

**2003**  
**Sun Valley Source for Sports**  
**VERNON TIGERS JUNIOR LACROSSE CLUB**



**Front Row:** Peter Foucher, Andrew Hamilton 'A', Rob Rintoul 'C', Matt Holte 'A', Kody O'Brien

**Middle Row:** Andy Holte, Luke Lecavalier, James Grant, Christian Madsen, Kyle Point, Jeff Stairs, Chris Usselman, Amrit Dhoot, Darcy Holte

**Back Row:** Dan Holte (Asst. Coach), Bill Kirkland (Coach), Chris Evans, Ryan Minchenko, Tanner Skolrood, Gord MacDonald, Karl Friesen, Rob Gray, Mitch Schochter, Kyle Greer, Dennis Taylor (Asst. Coach), Rich Zecchel (GM)

**Missing:** Jon Gee (G), Trevor McEachnie (Trainer)

**Roster:** 0 Kody O'Brien (G), 31 Peter Foucher (G), 31 Jon Gee (G), 2 Chris Evans, 3 James Grant,

4 Gord MacDonald, 5 Andy Holte, 6 Jeff Stairs, 7 Karl Friesen, 8 Matt Holte 'A', 9 Rob Rintoul 'C',

10 Mitch Schochter, 11 Tanner Skolrood, 12 Ryan Minchenko, 14 Darcy Holte,

15 Andrew Hamilton 'A', 16 Kyle Point, 22 Christian Madsen, 33 Rob Gray, 34 Luke Lecavalier,

44 Kyle Greer, 55 Amrit Dhoot, 55 Chris Usselman

**Staff:** Coach: Bill Kirkland, Asst. Coaches': Dennis Taylor, Dan Holte, Trainer: Trevor McEachnie, GM: Rich Zecchel, President Pat Grant

**Tigers Awards:** MVP – Cody O'Brien, Top Scorer – Rob Rintoul, Coaches Choice – Chris Evans,  
Unsung Hero – Karl Friesen, Most Improved – Tanner Skolrood

### **2003 Player Statistics Regular Season**

#### **# Player GP G A TP PIM**

9 Rob Rintoul 'C' 18 30 38 68 98  
10 Mitch Schochter 18 30 36 66 10  
5 Andy Holte 17 27 36 63 28  
8 Matt Holte 'A' 17 41 16 57 106  
7 Karl Friesen 18 16 31 47 30  
16 Kyle Point 17 16 17 33 38  
11 Tanner Skolrood 18 13 20 33 6  
14 Darcy Holte 11 11 20 31 9  
15 Andrew Hamilton A' 18 13 16 29 17  
3 James Grant 16 9 13 22 13  
6 Jeff Stairs 11 11 5 16 42  
22 Christian Madsen 16 10 6 16 11  
2 Chris Evans 17 9 7 16 22  
56 Chris Usselman 16 7 9 16 2  
12 Ryan Minchenko 16 4 12 16 11  
00 Kody O'Brien (G) 16 0 15 15 21  
55 Amrit Dhoot 16 4 10 14 21  
4 Gord McDonald 11 6 7 13 59 3  
3 Rob Gray 10 2 9 11 26  
44 Kyle Greer 15 3 3 6 45  
31 Peter Foucher (G) 10 0 5 5 7  
34 Luke Lecavalier 16 0 2 2 2  
31 Jon Gee (G) 1 0 0 0 0

### **2003 Player Statistics TOJLL Playoffs -**

#### **# Player GP G A TP PIM**

5 Andy Holte 5 10 12 22 18  
7 Karl Friesen 5 6 8 14 4  
6 Jeff Stairs 4 6 7 13 4  
15 Andrew Hamilton A' 5 8 4 12 4  
8 Matt Holte 'A' 5 4 8 12 46  
10 Mitch Schochter 3 4 8 12 2  
16 Kyle Point 5 6 5 11 16  
9 Rob Rintoul 'C' 3 5 6 11 4  
44 Kyle Greer 5 5 6 11 8 3

3 Rob Gray 5 5 3 8 14  
3 James Grant 5 4 4 8 2  
56 Chris Usselman 5 2 5 7 2  
2 Chris Evans 5 4 0 4 2  
12 Ryan Minchenko 5 0 4 4 2  
00 Kody O'Brien (G) 5 0 4 4 0  
22 Christian Madsen 5 2 1 3 0  
11 Tanner Skolrood 3 2 1 3 4  
14 Darcy Holte 0 0 0 0 0  
31 Peter Foucher 5 1 0 1 0  
55 Amrit Dhoot 5 0 0 0 22  
4 Gord McDonald 1 0 0 0 4  
34 Luke Lecavalier 5 0 0 0 4  
31 Jon Gee (G) 0 0 0 0 0

Vernon Tigers vs South Okanagan Flames  
Game Report 26 May 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

It was hat tricks all round as the Vernon Tigers' captain and assistant captains led their team to a 15-5 victory over the Summerland Flames Monday night in Summerland.

Captain Rob Rintoul (3+2), Assistant Andrew Hamilton (3+0) and Assistant Matt Holte (3+1) each scored three times in the Tigers' sixth win of the season. At 6 wins and 2 losses, the Tigers now trail the Rutland Raiders by one point for top spot in Thompson-Okanagan Junior League play.

The Tigers ran into a hot goaltender in the first period as the Flames' Brock Warr managed to hold off a determined Vernon offence, giving up just one goal to Matt Holte (3+1). The Flames ran up a 3-1 lead at the end of the first on the strength of two goals by David Grant (2+0) and one by Karl Marsh (2+0).

The Tigers' snipers found their range in the second period. Andrew Hamilton (3+0) scored three times while line mate Matt Holte completed his hat trick as well. Rintoul rounded out the scoring from the Tigers' most productive line of the game. Mitch Schocter (2+2) added a pair, with Andy Holte (1+3), Karl Friesen (1+0), and Amret Dhoot (1+1) running the score to 12-4 in the Tigers' favour by the end of the period. Marsh scored the lone Summerland tally.

In the third period, Rintoul completed his hat trick and Chris Evans (1+2) added a single. The Flames got one from Trent Franks (1+0) to complete the game's scoring. Kody O'Brien (0+2) played goal for the Tigers and recorded a pair of assists. Kyle Point

(0+2), Rob Gray (0+1), Chris Usselman (0+1) and Tanner Skolrood (0+1) all added helpers.

The Tigers had 32 minutes in penalties to the Flames' 23.

