson.

In the first period, Vernon got two goals from Stairs, Todd Currie (3+2) and Kyle Whieldon (1+1). The Flames' lone goal came from Spencer Kelly (3+0). Vernon led 4-1 after the first, despite being outshot 18-15. Dustin Oliver went the distance in net for the Flames.

To start the second, Vernon stretched their lead by six, with goals coming from Chris Evans (2+0), Mitch Schochter (2+4), Stairs and Currie. On one of Schochter's goals, he received a pretty pass from Tanner Skolrood (0+4). To round out the Flames' offense, Galen Brimes

(1+3), Darcy Ricard (1+1), and Kelly all scored to pull the Flames within six goals. The Flames continued to outshoot the Tigers 33-31 to end the second.

The third period was more intense than the previous two. Currie, Whieldon, and two goals from Karl Friesen (2+0) led the Tigers'½ attack. Skolrood backhanded another nice pass to Friesen on one of his goals. Summerland's three goals came from Derek Bretken (1+0), Elliot Jackson (1+0) and Kelly. The game ended with Drew Douglas and Stairs'½ tempers getting the better of them as they both dropped the gloves and fought. Overall, Summerland outshot Vernon 48-42.

The Tigers host the Flames in part two of their home and home battle Saturday night at the Multiplex. Gametime is slated for 7:30pm.

For that game, Johnson hopes his team continues to run the system by coming out disciplined and their improve hustle.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (2+0) Luke Mednis (0+1) Jeff Stairs (3+6) Karl Friesen (2+0) Mitch Schochter (2+4) Tanner Skolrood (0+4) Ryan Minchenko (0+1) Todd Currie (3+2) Steven Clark (0+1) Michael Miller (0+1) Kyle Whieldon (1+1)

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June 04 Brodie backstops Cats to win

by Nicole Berg

15 year old Midget call-up Brodie MacDonald backstopped the Vernon Tigers to an 12-11 win over the Armstrong Shamrocks (3-7-1) as they crept up to third place in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League standings at the Plex Saturday.

MacDonald went in relief of starter Jon Holmes after the Shamrocks jumped out to a quick 5-2 lead in the first seven minutes.

"Brodie played an awesome game," said Tigers'½ coach Bill Kirkland, who him along with Dennis Taylor (both last year's coaches) subbed in for coaches Jim Point and Rob Johnson while they were out of town on business.

General Manager Rich Zecchel says they should both be back for the Tigers'½ next game against Summerland.

"Armstrong deserves credit, they played hard. The first period they outplayed us then for the rest of the game, we gathered our play and it was then an entertaining game," said Kirkland.

"We were fortunate to win by a goal. Our veterans showed leadership to rescue a difficult situation." The Tigers were down 6-2 at one point of the game.

Armstrong's four quick goals in the first seven minutes of play came from second star Thomas Belanger (3+2), two from Marc Wagner (2+3) and Jess Villeneuve (1+0) on the power play.

The Tigers got on the board with two goals from Todd Currie (3+2). Belanger replied back with a power play marker a minute later, which resulted in Holmes being pulled and MacDonald playing his first game since the season opener against the Summerland Flames where he only saw ten minutes of play. Belanger promptly got his second goal of the night on the power play a minute after Holmes was replaced. Josh Taylor (1+0) got a goal to pull Vernon within 6-3 at the end of the

first period.

"It was a real intense game. They guys played well. Our defense needs to step up a bit for our next game," said MacDonald.

Vernon exploded in the second period coming out with six goals to tie the game at nine before the end of the period with goals coming from: Jeff Stairs (2+1), third star Chris Evans on the breakaway, first star Tanner Skolrood (2+3) and Mitch Schochter (2+1) on the power play (2+1). After a Shamrock timeout, Belanger tied the game with a goal that went through the five hole on MacDonald. Currie completed his hat trick as he snuck in behind Shamrock's starter Darcy Hewer. Hewer didn't know where the ball was and it appeared he'd knocked it in himself when he lost sight of it. Two goals from Jordy Willing (3+2) put the Shamrocks ahead 9-8, before Schochter tied the game with four minutes remaining in the second period.

