

Fort William Two Goals Up On Trail in Great Hockey Exhibition

"Thundering Herd" Classy Bunch, But Forced To Limit to Withstand Attack of B. C. Champions in Third Period.

TRAIL GOALIE AGAIN IN BRILLIANT FORM

Jimmy Ward, Kenora Boy, Sags Net Three Times—Kendall Brains of Coast Attack—Hanson's Sensational Goal.

THUNDERING down the ice with the speed of the "Twentieth Century Limited," Fort William's wonderful ice gladiators, the pride of the Thunder Bay district and conquerors of Fort Arthur, holders of the Allan Cup for two years in succession, continued their winning streak at the Arena last night and finished two goals up for the second game of the series which will be played at the Arena on Monday night. The score, 4-2, hardly represents the play, for Trail, champions of British Columbia had a little better than shot for shot in the first and third periods. The crowd of between 6500 and 7000 creates a new attendance record for amateur hockey in British Columbia. With the class of hockey served up, it is safe to assert that even this record will be broken on Monday and that the finals will be played before a capacity rink.

Never before in Vancouver have amateur teams put up such an exhibition as last night. Both teams played the same style of open hockey. Even with a three-goal lead, the Forts raced up and down the surface and kept the crack Trail defense working overtime. Trail forwards, too, gave a neat display of back-checking. While many close students of the game were pulling for the B. C. champs, they were inclined to concede a win to the Eastern stars by something like four goals. It was the first time, however, that Trail has been really tested and they lived up to the ordeal like veterans. They worked like kinks and with Kendall directing the play on the ice, the other forwards were given plenty of opportunities to carry the rubber in. In defeat the losers were outclassed by no means and with any kind of luck on Monday, the result might be reversed.

FORTS BAG FIRST THREE.

Fort William netted two in the opening period, one in the second and another in the final twenty. Both of Trail's markers came in the last period when the yellow and blacks staged a fine comeback and gave a real exhibition of backchecking.

Carl Kendall started out his great night's work by drawing a lead on Kearney right from the face-off, and like a flash Reddick was called on to block at the other end. Both sets of forwards dashed from end to end only to lose the rubber at the blue line. Pettinger and Kendall followed in close succession with shots on the pipes. Reddick swerved up to the blue line but kicked the disc, thereby spoiling a good opening. Kendall stole the rubber at the blue line, sped down the right boards and brought Kearney to his knees.

Jackson, who played even more sensationally than on previous occasions, had a bit of luck when Cook, flashy centre ice man, shot through the defense; the rubber was so deflected that it hit the post with the goalie beaten. Wheatley lined a hot one on the goalmouth after a fine stickhandling effort by Kendall and Reddick. Haeguon, coming on as a sub, fished down in a three-man rush but missed the posts close in.

THREE-MAN ATTACK.

Hanson shot from beyond the blue line, the puck hitting a defender and just missing the post on a carom. The Forts were beginning to find their combination and thrilled the crowd with their three-man rushes. They broke fast and increased their pace as they advanced on the net. Wheatley literally burned the ice as the puck sped for the net after stealing from Ward, and Reddick and Cook followed with hefty drives. Play had been only 7:33 minutes old when McLeod took Cook's pass and banged in the opening score from six feet out. Jackson made a spectacular save from the faceoff when Davis and McLeod worked into the defense. It should have been an easy goal for the Forts.

Wheatley, forced into the corner, obtained possession and shot out to the waiting Kendall, who batted the rubber straight for Kearney's pads. Gustason hit the post on a pass from Kendall. Trail forwards were having a little the best of the shots on the net, although Fort William succeeded in getting closer to the net. Jackson worked overtime in saving a barrage of shots, virtually balancing himself

ONCE-OVERS

The final game of the semi-finals will be on Monday night.

The crowd of 5000 created a new attendance record for amateur hockey in B. C.

When the seat sale for Monday night opened this morning, there was a greater rush than ever for pasteboards.

Three more games remain on the Allan Cup programme for 1927—Monday between the Forts and Trail, and Friday and Monday, March 25 and 28, with the winners meeting Toronto Grads.