The Tigers host Rutland at the Multiplex on Wednesday, June 4th in a game that should decide first place in the league. Game time is 7:30 for what promises to be yet another Rutland-Tiger barnburner.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Rob Rintoul (3+2)

Matt Holte (3+1)

Andrew Hamilton (3+0)

Mitch Shocter (2+2)

Andy Holte (1+3)

Chris Evans (1+2)

Amret Dhoot (1+1)

Karl Friesen (1+0)

Kody O'Brien (0+2)

Kyle Point (0+1)

Rob Gray (0+1)

Chris Usselman(0+1)

Tanner Skolrood (0+1)

## Vernon Tigers vs Rutland Raiders Game Report: June 4, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Seize First Place From Raiders**

The Vernon Tigers took over top spot in the Junior B Lacrosse rankings with a convincing 17-9 victory over the Rutland Raiders Wednesday night. The win before a crowd of about 300 at the Multiplex takes the Tigers' record to 7 wins and 2 losses, one point ahead of Rutland.

Head coach Bill Kirkland termed the game "a hard-fought battle" and attributed his team's success to a "better commitment to defence and good ball movement that created a lot of chances offensively."

The Tigers ran up a 7-0 lead in the first period. Matt Holte (3+2) and Rob Rintoul (3+2) each scored twice. Single goals from game first star Mitch Schocter (2+6), Karl Friesen

(2+2), and Darcy Holte (1+2) rounded out the first-period offence.

The second period was a more even affair. Tanner Skolrood (3+0) had the first two of his eventual hat trick, with singles coming from Schocter, Chris Madsen (1+0), Friesen and Kyle Point (1+0). Cory Davies (1+0), Dave Haas (1+0), Steve Plasko (1+0), Darcy Leach (1+2) and Jamie Klarenbeek (2+0) with a pair replied for Rutland. The score at the end of the period was 13-6 in Vernon's favour.

The Tigers regained control in a much rougher third period. Matt Holte, Skolrood and Rintoul all completed their hat tricks and Rob Gray (1+1) capitalized on a break-away. Raiders Dylan Lye (1+1) and Travis Wray (1+1) scored for Rutland. Rutland resorted to rough play, sparking two fights. Tiger Andrew Hamilton (0+1) took on Geoff Wray after Wray ran the Tiger goalie. Rutland's Travis Wray earned himself a major and game ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct after he attacked Darcy Holte. Late in the period Darcy Holte and Andy Holte (0+2) tag teamed Rutland's well-padded big guy Steve Plasko.

Kody O'Brien (0+1) played another solid game for the Tigers, turning aside 61 Rutland shots. At the other end of the floor, Jody Kwasnewski relieved starter Erik Wray in the third period. Between them, the Rutland netminders stopped 60 shots, letting in 17 goals.

Next up for the Tigers: a road game in Armstrong Thursday night and then a trip to Rutland for a re-match Saturday night.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Mitch Schocter (2+6)

Rob Rintoul (3+2)

Matt Holte (3+2)

Tanner Skolrood (3+0)

Karl Friesen (2+2)

Darcy Holte (1+2)

Rob Gray (1+1)

Kyle Point (1+0)

Chris Madsen (1+0)

Andy Holte (0+2)

Chris Evans (0+1)

Kody O'Brien (0+1)

James Grant (0+1)

Andrew Hamilton (0+1)

Ryan Minchenko (0+1)

Luke Lecavalier (0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Armstrong Shamrocks  
Game Report: June 5, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Squeak By Shamrocks**

The Vernon Tigers barely held off a determined counter-attack by the Armstrong Shamrocks Thursday night in Armstrong to salvage a 17-16 win. The victory improves the Tigers' record to 8 wins and 2 losses and keeps the Vernon team in first place in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse league.

The first period was a seesaw affair, which ended in a 4-3 advantage for the Tigers. Chris Madsen (1+3), Rob Rintoul (2+2), Mitch Schochter (2+5) and Tanner Skolrood (4+1) scored for the Tigers. Armstrong sniper Brett Logan (3+5), Kevin Bigsby (4+2) and Matt Keller (3+0) supplied the Shamrock offence.

The second period was all Tigers as they ran up the score to 11-6. Skolrood scored three times while Darcy Holte (3+1), Matt Holte (1+1), Schochter and Chris Usselman (1+1) all added singles for the Tigers. Devin Ritter (1+2), Logan and Wyatt Williams (2+1) scored for the Shamrocks.

The tables turned in the third period as the Shamrocks scored ten times and fought their way back into the game, capitalizing on a number of Vernon penalties. Three goals by Bigsby, two by Keller, and singles from Logan, Mark Wagner (1+0), Shawn Strohm (1+2), Dan Stebbing (1+1) and Williams made for an exciting finish. Two goals from Gord MacDonald (2+1) and singles from Darcy Holte, Chris Evans (1+0) and Rintoul kept the Tigers alive as the lead changed hands several times in the dying minutes. Darcy Holte's second goal of the period on a pass from Andrew Hamilton (0+3) proved to be the game winner.

Peter Foucher earned the victory in net for the Tigers. Greg Radies and Mitchell Wright shared the goaltending duties for the Shamrocks.

Tiger coach Bill Kirkland gave the Shamrocks full credit for showing up to play and outthrusting the Tigers at key points in the game. He was "disappointed" in his team's performance and relieved to be leaving with two points.

Next up for the Tigers: Saturday night in Rutland, where Kirkland hopes that the Tigers put out the same effort they did this past Wednesday in a 17-9 drubbing of their arch-rivals, the Raiders.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Mitch Shochter (2+5)  
Tanner Skolrood (4+1)  
Darcy Holte (3+1)  
Rob Rintoul (2+2)  
Gord MacDonald (2+1)  
Chris Madsen (1+3)  
Matt Holte (1+1)  
Chris Usselman (1+1)  
Chris Evans (1+0)  
Andrew Hamilton (0+3)  
Karl Friesen (0+3)  
Ryan Minchenko (0+2)  
Rob Gray (0+1)  
James Grant (0+1)

### Vernon Tigers vs Rutland Raiders Game Report: June 7, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Defeat Raiders Again**

For the second time in a week, the Vernon Source for Sports Tigers defeated the Rutland Raiders in Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League play. The 13-11 win in Rutland Saturday night improves the Tigers' record to 9 wins and 2 losses, three points ahead of Rutland. Rutland has not beaten the Tigers in the last two seasons.