Jeremy Meredith (1+1) put Armstrong ahead 2:30 into the third period. Skolrood answered back to tie the game two minutes later. Ryan Minchenko (1+2) with a goal put Vernon in front again with 8:18 remaining. Just 15 seconds later Stairs' power play marker put Vernon ahead by two goals. The Tigers almost went ahead by three when Kyle Whieldon battled hard for the ball twice from two Shamrock defenders. He finally got control and ran in on Hewer, only to hit the ball off the cross bar. Willing scored a breakaway goal with 2:31 remaining to pull his team within one goal, but it wasn't enough as Vernon held on for the 12-11 win.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (1+1) Jeff Stairs (2+1) Karl Friesen (0+3) Patrick Quigley (0+3) Mitch Schochter (2+1) Ryan Minchenko (1+2) Tanner Skolrood (2+3) Josh Taylor (1+0) Todd Currie (3+2) Brandon Ditchfield (0+1) Brodie MacDonald (0+1)

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June 01 Tigers Lose Heartbreaker

by Nicole Berg

Penalty woes hurt the Vernon Tigers (3-5-1) in a 11-10 loss to the Kelowna Dragons (3-5-2) at the Multiplex Wednesday night in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League action.

"We were always behind the eight ball tonight. We didn't fire well on the power play and didn't look good at catching up to them. They out hustled us for the full 60 minutes to squeak by with the win, " said Tigers' head coach Jim Point.

Dragons' Chris Phillips (1+1) scored a quick goal 35 seconds into the period. The game's second star Todd Currie (3+0) struck back for the Tigers to even the score 1:09 later. Chris Evans (2+0) scored his first of the night, followed by a quick shot from Joe Brown (1+2) that got by starter Jon Holmes (34 saves) from just outside the crease. Evans would reply back with his second goal a minute later. The game's first star Keyvan McPhail (4+2) scored his first of two power play goals on the night. Ryan Minchenko (2+0) with a short handed marker put Vernon ahead 4-3 but Lee Zayonce (2+3) tied the game at four apiece shortly after to end the period.

Vernon blew a five minute power play opportunity in the first four minutes of the period, as Brown was handed an elbowing major. Phillips and Evans also received ten minute misconducts. At the halfway mark, McPhail scored on the breakaway and followed it up with another goal 40 seconds later. Deryk McPhail (1+2) padded Kelowna's lead to 7-4 with a nice backhand on the power play. After hitting three posts in succession Currie hit the post once again, but this time it

bounced off and trickled in past starter Louis Ensign (49 saves) on the PP, with 2:14 remaining in the period.

To start the third Zayonce got a power play goal, that was followed by a short handed marker by Braden Renner (1+3). Luke Mednis (1+0) and Minchenko would both score to come within two goals. McPhail scored his second power play marker of the game before Vernon started a scoring streak of three goals in a minute and nine seconds. Scott Juniper (1+0) on a delayed penalty, Jeff Stairs (1+1) and Currie tied the game at ten. With 31 seconds remaining, the Tigers took a timeout but it worked against them, as Pete Lewis (1+0) stole the ball and broke in alone to score the game winner with 21 seconds left to end the game 11-10.

The Tigers' ½ next game is Saturday night at the Multiplex against the Armstrong Shamrocks. Game time is at 7:30pm.

Tigers scoring summary:

Jon Holmes (0+1) Chris Evans (2+0) Luke Mednis (1+0) Scott Juniper (1+0) Jeff Stairs (1+1) Mitch Schochter (0+2) Tanner Skolrood (0+4) Ryan Minchenko (2+0) Josh Taylor (0+1) Todd Currie (3+0) Luke Lecavalier (0+1) Steven Clark (0+1)

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May 18 Holmes Shines in Draw

by Nicole Berg

In a closely fought game the Vernon Tigers (3-4-1) and Kamloops Rattlers (6-1-1) battled to a 6-6 draw Wednesday night at the Multiplex.

"The defense was unreal tonight. Jon (Holmes) stole the game for us (62 saves). We gave a 200% effort," smiled Tigers' ½ assistant coach Rob Johnson.

The game saw Kamloops jump out to a 3-0 lead in the first period. AJ Lockwood (2+0) finally broke the scoreless tie with 5:31 remaining. The game's ½s second star Alex Turner (2+1) scored his first, followed by his second with 1:44 to round out the first period.

The Tigers finally hit the scoreboard with eight minutes remaining in the second, on a goal from third star Mitch Schochter (1+1). Patrick Quigley (1+1) narrowed the margin to pull the Tigers within one goal a couple minutes later. Kamloops went ahead on a powerplay marker from Lockwood 54 seconds later, to go ahead 4-2. With 1:22 to go in the period, Karl Friesen (2+0) scored his first of the night to pull Vernon within one goal at 4-3.