The Grads, it is expected, will arrive at 7:30 on Monday night. They will be rushed to the rink, where boxes have been reserved.

Lord Willington, Governor-General of Canada, is coming West. A wire was despatched last night requesting him to face the puck in the final game of the series. Lord Willington is an ardent hockey follower, being a frequent patron of the games in Ottawa.

The Forts fought every inch of the way for their victory. They break fast and once they pass the blue line, are the speediest mortals on skates in streaking for the net. If you don't believe it, just ask Percy Jackson, the sensational netminder of the B. C. champions.

Incidentally, Jackson was the star of the piece. Not only did he handle shots from the boards and centre ice with his accustomed ease, but he continually outgamed the Forts' sharpshooters as they potted from six feet and less. He was applauded repeatedly.

Carl Kendall, veteran centre of Trail, proved his real worth last night. His goal in the third period was one of the neatest pieces of hockey generalship seen in the local ice palace. He is a past master in trickery. His head is working every minute, and he was on the ice most of the time. He took a harp bump from Fraser in the final canto, coming out second best.

The Forts bagged two in the first session and one each in the last two. Ward was the big noise in the Forts attack, bagging three of the winning goals. He is a tireless back-checker. Cook, too, lived up to advance notices, though he is suffering from a heavy cold. He made the passes for three goals. McLeod, too, is a live wire on the attack and unleashing a fierce burst of speed, is a tower of strength to the defense.

Davis appears to be the strength of the Forts' defense. He chatters continuously, and the minute a teammate purloins the rubber at the blue line, his favorite exhortation is: "Trot, trot, trot." The order is rapidly carried out, with military precision.

Trail was certainly outlived in the first half of the opening session and for a good part of the third. In the final twenty big Jim Hanson went like a wild man. His goal when he went through the entire Fort William team, was the piece de resistance of the night. When the crowd was sure the goal was official, even the rafters resounded with the mighty roar from the Trail admirers who composed about 99 1/2 per cent. of the paid attendance.

The Forts were well supported, too. Every former resident of Fort William was there and made enough noise for ten. They were all bedecked in the club colors, blue and white.

The eastern men made some very pointed observations about the smoke-filled atmosphere, stating that "weed-pulling" is not countenanced in the Twin City rinks. Smoke in the lungs of hockey players in action does no particular good.

Tomorrow afternoon the members of the Trail and Fort William teams will be taken on a drive as the guests of the Vancouver Amateur Hockey Association. The B. C. body, too, is making preparations for a programme of entertainment during the annual meeting of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association in Vancouver on Friday and Saturday of next week in which the contesting teams will be included. The main event will be the banquet to be tendered the visitors next Saturday night at the Hotel Vancouver.

Geo. Irvine, dean of the coast arbiters, is still not satisfied that the Forts are the better team. He believes Trail with an even break can cut down the lead of two goals and go into the final against the Grads.

Bobby Genge didn't have such a good time in the role of saboteur last night. The Forts were pulling a fake trip and got away with it. From the press box it looked as if at least two of the Trail penalties were undeserved. Penalties may also be given for deliberate stalls such as Cook worked when he deliberately skated from the halfway mark back and around his own goal.

Without a band or other form of entertainment, a couple of partisans of the rival teams engaged in a lively brush between the second and third periods. The affair looked very much like the seventh inning of a ball game.

With such a crowd for the semi-finals, it is doubtful if the rink will hold the people who will be after accommodation for the finals next Friday and Monday. A word to the wise,

Here's the Tale In a Nutshell

GOAL SUMMARY

First period—Fort William, McLeod from Cook, 7:33; Fort William, Ward from Cook, 11:05.

Second period—Fort William, Ward, 4:22.

Third period—Trail, Kendall, 4:50; Fort William, Ward from Cook, 1:44; Trail, Hansen, 12:38.

PENALTIES

First period—Hansen, Pettinger, Reddick, Gustason.

Third period—Reddick, Davis.

Referee—Genge.

TEAMS

Fort William—Kearney, Fraser, Davis, McLeod, Pettinger, Ward, Cook, Haeguon.

Trail—Jackson, Anderson, Reddick, Kendall, Hansen, Wheatley, Gustason, Lauriente.