The Tigers ran up a 5-2 lead in the first period on goals by James Grant (2+1), Karl Friesen (1+2), Matt Holte (2+0), Rob Rintoul (2+2) and Kyle Point (12). Raiders Geoff Wray (3+3) and Travis Wray (1+0) kept Rutland in the game.

The Raiders evened things up in the second period. Wes Donnelly (1+1), Dave Haas (1+0), Nick Iver (1+0), Travis Lee (1+0) and Mark McLennan (2+3) all scored for the Raiders. Goals by Tigers Rintoul and game first-star Mitch Schochter (1+3) made it 7-7 at the end of the period.

The Tigers regained the lead in the third period. Andy Holte (3+0) scored a hat trick while his brother Matt, Grant and Andrew Hamilton (1+0) completed the Tiger offence. Raider Geoff Wray completed his hat trick and Kyle McLennan (1+0) and Mark McLennan contributed one apiece in the losing cause.

Darcy Holte added two assists, with Rob Gray, Kyle Greer and Amret Dhoot each contributing one helper.

According to Tiger coach Bill Kirkland, the game was a typically rough match between the teams. He credited goalie Kody O'Brien with another excellent game.

The Tigers managed to stay out of the box, earning a total of just 18 minutes in penalties. The Raiders added 35 minutes to their league-leading penalty total, including a match penalty assessed to Geoff Wray for a high stick incident after the game had ended.

Next up for the Tigers: a home stand against the Kelowna Dragons at 7:30 PM Wednesday night at the Mutlplex.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte (3+0)

Mitch Shocter (1+3)

Rob Rintoul (2+2)

James Grant (2+1)

Matt Holte (2+0)

Karl Friesen (1+2)

Kyle Point (1+2)

Andrew Hamilton (1+0)

Darcy Holte (0+2)

Rob Gray (0+1)

Amret Dhoot (0+1)

Kyle Greer (0+1)

### Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons Game Report: June 11, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Defeat Dragons 15-8**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers played their most complete game of the season Wednesday night at the Multiplex. The Tigers solidified their hold on first place in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League and improved their record to 10 wins and 2 losses with a convincing 15-8 victory over the Kelowna Dragons.

Head Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased with the win. “We played a strong game at both ends of the floor – solid goaltending, terrific ball movement, and good defence,” he said.

The Dragons scored first in what turned out to be a fast-paced game but the Tigers came



right back, took over the lead and never relinquished it. Tigers' leading scorer Mitch Shochter (3+1) scored a hat trick in the first period while linemate Andy Holte (3+2) added two more. Dragons Pete Lewis (1+1), Eli Wood-Scowcroft (1+0) and Chris Philps (1+1) replied for the Dragons. Tigers led 5-3 at the end of the first.

The Tigers took charge of the game in the second period. Game first star Rob Rintoul (4+1) scored a hat trick, with Andrew Hamilton (2+0), Jeff Stairs (1+0) and Karl Friesen (1+1) each adding singles. Dragon Keyvan McPhail (2+1) scored twice and Brock Freeman (1+1) scored once to end the period with the Tigers leading 11-6.

The Tigers doubled the Dragon goal output in the third. Rintoul scored his fourth, Andy Holte his third and Hamilton his second. Gord MacDonald (1+0) rounded out the Vernon scoring. Dragons Phil Faasse (1+0) and Lee Zononce (1+0) scored for the Dragons.

Vernon goalie Kody O'Brien (0+4) had an excellent game. Not only did he stop 44 of the 52 shots he faced, but he also contributed four assists in the winning cause. Dragon goalies Ryan Cornish and Steve Weins faced a barrage of 75 shots from the Tigers

Darcy Holte, James Grant and Kyle Point added two assists apiece, with Rob Gray, Tanner Skolrood and Chris Evans each contributing one helper. Matt Holte had a three-point night, assisting on three goals.

The game was fast and clean, with each team earning just 13 minutes in penalties. The only fight of the game came in the third when Dragon captain Nick Evans challenged Rob Gray and received a sound thumping for his pains.

Next up for the Tigers: a home stand against the Armstrong Junior Shamrocks at 7:30 PM Wednesday, June 18th at the Mutliplex.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Rob Rintoul(4+1)

Andy Holte(3+2)

Mitch Shochter(3+1)

Andrew Hamilton(2+0)

Karl Friesen(1+1)

Jeff Stairs(1+0)

Gord MacDonald(1+0)

Kody O'Brien(0+4)

Matt Holte(0+3)

Darcy Holte(0+2)

Kyle Point(0+2)

James Grant(0+2)

Chris Evans(0+1)  
Rob Gray(0+1)  
Tanner Skolrood(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Armstrong Shamrocks  
Game Report: June 18, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

**Tigers Defeat Dragons 15-8**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers played their most complete game of the season Wednesday night at the Multiplex. The Tigers solidified their hold on first place in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League and improved their record to 10 wins and 2 losses with a convincing 15-8 victory over the Kelowna Dragons.

Head Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased with the win. “We played a strong game at both ends of the floor – solid goaltending, terrific ball movement, and good defence,” he said.

The Dragons scored first in what turned out to be a fast-paced game but the Tigers came right back, took over the lead and never relinquished it. Tigers’ leading scorer Mitch Shochter (3+1) scored a hat trick in the first period while linemate Andy Holte (3+2) added two more. Dragons Pete Lewis (1+1), Eli Wood-Scowcroft (1+0) and Chris Philps (1+1) replied for the Dragons. Tigers led 5-3 at the end of the first.

The Tigers took charge of the game in the second period. Game first star Rob Rintoul (4+1) scored a hat trick, with Andrew Hamilton (2+0), Jeff Stairs (1+0) and Karl Friesen (1+1) each adding singles. Dragon Keyvan McPhail (2+1) scored twice and Brock Freeman (1+1) scored once to end the period with the Tigers leading 11-6.

The Tigers doubled the Dragon goal output in the third. Rintoul scored his fourth, Andy Holte his third and Hamilton his second. Gord MacDonald (1+0) rounded out the Vernon scoring. Dragons Phil Faasse (1+0) and Lee Zononce (1+0) scored for the Dragons.

Vernon goalie Kody O’Brien (0+4) had an excellent game. Not only did he stop 44 of the 52 shots he faced, but he also contributed four assists in the winning cause. Dragon goalies Ryan Cornish and Steve Weins faced a barrage of 75 shots from the Tigers

Darcy Holte, James Grant and Kyle Point added two assists apiece, with Rob Gray, Tanner Skolrood and Chris Evans each contributing one helper. Matt Holte had a three-point night, assisting on three goals.