Tanner Skolrood (1+0) tied the game 13:51 into the third period. Kamloops' ½ captain Mark Jurista (1+1) put his team in front again, before Todd Currie (1+1) brought Vernon even at five with a nice pass from Kyle Whieldon (0+1). Vernon got a goal from Friesen just nine seconds later on a hard shot that got past starter Scott Helton (36 saves). The Tigers then got into some penalty trouble where they were assessed their fourth and fifth penalties of the game, that they would soon pay for. The Rattlers took advantage when Kin Kelsey (1+0) scored while Vernon was two men short with 1:04 remaining in the game to tie the score at 6-6.

Holmes, who was named first star, was spectacular in net by making a total of 62 saves. He made 25 stops in the first period alone, only allowed one goal in the second and came up with 22 saves in the third.

Holmes said, "In our last game (against Kamloops Sunday in a 20-13 loss) I was upset. They

had 13 powerplay goals. I remembered who their good shooters were so I used that to my advantage tonight."

On the game Johnson elaborated, "They had solid goaltending. In the first period our defense had a few miscues (on the last two goals). We made a few mistakes that resulted in some careless penalties, but overall tonight we came to play smart."

Vernon's next game is Wednesday, June 1st when they host the Kelowna Dragons in the Multiplex at 7:30p.m.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (0+1) Jeff Stairs (0+1) Karl Friesen (2+0) Patrick Quigley (1+1) Mitch Schochter (1+1) Tanner Skolrood (1+0) Tim Gutwald (0+1) Todd Currie (1+1) Steven Clark (0+1) Kyle Whieldon (0+1)

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May 15 Rattlers Dominate Tigers

by Nicole Berg

Right from the beginning of the game, it seemed to spell doom for the Vernon Tigers (3-4) against the Kamloops Rattlers (6-1) Sunday at the Memorial where they lost to the defending Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League Champions 20-13.

The Rattlers struck first blood with Alex Turner (4+4), as he snuck in under the radar and with no one covering him, he slammed the ball past Vernon starter Jon Holmes (51 saves) to go ahead 1-0 at 3:31. Karl Friesen (5+1) answered back for the Tigers three minutes later, with a fluke goal where the Rattlers thought they had control, but the Friesen stole it back and put the ball in the empty net behind backup goalie Mike Smith who finished with an easy night of 25 saves. Chris Elliott (1+0), AJ Lockwood (5+1) and Turner on the powerplay all scored to put the Rattlers ahead 4-1. With two powerplay goals from Tanner Skolrood (1+4) and Mitch Schochter (5+0) the Tigers pulled within one goal. Kiel Donahue (3+3) scored two quick highlight goals. His first goal resulted from a rebound that the Tigers' defense should have cleared, but didn't wake up in time. For his second, he deked out Holmes a few times, until he finally shot it past him. Mark Jurista (2+3) also added a breakaway goal with only 25 seconds remaining to make the score 7-3 Kamloops after the first.

Lockwood unassisted and Jurista 13 seconds later started the scoring for the Rattlers a couple minutes into the second period. Donahue got a shorthanded tally a minute before Schochter scored two powerplay goals. Friesen 30 seconds later scored another powerplay marker followed by Luke Mednis' first of the season. The Rattlers got two quick powerplay goals from Shawn Donahue (3+1) and Lockwood, followed by Craig Mattioli (1+1) all in less than a minute. Schochter scored his hat trick with 7:12 remaining to end the Tigers' scoring of the period, before Donahue got another powerplay marker with 4:19 remaining to stay in the lead 16-8 to end the second period.

Todd Currie (1+5) with a two man advantage and Schochter on another powerplay goal opened the scoring less than a minute apart. Starting with Turner's unassisted goal three minutes later, followed by two from Lockwood and a single from Donahue, the Rattlers padded their lead to 18-10. Vernon finally got on the board in the final five minutes of the game with Schochter's fifth of the night. Turner got a fluke goal in a mad scramble after his original shot had hit the post

and rebounded out then back into the net. Friesen scored Vernon's last powerplay goal of the night with 1:33 to go before Skolrood added his second. Ryan Bullock (1+0) ran up the score even more when he received a long pass at centre and he just sped right in and got the ball past Holmes with 56 seconds remaining to win 20-13.