The game was fast and clean, with each team earning just 13 minutes in penalties. The

only fight of the game came in the third when Dragon captain Nick Evans challenged Rob Gray and received a sound thumping for his pains.

Next up for the Tigers: a home stand against the Armstrong Junior Shamrocks at 7:30 PM Wednesday, June 18th at the Mutliplex.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Rob Rintoul(4+1)

Andy Holte(3+2)

Mitch Shocter(3+1)

Andrew Hamilton(2+0)

Karl Friesen(1+1)

Jeff Stairs(1+0)

Gord MacDonald(1+0)

Kody O'Brien(0+4)

Matt Holte(0+3)

Darcy Holte(0+2)

Kyle Point(0+2)

James Grant(0+2)

Chris Evans(0+1)

Rob Gray(0+1)

Tanner Skolrood(0+1)

### Vernon Tigers vs Kamloops Rattlers

Game Report: June 22, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Defeat Rattlers 13-8**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers returned from Kamloops Sunday night with a 13-8 victory over the Kamloops Rattlers. Sunday's hard-fought win gives the first-place Tigers a season record of 12 wins and 2 losses in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League.

Head Coach Bill Kirkland was happy with the win but very sad to see veteran playmaker and sniper Darcy Holte taken to hospital near the end of the first period with what appeared to be a bad knee injury. "Darcy had been having an excellent season," he said. "We hope he recovers quickly."

The Tigers came out of the gates shooting. Jeff Stairs (1+1) converted a crisp pass from Rob Rintoul (0+4) and Andrew Hamilton (2+0) quickly made it 2-0. Matt Holte (2+0) scored twice while his brother Andy (2+3) and Mitch Schochter (2+2) each added singles. Rattlers Mark Jurista (1+2), David Reid (1+1) and Alex Turner (1+1) kept the

Kamloops team in the game. The injury to Darcy Holte brought the period to a premature close with three minutes go and the Tigers enjoying a 6-3 lead.

The second period got rough when the less skilled Rattlers tried to intimidate the Tigers with a lot of slashing and roughing. Things turned nasty at the mid-point when small but feisty Amret Dhoot (0+1) took a hard high stick from Rattler David Reid, which precipitated a fight between the two. In fact, the Rattlers succeeded in drawing the Tigers into the Kamloops penalty-laden style of play for much of the period. As a result, Kamloops outscored the Vernon team 3-2 in the second frame. Hamilton and Christian Madsen (2+0) accounted for the Tiger offence, while Rattlers Jared Emery (2+1), Ryan Bullock (1+0) and Ryan Kurzac (1+0) made it 8-6 for Vernon at the end of the second.

Although Kamloops' tactics didn't change in the third period, the Tigers returned more to their game of speed and ball movement to regain control. Chris Evans (1+0), Andy Holte, Schochter, Kyle Point (1+1) and Madsen scored for Vernon. Emery and Derek Jurista (1+0) replied for the Rattlers, who seemed more intent on trying to incite fights than scoring goals. The game ended with a fight between Tiger Kyle Greer and Rattler Mike Tremblay.

Tiger goalie Kody O'Brien turned in yet another solid performance. Mike Smith and Mike Evans shared the defeat for Kamloops. Vernon was awarded a total of 60 minutes in penalties to 58 for Kamloops.

Captain Rob Rintoul had four helpers with Tanner Skolrood, Ryan Minchenko, Amret Dhoot, James Grant and Karl Friesen all adding single assists.

The Tigers host the Summerland Flames at home at 7:30 PM Wednesday, June 25th at the Multiplex. There is little love lost between the teams, so fans can expect to see a physical game.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte(2+3)

Mitch Schochter(2+2)

Andrew Hamilton(2+0)

Matt Holte(2+0)

Christian Madsen(2+0)

Kyle Point(1+1)

Jeff Stairs(1+1)

Chris Evans(1+0)

Rob Rintoul(0+4)

Tanner Skolrood (0+1)

Kyle Greer(0+1)

Karl Friesen(0+1)  
James Grant(0+1)  
Amret Dhoot(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs South Ok. Flames  
Game Report: June 25, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

**Tigers Whip Flames 18-1**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers hosted the Summerland Flames Wednesday night at the Multiplex in what looked more like a practice session for the home team than a game. The league-leading Tigers' 19-1 victory improves their record to 13 wins and 2 losses in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League.

The Flames only managed to field nine players plus their goaltender. They were unable to keep pace with the faster and more skilled Tigers.

The Tigers scored six unanswered goals in the first period. Rob Rintoul (3+0) scored twice, while Matt Holte (3+2), Andrew Hamilton (1+1), Chris Madsen (2+0) and Chris Usselman (1+2) each scored once.

In the second period, the Tigers continued their scoring practice. Rintoul completed his hat trick and Karl Friesen (2+0) potted two. Jeff Stairs (3+3), Chris Evans (1+1), Tanner Skolrood (1+3) and Rob Gray (1+1) made up the rest of the Tiger offence. Summerland's Dave Grant (1+0) ruined Kody O'Brien's shutout bid to close the period 13-1 for the Tigers.

Flames' goalie Justin Cirous showed signs of frustration and bad judgment in the second period when he was awarded his second charging penalty of the game. Tiger captain Rob Rintoul returned the favour moments later, flattening the Summerland netminder. Things got a bit testy when Rintoul returned to the floor and leveled another Summerland player. Rintoul's second major got him tossed from the game.

The third period was all Tigers again. Stairs and Matt Holte both completed their hat tricks, with Madsen adding his second of the night. Summerland tempers began to boil over. Flame Jeremiah Louis challenged Gord MacDonald and paid dearly for his mistake. Both earned game ejections.

Flames' goalie Cirous continued to try and goad the Tigers into retaliation. He finally succeeded in doing so in the dying minutes when he cross-checked Andy Holte (1+4) after Holte scored the game's last goal. Tiger back-up goaltender Peter Foucher was playing as a forward. He came to Holte's rescue, taking on Cirous and then fighting

Jeremiah Louis. At the same time Stairs got into a vigorous tilt when attacked by the much taller Jamie Lyons. Lyons not only lost the fight but he also earned two majors and two game misconducts. Stairs received a five-minute major. The referees let the time run out and handed Cirous two majors and two game misconducts. Cirous managed to amass a total of 37 penalty minutes in the game by himself.

Tiger goalie Kody O'Brien earned first star honours, turning aside 30 of the 31 shots he faced, including some spectacular saves. Cirous faced 71-shot barrage from Vernon.

Vernon was awarded a total of 56 minutes in penalties to 108 for Summerland.

Tiger Ryan Minchenko had three assists with Mitch Schocter, Gord MacDonald, Amret Dhoot, and Kody O'Brien all adding single helpers. Sixteen of the eighteen Tiger players participated in the scoring.

The Tigers host the Kelowna Braves at the Multiplex at 7:30 PM Wednesday, July 2nd. The Tigers will looking for revenge against the Braves, the only team to defeat Vernon all season.

#### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Jeff Stairs(3+3)

Matt Holte(3+2)

Rob Rintoul(3+0)

Christian Madsen(2+0)

Karl Friesen(2+0)

Andy Holte(1+4)

Tanner Skolrood(1+3)

Chris Usselman(1+2)

Andrew Hamilton(1+1)

Chris Evans(1+1)

Rob Gray(1+1)

Ryan Minchenko(0+3)

Mitch Schochter (0+1)

Kody O'Brien(0+1)

Kyle Point(0+1)

Amret Dhoot(0+1)

Gord MacDonald(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Braves

Game Report: July 2, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

## **Tigers Clinch First Place**

It was a game of play-of-the-week goals, speed and finesse as the Vernon Source for Sports Tigers clinched first place in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League with a convincing 14-4 victory over the Kelowna Braves Wednesday night at the Multiplex. As head coach Bill Kirkland said, his team “redeemed themselves for two earlier losses to the Braves and they did so with authority.” This is the second year in a row that the Tigers have dominated the league.

The game was never really in doubt as the Tigers out shot their opponents 85-56. Goals by Chris Usselman (2+0), James Grant (2+1), Matt Holte (3+2) and Rob Rintoul (2+1) opened up an early lead for the Tigers. The Braves’ Kyle VandeSyp (1+1) recorded the only tally for the visitors to close out the first period with the Tigers leading 4-1. The Tigers speedy offence tested the Braves’ goalie Mike Mead as they unleashed a barrage of 35 shots in the first period alone.

The second period was pretty much a carbon copy of the first. Game first star Matt Holte scored twice to complete his hat trick while Mitch Schocter (2+1) and sniper Kyle Point (2+3) each added single goals. Dave Carmichael (1+0) scored the lone goal for the Braves. Tigers led 8-2 at the end of the second.

The third period was a bit more even, with the Braves out shooting the Tigers 24-23. However, Kody O’Brien turned aside all but two of the Braves’ shots, allowing the Tigers to increase their lead again. Rintoul, Schocter, Point, Usselman, Grant and Tanner Skolrood (1+1) scored for the home team. Ed Porter (2+0) struck twice in the losing cause.

It was a clean, fast game. The Tigers amassed 27 minutes in penalties to 19 for the Braves. The only fight of the game featured scrappy Matt Holte gaining the advantage over the much taller Richard Linde of the Braves.

Not content with turning aside 52 shots, Kody O’Brien (0+3) assisted on three goals. Andrew Hamilton, Andy Holte and Gord MacDonald each contributed two helpers. Karl Friesen and Amrit Dhoot provided one assist each.

Kirkland was extremely pleased with his team’s play. “Kody passed the ball well, adding to an already potent offence,” he noted. “It was an excellent all-round game.”

The Tigers travel to Rutland Thursday night and then return home Saturday night to close out the regular season against the Kamloops Rattlers. Tiger fans at the Multiplex can look forward to another gritty battle between two teams with no love lost between them. The Tigers will face Kamloops in the first round of the playoffs.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Matt Holte(3+2)

Kyle Point(2+3)

Rob Rintoul(2+1)

James Grant(2+1)

Mitch Schochter(2+0)

Chris Usselman(2+0)

Tanner Skolrood(1+1)

Kody O'Brien(0+3)

Andy Holte(0+2)

Andrew Hamilton(0+2)

Gord MacDonald(0+2)

Karl Friesen(0+1)

Amret Dhoot(0+1)

### Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons

Game Report: July 3, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Squeak By Dragons 11-10**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers stretched their winning streak in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League with a 11-10 victory over the Kelowna Dragons Thursday night at the Kelowna Memorial Arena. Head coach Bill Kirkland described the narrow victory as “a good tune-up for the forthcoming playoffs, which start next week.”

The game was a close one from beginning to end. The Dragons got the first goal in the first shift when Pete Lewis (3+0) scored. Matt Holte (2+0) scored four minutes later to even the score. Then Rob Rintoul (2+2) gave the lead to the Tigers. Dragon Chris Wagner (1+2) evened the score but Gord MacDonald (1+1) and Andy Holte (4+1) gave the Tigers a two-goal advantage. In the final five minutes the Dragons evened the game at 4-4 on goals by Lewis and Lee Zayonce (1+0).

The Tigers ran into a bit of penalty trouble in the second period but managed to hold off a determined Dragon attack to take a 9-7 lead by the end of the frame. Andy Holte scored three times for the Tigers, with Rintoul and Matt Holte each adding singles. Phil Faase (2+3) scored twice and Eli Wood-Scowcroft (1+2) once for the Dragons.

Thanks to some sensational saves by goalie Kody O'Brien and critical goals by Jeff Stairs (1+0) and Karl Friesen (1+3), the Tigers hung on in the third period to preserve a one-goal victory. Dragons Lewis, Leighton Loski (1+0) and Jordan Shaw (1+0) kept the game close and exciting up until the buzzer. Ryan Cornish took the loss in net for the Kelowna team.



Twelve Tigers participated in the scoring. Mitch Schocter had two assists, with Andrew Hamilton, Chris Usselman, Chris Madsen, James Grant and Kody O'Brien each contributing single assists. The Tigers had 23 penalty minutes to the Dragons 22.