Vernon hosts Kamloops on Wednesday in part two of their home and home series, where they hope to rebound back with a win.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (0+1) Luke Mednis (1+0) Jeff Stairs (0+7) Karl Friesen (5+1) Mitch Schochter (5+0) Tanner Skolrood (1+4) Tim Gutwald (0+1) Todd Currie (1+5) Kyle Whieldon (0+1)

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May 14 Schochter Shines in Tigers Win

by Nicole Berg

Mitch Schochter (4+3) with a seven point night, and three powerplay goals from Todd Currie (3+1), helped the Vernon Tigers (3-3) claw their way to victory against the Kelowna Braves (1-6-1) 12-8 in their Multiplex home opener.

Tigers' assistant coach Rob Johnson said, "We played a great first period, terrible second and rebounded in the third. In the second we seemed to let them back in (when they scored six straight goals to make it a close game), but in the third we played a different system that resulted in a better effort."

Vernon who was dinged with only 12 penalty minutes, was the fewest they have had in a game all season. The Braves ended the game with 15 minutes.

Vernon got four powerplay goals and only allowed Kelowna to score once on the powerplay, along with a shorthanded tally.

The Tigers opened the first period with five straight goals, before Kelowna finally scored their first of the period with only 25 seconds remaining. Tanner Skolrood (1+4) unassisted opened Vernon's scoring 11 minutes in. Todd Currie (3+1) who was named third star, scored his natural hat trick all in four minutes, with the first two of his goals coming on a two man advantage powerplay, along with another PP marker to go ahead 4-0. Schochter, who was the game's first star, got his first of the night with 2:24 remaining, before the Braves got their only goal of the period from Josh Mellon (2+0). Score after the first was 5-1.

The second period was the total opposite of the first. The Tigers got three goals to start the period with one from Josh Taylor (2+2) and two more from Schochter. Kelowna then exploded with six straight of their own. Captain Richard Linde (1+2) and Taylor Grant (1+0) got goals less than five minutes apart. Game's second star Brett Godin (3+0) scored the first of his natural hat trick, in less than five minutes. All three of Godin's goals were highlights. His first was a breakaway, second was on the power play and third was a shorthanded marker. To end Kelowna's scoring streak, the Tigers brought their fans back to life with Jeff Stairs (1+1) scoring just seconds after a power play opportunity with 1:32 remaining in the period to put Vernon back into the game to lead 9-7.

It took until the final six minutes before either team finally scored, with Taylor connecting at 6:23. Seconds later Schochter's younger brother Jordie, answered back with a goal of his own. To

round out the period, Schochter and Patrick Quigley (1+2) scored less than a minute apart to put the Tigers ahead to win 12-8. Kelowna outshot Vernon overall 58-50 with Jon Holmes for the Tigers and Kelowna's Cam Brown going the distance.

On his big game, Schochter said, "Everyone ran hard and had a good effort. For our next game (Sunday in Kamloops), we'll come out with a high and finish on top." With the absence of his linemate Andy Holte (out with a lower body injury), Schochter is now playing on a line with Quigley. On the new line change Schochter admitted, "Andy's loss is huge. Patrick has really stepped up from the beginning of the season and will just get better from here on in."

The Tigers traveled to Kamloops Sunday night, where they will start a home and home with the Rattlers that will finish up on Wednesday in Vernon.

Tigers scoring summary:

Jon Holmes (0+1) Chris Evans (0+1) Luke Mednis (0+1) Jeff Stairs (1+1) Patrick Quigley (1+2) Mitch Schochter (4+3) Tanner Skolrood (1+4) Ryan Minchenko (0+1) Josh Taylor (2+2) Todd Currie (3+1) Tyler Plante (0+2)

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May 7 Raiders Top Tigers

by Nicole Berg

Penalties killed the Vernon Tigers (2+3) as they fell 13-11 to the Rutland Raiders (6-0) in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League action Saturday in Rutland.

"Penalties hurt," Tigers' assistant coach Rob Johnson simply said. "No team does well when the opposition has 14 breakaway chances and 71 shots."

Tyler Parrent (4+0) struck first for the Raiders on one of their many breakaway chances 1:30 into the game. Parrent later got the Raiders' first of four power play markers on the night with only nine seconds remaining in a double minor that was assessed to Chris Evans. Rutland got into the penalties shortly after, as Brody Daft was penalized five minutes for a slashing major, that his team would later pay for. Mitch Schochter (3+1) got the Tigers on the board on their first of five PP goals, thanks to Daft in the box, followed by Tanner Skolrood (2+3) 1:01 later on the PP. Andy Holte (1+0) put Vernon ahead 3-2, but just a minute later Parrent completed his hat trick with a nice backhand goal followed up by his fourth on the PP with again, just nine seconds remaining in another penalty to Evans. Aiden Munson (4+1) later intercepted a Vernon pass to go in and score on starter Jon Holmes on the PP. Holmes finished the night with 61 saves. With just 26 seconds remaining, Tigers' Patrick Quigley (2+1) received a floor length pass from Vernon's net. He ran in but got stopped by a Raider defender. Quigley got back in front of him and faked a side to side swing with his stick to fool goalie Cam Needham (37 saves). Finally Quigley shot the ball and pulled his team within one goal at 5-4 to end the first period.

The second period was less exciting than the first. Jeff Stairs (1+0) tied his team 5-5 with a two man advantage PP goal. Mark MacLennan (2+3) broke the tie to put Rutland ahead 6-5. Jared MacLennan (1+0) added to the score three minutes later. Munson caught a long pass that was received right in front of Holmes and made the Vernon defense pay again to go ahead 7-5. Schochter with his second PP marker put Vernon in the game again at with 1:59 remaining, to pull within one goal to end the second period scoring 8-6.

To start the third, Vernon got two goals 11 seconds apart from Karl Friesen (2+2) on the PP and

Skolrood to tie the score 8-8. Rutland got back into the game though, with Geoff Wray (1+0) on the PP, followed by a shorthanded goal to go up 10-8. Friesen got another PP marker seconds after Rutland's shorthanded goal. Evans was kicked out the rest of the game for his fifth penalty on the night. With seven minutes remaining, Holmes got run over in a mad scramble in his net. Play would continue on, even though it appeared Holmes looked hurt. He flopped around like a fish in the crease keeping the ball out and making a ton of saves. Schochter pulled his team ahead with his hat trick PP goal. Rutland would eventually score though as they got a goal from MacLennan, Steve Wiens (1+0) on a delayed penalty and Munson. Quigley scored with 51 seconds left in the game, hoping to put his team back in it to win, but it wasn't enough as the powerhouse Raiders dropped the Tigers 13-11.

Vernon's next game is at the Multiplex when they host the Braves Saturday May 14th at 7:30p.m. For that game Johnson says he hopes for less penalties, a better team effort and defensive end.

Tigers scoring summary:

Jon Holmes (0+1) Andy Holte (1+0) Jeff Stairs (1+0) Karl Friesen (2+2) Patrick Quigley (2+1) Mitch Schochter (3+1) Tanner Skolrood (2+3) Ryan Minchenko (0+2) Todd Currie (0+5)

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May 5 Holte Leads Tigers to Victory

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Tigers overcame the Kelowna Dragons on a come from behind 12-8 victory to even their record at 2-2 in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League action Thursday night at the Memorial Arena in Kelowna.

"In the first period we weren't taking enough shots, but in the second we did what we were supposed to," (scoring more goals), said Tigers' head coach Jim Point.

Tigers' assistant coach Rob Johnson had the same thoughts. "We showed up to play early and overall out hustled them."

The Dragons jumped out first just a mere ten seconds into the game after a face-off win, following a Vernon defensive lapse, as Deryk McPhail (2+3) connected. Dragons' Chris Phillips (1+2) received a long pass from zone to zone, where he ran in alone to get the ball past starter Jon Holmes. Holmes finished the night with 65 saves, whereas Kelowna's goaltending duo Louis Ensign and Steve Weins faced only 43 Tiger shots. Vernon got into the game at 12:42 with Kyle Whieldon (1+0) scoring for the second straight game. The Tigers got into penalty trouble early with Whieldon going to the sin bin shortly after he scored, that resulted in a goal by captain Keyvan McPhail (5+0). Vernon would get lucky with a goal from Ryan Minchenko (1+3), as the ball just trickled in the net, over the goal line when Ensign lost sight of it. Shots after the first were 29-12 Kelowna, with the Dragons up 3-2.

The second period was all Vernon as they would get six goals with only one against, to go ahead 8-4 after the second. Andy Holte (3+1) scored his first of three goals on the night 27 seconds in, followed by his second on a delayed penalty. A minute after Holte's marker, Tanner Skolrood (2+4) scored on the breakaway. After the goal, there was a tussle in front of Vernon's net that resulted in Holmes getting run over. Vernon ended up with a powerplay opportunity, with Holte getting an unsportsmanlike minor, and Ensign and Phillips getting two

apiece. At the halfway point of the game, Weins replaced Phillips in goal. Thanks to Kelowna's extra penalty, Vernon was awarded as Mitch Schochter (1+1) got a power play marker to go ahead 6-2. Schochter's night would end early however, as he was assessed a ten minute misconduct, just a few minutes after his goal. To round out the second period's scoring, Skolrood pocketed his second and Patrick Quigley (1+0) got a short handed breakaway marker. Keyvan McPhail spoiled Holmes' second period shutout with a goal just nine seconds remaining to end the second period.