The first-place Tigers will complete their near-perfect season Saturday night at the Multiplex when they take on the fourth-place Kamloops Rattlers. Game time is 7:00 PM for what will likely be a preview of the first round of the playoffs.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte(4+1)

Rob Rintoul(2+2)

Matt Holte(2+0)

Karl Friesen(1+3)

Gord MacDonald(1+1)

Jeff Stairs(1+0)

Mitch Schochter(0+2)

Andrew Hamilton(0+1)

Chris Usselman(0+1)

James Grant(0+1)

Chris Madsen(0+1)

Kody O'Brien(0+1)

### Vernon Tigers vs Kamloops Rattlers Game Report: July 5, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Complete Perfect Season**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers ended their Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League season the same way they began it - as winners. With a 12-8 victory over the Kamloops Rattlers in front of about 300 fans Saturday night at the Multiplex, the Tigers completed their second undefeated season in a row. Although the Vernon team had lost two contests to the Kelowna Braves, those games were over-turned because of the Braves' use of an illegal player, giving the Tigers a perfect 18-0 record and first place.

The Tigers started off sluggishly, allowing the Rattlers to run up a 3-1 lead at the end of the first period. Karl Friesen (1+5) scored the lone marker for the home team. Jeff Stevenson (2+2), David Reid (1+0) and Kyle LeBlond (1+0) provided the Rattler offence.

The Tigers began to get back into the game in the second. Winfield sniper Andy Holte (4+3) had a natural hat trick, while Jeff Stairs (1+0) and Kyle Point (2+0) each added

singletons. Rattlers Stevenson, Ryan Bullock (2+0) and Kin Kelsey (1+0) evened the score at 6-6 by the end of the period.

The second period was a bit more intense. Tiger captain Rob Rintoul was shoved into the Rattler netminder, provoking Rattler Kyle LeBlond to attack the smaller Tiger player. Rintoul acquitted himself well in the bout and both player received five-minute majors. As Rintoul and his opponent went to the box, a fracas broke out where the home and away benches meet. When the dust cleared, two players and two assistant coaches had been ejected.

The Tigers regained control of the game in the third period and returned to their style of play. Using their superior speed and ball handling ability, the Tigers scored six goals to the Rattlers' two. Holte scored his fourth of the night. Linemate Mitch Schocter (3+4) reeled off a natural hat trick. Rob Rintoul (1+1) and Point rounded out the scoring for the Tigers. Jordan Levin (1+0) and Bullock contributed one goal each for the Rattlers. Kamloops kept trying to intimidate the Tigers, leading to a bout between Vernon's Kyle Greer and Rattler Ryan Kurzac.

Chris Madsen, Tanner Skolrood and Peter Foucher each had an assist for Vernon.

The Tigers recently acquired, giant-size goaltender John Gee made his debut in net. At 6 foot 8 inches, Gee had a strong outing, turning aside 41 of the 49 shots he faced. Kamloops goalie Graham Turnbull let in 12 of 68 Tiger shots. Gee was particularly effective in the third period, making some key stops.

The first-place Tigers will entertain the Rattlers on Monday, July 5th at the Multiplex. Game two in the best of three series is Thursday in Kamloops, with game three in Vernon.

**Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte(4+3)

Mitch Schochter(3+4)

Karl Friesen(1+3)

Kyle Point(2+0)

Rob Rintoul(1+1)

Jeff Stairs(1+0)

Chris Madsen(0+1)

Peter Foucher(0+1)

Tanner Skolrood(0+1)

Playoffs: Round 1 Game #1  
Vernon Tigers vs Kamloops Rattlers  
July 7, 2003

from the MORNINGSTAR

### **Tigers snake by Rattlers**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers zapped the Kamloops Rattlers 13-4 Monday night in game one of their Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League best-of-three semifinal series at the Multiplex.

Game Two goes Thursday night in Kamloops with a third game, if required, back in Vernon Saturday night.

The Tigres ran up a 6-1 lead on the strength of goals by Andy Holte(1+2), Jeff Stairs(2+0), James Grant(2+0), Chris Evans , Rob Rintoul(2+3) and Kyle Greer(1+1). Mark Jurista(2) was the lone scorer for the Rattlers.

The Tigers kept the Rattlers off the scoreboard in the second frame. Grant, Stairs, Tanner Skolrood(1), and Rob Gray(3+2) made it 10-1 by the end of the period.

The teams each scored three times in the third period. Rob Gray scored twice to complete his hat trick and earn first star honours. Rintoul provided the remaining offence for the Tigers. Jurista, Dave Reid and Kyle LeBlond replied for Kamloops. Karl Friesen, Matt Holte, Ryan Minchenko and Chris Ussleman contributed two assists apiece. Kyle Point provided a single helper. Kody O'Brien earned the win, facing 51 shots. Kamloops netminder Mike Smith turned aside 58 of 71 shots.

Playoffs: Round 1 Game #2  
Vernon Tigers vs Kamloops Rattlers  
July 10, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Sweep Semi-Finals**

For the second year in a row, the Vernon Source for Sports Tigers have swept the Kamloops Rattlers in the semi-finals of the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League season. A 14-8 victory over the Kamloops Rattlers Thursday night in Kamloops guaranteed the Vernon team a berth in the finals against either the Rutland Raiders or Kelowna Dragons.

The Tigers ran up a 4-3 lead in the first period on goals by Karl Friesen (2+2), Rob Rintoul (3+3), Chris Madsen (1+0) and Kyle Greer (1+0). Kamloops kept pace on goals by David Reid (1+0), Derek Jurista (2+2) and Sheldon Araki (3+0).

The Tigers lengthened their lead to 9-6 in the second period. Andy Holte (3+4) had a hat trick with Rintoul and Chris Usselman (1+0) scoring as well. Rattler Sheldon Araki completed his hat trick, with Jurista adding one.

After two periods of somewhat shaky play, the Tigers found their stride in the third. Friesen, Rintoul, Kyle Point (1+1), Tanner Skolrood (1+1) and Andrew Hamilton (1+0) cemented the victory and the series for the Tigers. Ryan Bullock (1+0) and Nathan Woldum (1+1) replied for the losing team.

Matt Holte and Jeff Stairs each had three assists and James Grant provided a pair. Single helpers came from Kody O'Brien and Ryan Minchenko.

Goalie Kody O'Brien had a busy night in net, facing 59 shots. Rattler goalies Mike Smith and Graham Turnbull shared duties for the home team, facing 55 shots between them.

#### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte (3+4)

Rob Rintoul(3+3)

Karl Friesen(2+2)

Kyle Point(1+1)

Tanner Skolrood(1+1)

Chris Madsen(1+0)

Andrew Hamilton(1+0)

Kyle Greer(1+0)

Chris Usselman(1+0)

Jeff Stairs(0+3)

Matt Holte(0+3)

James Grant(0+2)

Ryan Minchenko(0+1)

Kody O'Brien(0+1)

Playoffs: Finals Game #1  
Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons  
July 15, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

## **Tigers Take Game One of Finals**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers continued their winning ways Tuesday night at the Multiplex. The home team easily defeated the Kelowna Dragons to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five final series. Not only did the Tigers win 11-4 but they also dominated every aspect of the game: offence, defence and goaltending.

Led by a four-point performance from game first star Andrew Hamilton (2+2), the Tigers seized control early on, running up a 6-0 lead in the first period. Goalie Kody O'Brien held off an early surge by the Dragons until his team took over. Goals by James Grant (1+0), Jeff Stairs (2+0), Karl Friesen (1+0), Matt Holte (1+1), Hamilton and game second star Kyle Greer (2+1) gave the Tigers an insurmountable 6-0 edge by the close of the first.

The Tigers dominated most of the second period. Hamilton and Stairs each scored for the second time, with Rob Gray (1+0) chipping in one goal. Kyle Point (1+1) scored a highlight reel backhanded goal. The Dragons finally managed to get on the board, thanks to a pair of goals from Lee Zayonce (2+1). The Tigers took a 10-2 lead to the dressing room after two periods of play.

The third period was a bit more of a contest, with Dragons Eli Wood-Scowcroft (1+0) and Chris Phillips (1+0) scoring as the Tigers killed some penalties. However, the Tiger defence proved too much for the Dragons and Kody O'Brien denied the Kelowna shooters time and again. The Tiger defence forced a turnover in the final minute of play and Karl Friesen put the ball in an empty Dragon net with .7 seconds to go.

O'Brien (0+2), Andy Holte (0+2) and Chris Usselman (0+2) each contributed a pair of assists. Rob Rintoul (0+1) and Mitch Schochter (0+1) had one helper each.

It was a clean game with the Tigers drawing 16 minutes in penalties to the Dragons' 6 minutes. The Dragons out shot the Tigers 47 to 44.

Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased to begin the final series on a winning note. "We dominated for much of the game," he said, "and our defence and goaltending got us through a few rough spots."

The Tigers travel to the Memorial Arena in Kelowna Thursday night where Kirkland expects the Dragons will put up more of a challenge.

Game three of the best-of-five series goes Saturday, July 19th at the Multiplex at 7:30 PM.

## **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andrew Hamilton 2+2

Kyle Greer 2+1

Jeff Stairs 2+0

Matt Holte 1+1

Kyle Point 1+1

Rob Gray 1+0

James Grant 1+0

Karl Friesen 1+0

Andy Holte 0+2

Kody O'Brien 0+2

Chris Usselman 0+2

Mitch Schocter 0+1

Rob Rintoul 0+1

## Playoffs: Finals Game #2 Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons July 17, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Slay Dragons in Game Two**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers defeated the Kelowna Dragons 21-7 in Kelowna Thursday night to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League finals. The victory puts the undefeated Tigers one game away from the league championship and a berth in the provincials.

The Tigers got off to a shaky start in the first frame. It was a seesaw period with the lead changing hands twice. Jeff Stairs (3+4) opened the scoring for the Tigers thirty seconds into the period. Colby Field (2+1) scored five minutes later to tie the game. A goal by Chris Madsen (1+0) gave the Tigers a 2-1 lead but Pete Lewis (1+0) tied the game up for the home team. The Dragons took the lead one minute later on a goal by Chris Phillips (1+0). Andy Holte (5+2) scored his first of five goals ninety seconds later to tie it at 3-3. The Dragons regained lead, thanks to Jordan Shaw, only to have Andrew Hamilton (2+0) even the score minutes later. Field scored once more with three seconds left, giving the Dragons a 5-4 lead at the end of the first period.

The Vernon team asserted its dominance in the second period, scoring twelve unanswered goals. Mitch Schocter (1+4), Hamilton, Chris Usselman (1+1), Kyle Greer (1+2), and Kyle Point (2+1) each scored once. Chris Evans (2+0), Matt Holte (2+0), Stairs and Andy Holte scored two goals apiece. The lone tally for the Dragons came at

the end of the period from Brock Freeman (1+0). Tigers led 17-6 after two periods.

The Tigers padded their lead with four more goals in the third period. Andy Holte scored his fourth and fifth, with Point adding his second and Grant his first. Phil Faasse of the Dragons scored with twenty seconds left to make it a 21-7 rout by the Tigers.

Karl Friesen provided three assists for the Tigers, with Rob Gray adding one helper.

Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased with his team's effort. "After a shaky start, we seized control in the second period," he said. "It was possibly our best period of the year. For the last two periods, our defence was almost flawless, Kody played extremely well and the offence was spread over thirteen players."

The Tigers hope to clinch their second league championship in two years with a victory over the Dragons Saturday night at the Multiplex. A win Saturday would send the Tigers to the provincial championship for the third consecutive year. The game starts at 7:30 PM.

#### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte 5+2

Jeff Stairs 3+4

Kyle Point 2+1

Andrew Hamilton 2+0

Matt Holte 2+0

Chris Evans 2+0

Mitch Schocter 1+4

Kyle Greer 1+2

Chris Usselman 1+1

James Grant 1+1

Chris Madsen 1+0

Karl Friesen 0+3

Rob Gray 0+1

Playoffs: Finals Game #3

Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons

July 19, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

#### **Tigers League Champions Again**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers are champions once again. A 14-6 victory over the Kelowna Dragons at the Multiplex Saturday night allowed the Tigers to sweep the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League finals for the second year in a row. The

win sends the undefeated Tigers to the provincial championships for the third consecutive season.

The Dragons struck first and in fact held the lead twice in the first period. However, thanks to two goals each from Karl Friesen (3+1) and Kyle Point (2+0) as well as singles from game first star Mitch Schochter (3+3) and Matt Holte (1+0), the Tigers ended the period with a 6-3 lead. Leighton Loski (1+0), Lee Zayonce (1+1) and Pete Lewis provided the offence for the Dragons.

Vernon took control of the game in the second period. Game second star Andrew Hamilton (2+2) scored twice. A pair from Schochter completed his hat trick and Andy Holte (1+2) and Peter Foucher (1+0) added one goal apiece. Brock Freeman (2+0) provided the only marker for the Dragons. Tigers led 12-4 at the end of the second period.