To start the third Schochter would be kicked out of the game for good, because he left the penalty box without the consent of the referee at the end of the second period.

"This year the league introduced a new rule stating that if any player is assessed a penalty, he isn't allowed to come out of the box at the end of the period, unless cleared by the ref to do so. At the end of each period, the ref also has to signal each player's bench when they are allowed to go to the dressing rooms. They made this rule in order to stop fighting and bench brawls," elaborated Point.

Keyvan McPhail got Kelowna on the board quickly with his third of the night just 17 seconds in. That would be all of Kelowna's scoring for most of the period. Todd Currie (2+1) got two power play goals a couple minutes apart. Dragons' Joe Brown was penalized for a ten minute misconduct 5:44 into the period. Holte completed the hat trick on a delayed penalty with seven minutes remaining. The Dragons got two short handed goals from Keyvan and Deryk McPhail, with Keyvan also notching a powerplay marker, in just over two minutes. Chris Madsen (1+1) ruined the Dragons' chances at coming from behind at 1:15, as he scored to silence the Kelowna fans to make the final score 12-8 Vernon.

On the game, Johnson praised Holte on another good night. "Andy played very well. He's a good leader, hustler, and has a lot of dedication to the game." Also on Holmes Johnson said, "Jon stepped up tonight. He played an excellent game. He stayed his cool and kept his head up. From this game, the team will move forward and hopefully finish with a good season."

On his big game Holte quoted, "In the first period our heads weren't in it, but as the game went on we got better. When you go to the net, good things happen. Our goaltending was awesome. From here on in, the team will keep improving. One of my line mates Mitch (Schochter) who I've played with for six years, helped me out a lot (on the scoring)."

Vernon's next game is Saturday May 7th when they travel to Rutland to face the Raiders. Their next home game is at the Multiplex May 14th, at 7:30 p.m.

Tigers scoring summary:

Jon Holmes (0+1) Andy Holte (3+1) Patrick Quigley (1+0) Mitch Schochter (1+1) Tanner Skolrood (2+4) Ryan Minchenko (1+3) Todd Currie (2+1) Chris Madsen (1+1) Kyle Whieldon (1+0)

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April 30 Tigers down Rocks in home opener

by Nicole Berg

The Vernon Tigers (1-2) dropped the Armstrong Shamrocks 13-10 (1-3) in their home opener in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League action Saturday night at the Civic Arena. In front of 450 fans, the Tigers gave their fans a treat sporting their new home white jerseys with their names on the back.

The Tigers jumped out early when Tanner Skolrood (1+0) followed by Patrick Quigley (1+0) got goals to go ahead 2-0 in the first five minutes of play, before Jamie Cockerill (1+0) replied for the Shamrocks on the power play a few minutes later. The Shamrocks would finish the game with four power play goals and fired 55 shots on Tigers starter Jon Holmes. The Tigers replied with 34 shots on Armstrong's goaltending duo Adam Phillips and Darcy Hewer, who replaced Phillips halfway through the game. 28 seconds after Cockerill's power play marker, the game's third star Andy Holte (2+0) scored on a short handed breakaway running at full speed with a couple of Shamrock defenders breathing down his neck, but he was too fast for them as he scored on a hard shot. Tigers' captain and game's first star Chris Evans (2+2) scored goals followed by Todd Currie to go up 5-1. The Shamrocks closed out the first period's scoring with three straight goals, a shorthanded marker by Danny Stebbings (2+0), powerplay goal from Jess Villeneuve (1+4) and second star captain Marc Wagner (1+4) with only five seconds remaining to pull within one goal to make the score 5-4 Tigers.

The second period would see only five goals between the teams, as the Shamrocks got on the board first with their third power play goal from Thomas Belanger (1+1) to tie the game at five. Chris Madsen (1+0) would break the tie to put the Tigers up 6-5. The Shamrocks tied the game again at six from their fourth and final power play marker of the game with a shot from Jeremy Meredith. The Tigers would go up 8-6 by the end of the period with goals less than a minute remaining from Holte (first scorer on Hewer) and Evans with a breakaway beauty with six minutes remaining.

The Tigers opened the scoring less than four minutes into the third with goals from Kyle Whieldon (1+1) who cracked the team's list of goal scorers with his first of the season, and Josh Taylor (1+0) five minutes apart. Stebbings received a long pass from Hewer in the Tigers' zone with 7:38 remaining to get his team back in the game. The final five minutes began to look brighter for the Shamrocks, as they were awarded with a two man advantage followed by another short power play thanks to Jeff Stairs, Ryan Minchenko (0+2) and Scott Juniper (0+1), who drew a penalty with only 14 seconds remaining. The Rocks didn't connect on those chances, but Cody Burt did pull his team within two goals with 44 seconds remaining. The comeback was a little too late as the Shamrocks ran out of time and handed the Tigers their first win of the season 10-8.

On the win Tigers' head coach Jim Point said the game plan was pretty much the same as the last few games.

"We had some quicker line changes, our defense played better and our goalie stepped up as well. The league is getting better as a whole. The teams are closer this year (in standings) compared to last year."

In the first two periods the Tigers did a bad job on the penalty kill, but stepped up in the dying minutes, not allowing Armstrong back in it. Point commented, "The guys have to play their position short handed. We can't get anymore penalties. That will be one of our goals for the next game (in Kelowna against the Dragons, Thursday), and try and get them to draw some penalties. If we get less than half of the penalties we got Saturday, we'll be better."

Following Vernon's road game Thursday in Kelowna against the Dragons, they travel to Rutland Saturday. Their home opener at the Multiplex will be Saturday, May 14 against the Kelowna Braves, where they will play the remainder of their home games.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (2+2) Andy Holte (2+0) Tanner Skolrood (1+0) Ryan Minchenko (0+2) Tim Gutwald (0+1) Todd Currie (1+0) Chris Madsen (1+0) Kyle Whieldon (1+0) Tyler Plante (1+0) Patrick Quigley (1+0) Josh Taylor (1+0) Scott Juniper (0+1)

April 26 Tigers lose squeaker

by Nicole Berg

In what looked like a sure Vernon Tigers victory at the end of the second period against the Kelowna Braves, wouldn't be. The Braves scored five straight goals in the third period, en route to an eventual 13-12 win over the Tigers.

Vernon jumped out early in the game by scoring three straight goals. Todd Currie would start the scoring a minute in with his first of five of the night. Veteran Jeff Stairs got a short handed marker four minutes later and Currie pocketed his second on the power play. Jacob Illichmann got his Braves on the board with eight minutes to go in the period. Stairs scored on a two man advantage, followed by a marker from Tanner Skolrood. Scott Lester of the Braves scored his first of four goals in the game, on a steal from a Tiger defender in front of the net to put the ball past Vernon goaltender Jon Holmes. Warren Andersen got the other Kelowna marker. Currie completed his hat trick early in the game by putting away another power play goal behind Braves netminder Graham Turnbull to put Vernon ahead 6-3.

Captain Richard Linde of Kelowna opened the scoring in the second period, three and a half minutes in. Shortly after, Currie and Andy Holte would score 35 seconds apart to put the Tigers up 8-4 on backup Cam Brown, who replaced Turnbull to start the second. Illichmann got a short handed tally seconds before Holte scored a beauty on a two man advantage by dekeing out Brown and shooting the ball in the top left corner. Taylor Grant of the Braves would cash in before Currie would end the period's scoring with his fifth and final of the night. Vernon led the game 10-6 after the second.

The Braves poured on the goals in the third period as they would get five straight to go ahead 11-10. Lester got the scoring going early three and a half minutes in on his second, as he received a long pass from deep in his own zone and rushed in to put the ball over Holmes' shoulder. He would complete his hat trick a few minutes later. Andersen would tie the game at 10 on the power play, at which time Vernon called a timeout. It didn't help as Josh Mellon would put his Braves up 11-10 shortly after. Vernon would tie the score a couple minutes later, when Holte broke away on a short handed effort to give the Tigers their first goal of the period. On the same penalty being served by Chris Madsen, Lester put the Braves back ahead. With only 1:17 remaining, Mitch Schochter put Vernon in the game again to tie it 12-12, but that was the closest they got to victory, as Lester sealed the deal with 26 seconds remaining in the game to win 13-12.

On the game, Tigers' head coach Jim Point commented, "In the first and second period, the guys were playing well. In the third period, the defense wasn't really doing anything different. Jon (Holmes) had a bit of a five minute lapse in the third when he let in a couple of weak shots. Despite that, Holmes will be getting the start in the next game and Brodie MacDonald will be expected to play backup.

When the Tigers didn't connect on a power play opportunity early to start the third, Point thought that was the difference in the game.

Overall I wasn't dissatisfied. We played a good game. There will always be a game where you lose by one or two goals.

Point expects the guys to play a strong game when they host the Armstrong Shamrocks Saturday night at 7:30p.m. at the Civic Arena. The Tigers move into the Multiplex May 14th, where they will complete their home game schedule.

Tigers scoring summary:

Chris Evans (0+2), Andy Holte (3+3), Jeff Stairs (2+1), Steve Monsigneur (0+1), Mitch Schochter (1+4), Tanner Skolrood (1+4), Ryan Minchenko (0+1), Tim Gutwald (0+2), Todd Currie (5+2), Chris Madsen (0+1), Tyler Plante (0+1)

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April 18 Tigers lose season opener

by Nicole Berg

In a game that saw numerous penalties, the Vernon Tigers came out on the wrong end with an opening season 11-6 loss to the Flames in Summerland Monday night.

Vernon started strong in the first period as they built up a 3-0 lead on the Flames keeper, Galen Lenny. Todd Currie, the scoring sensation from Saskatoon scored 12 seconds into the team's first power play. Minutes later, Vernon got their second power play chance as Summerland's Davis Kelly monster checked Scott Stevens into the boards. The Tigers would cash early into the power play when Andy Holte fed Mitch Schochter a pass to pocket his first of the season. The Flames came close to scoring their first goal in a mad scramble in front of Tigers goalie Jon Holmes, when David Grant had a laser beam of a shot off the post. Vernon's third goal resulted shortly after from a Luke Mendis shot to put them ahead 3-0. But from there it went all down hill, as Summerland would score three straight to finish with four goals in the first period. Brennan Pond began the Flames scoring run after his team had numerous chances to bury the ball past Holmes. The penalty parade began as Summerland would go shorthanded, but it would be Vernon who didn't benefit, as Galen Brims scored on a shorthanded breakaway to bring his team within one goal. Summerland's Kyle Marsh would tie up the score with an even strength goal, just as the penalties came to an end. To end the first, Vernon would bring themselves in front again, as Karl Friesen scored to make it 4-3 Vernon after the first.

Summerland's Andrew Green opened the second period scoring on a two man advantage to tie the game 4-4. After the tying goal, Vernon seemed to fall apart as they would be penalized three times, including a ten minute misconduct to Holmes. Even with those penalties, the Tigers somehow managed to score, as Currie would pocket his second. Halfway through the game, Vernon switched goalies, bringing in midget call-up Brodie MacDonald. MacDonald wouldn't have a good start to his game, as the first chance Summerland got, Marsh scored his second and third to make it 6-5. To end the second period, Tiger's Tanner Skolrood got the ball past Lenny to tie the game at six.

The third period was all Summerland as just over a minute in, Darcy Ricard scored. Just 24 seconds later the Flames made it 8-6, as Davis Kelly would get his first of the night. Things started to brighten up for the Tigers when they had a five on three advantage, but just couldn't capitalize. Marsh later finished his scoring run with his fourth and fifth of the night. With a little over five minutes remaining in the game, Vernon took a huge blow as MacDonald would leave the game with what appeared to be a lower body injury. Holmes came back in net to finish the third period, but allowed Kelly to run up the Summerland score with his second goal to end the game.

Tigers head coach Jim Point praised the Flames on a hard fought game. "They are a young team who fights hard to win games. They did a good job."

On his own team's thoughts, Point says his guys need to work more on the finer details of the game. "We've got a group of ten rookies this year that need to learn the system and be more

patient. We are looking forward to have a good season and a run at the provincials."

The Tigers will have over a week to rest up and practice hard before they travel to Kelowna next Tuesday to battle the Braves.

Vernon will host the Armstrong Shamrocks in their home opener Saturday, April 30th, in the Civic Arena.

Tigers scoring summary:

Karl Friesen (1+0), Mitch Schochter (1+2), Tanner Skolrood (1+0), Todd Currie (2+1), Luke Mendis (1+0), Andy Holte (0+2), Patrick Quigley (0+1), Ryan Minchenko (0+1), Chris Madsen (0+1), Scott Stevens (0+1),

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