The teams traded a pair of goals in the third period. Freeman and Phil Faase (1+2) scored for Kelowna. Friesen and Rob Gray (1+0) were responsible for the final goals of an undefeated season for the Tigers. Kody O'Brien picked up an assist and third star honours. Chris Madsen, James Grant and Ryan Minchenko had one assist apiece. Kyle Greer added two helpers in the winning cause.

The Tigers outshot their opponents 52-43. In a clean game, the Tigers racked up 26 penalty minutes to 12 minutes for the Dragons.

Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased to see his team secure a berth in the provincials for the third year in a row. "Kody O'Brien celebrated his final league game as a Tiger in fine style," he said. "As he has done all year, Kody came up with big saves when we needed them." Kirkland complimented the Dragons for playing so well despite being seriously under-manned. He noted that the Tigers were without the services of captain Rob Rintoul, veterans Jeff Stairs and Darcy Holte, and rookie Tanner Skolrood. Kirkland expects to have all but Holte back in the line-up in time for the BC championship tournament August 7-10 in Coquitlam. "I am looking forward to the provincials," he said. "We have a very good team, so I am eager to see how well they do this year.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Mitch Schochter 3+3

Karl Friesen 3+1

Andrew Hamilton 2+2

Kyle Point 2+1

Andy Holte 1+2

Matt Holte 1+2

Rob Gray 1+1



Peter Foucher 1+0  
Kyle Greer 0+2  
James Grant 0+1  
Chris Madsen 0+1  
Kody O'Brien 0+1  
Ryan Minchenko 0+1

Provincial Junior B Championships  
Aug 8-10, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Take Silver in Provincial Championships**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers may have lost the gold medal 9-7 game Sunday afternoon but they made history at the provincial championships. The Tigers are the first team from the Thompson-Okanagan league to gain a berth in the gold medal game and the only team from this league to win a silver medal. This was the Tigers' third consecutive trip to the provincials.

Head coach Bill Kirkland was extremely pleased with the silver medal finish. "Our goal was to earn a medal," he said. "The silver medal is a grand finale to a great season." Kirkland noted that the all-Interior final game was another first. "Having the Prince George Posse and the Vernon Tigers leave Coquitlam with gold and silver marks the beginning of a new era in junior B lacrosse in BC. Until now, the provincial championships have been dominated by coastal and Vancouver Island teams. Our performance may have surprised a few people but the teams from the Heartland are now at the top of the heap in BC."

The final game was nearly a carbon copy of the Tiger-Posse match-up in game one of the championships. The Posse scored twice in the opening minutes. However, Mitch Schocter (2+1) scored at the 8-minute mark to get the Tigers into the game. Two more Prince George goals followed, ending the first period 4-1 for the Posse.

The Tigers began to recover in a much more even second period. Game MVP Matt Holte (2+1) scored a power-play marker for Vernon three minutes into the period. Prince George replied two minutes later but the Tigers came roaring back with another power play goal by Holte. The Posse scored again before Karl Friesen (1+0) narrowed the gap at the mid-point of the period. Two unanswered goals by Prince George seemed to place the game beyond Vernon's reach as the Posse ended the period with an 8-4 advantage.

Another goal by the Posse early in the third gave them a daunting 9-4 lead. However, the Tigers never gave up. Just as they did in the first two games of the round robin, they stormed back. Kody O'Brien was again superb in net, refusing to give up any ground to

the Posse. Goals by James Grant (1+0), Rob Rintoul (1+2) and Schocter made it a 9-7 game with minutes to go and the Tigers firmly in charge. Penalties by the Posse gave the Tigers several opportunities to even the score but, despite valiant efforts by the Vernon players, the game ended 9-7 in Prince George's favour.

Star goalie Kody O'Brien played his last game as a Tiger, turning aside 45 of 56 shots. Prince George goalie Brandon Atherton faced 48 shots from the Tigers. Andrew Hamilton and Ryan Minchenko each supplied an assist for Vernon.

The final was a typically fast and physical game for the Tigers, who drew just 16 minutes in penalties. The Posse had 44 minutes.

Kirkland expects even greater things next season. "We were the youngest and smallest team in the tournament and we had the most challenging schedule," he said. "We played four very demanding games in a 28-hour period to earn a berth in the gold medal game. From the veterans to the rookies, we played with heart and skill and we gained the respect of all of our opponents." Kirkland noted that only three players – Kody O'Brien, Kyle Greer and Darcy Holte – are graduating this year. He believes that the self-confidence resulting from the experience of succeeding at the highest level of play bode well for next year's Tigers.

To get to the final game, the Tigers ended up in second in the round robin, having won two games, lost one and tied one. Prince George finished first with a 3-1-0 record. Coquitlam ended up in third with the same record as Vernon but Vernon's goals for and against record gave the Tigers the nod for the gold medal game. Coquitlam won the bronze over fourth-place Port Coquitlam. The Peninsula Falcons finished fifth.

Vernon opened the tournament on Friday morning with a hard-fought 9-7 loss to Prince George. Jeff Stairs (2+1), Matt Holte (1+1), James Grant (1+1), Andrew Hamilton (1+0), Tanner Skolrood (1+0) and Andy Holte (1+0) scored for the Tigers. Rob Gray was the game MVP for Vernon. Prince George out shot Vernon 56 to 39.

The Tigers gained their first victory Friday afternoon defeating the Coastal league champion Port Coquitlam Saints 12-8. Matt Holte led the Tigers with a hat trick and two assists. Kyle Point (2+0), Andy Holte (1+2), Jeff Stairs (1+2), Mitch Schocter (1+1), Rob Rintoul (1+1), Rob Gray (1+0), Andrew Hamilton (1+0) and Kyle Greer (1+0) provided the Tiger offence. Game MVP Kody O'Brien faced 60 shots from PoCo.

In their third game, played at 7:45 AM Saturday morning, the Tigers tied defending champion Coquitlam Adanacs 10-10 in a seesaw battle. Goals from Andy Holte (1+1), Karl Friesen (2+2), Matt Holte (1+0) and Kyle Point (2+0) gave the Tigers a 4-2 lead at the end of the first period. Coquitlam fought back in the second frame, scoring five

times, including two markers from former Tiger Kyle Bronson. Goals from game MVP Jeff Stairs (2+1), Friesen, Mitch Schocter (1+2), and Rob Gray (1+0) enabled Vernon to maintain an 8-7 lead going into the third period. The third frame saw the lead change hands a couple of times. Coquitlam scored twice to gain a one-goal advantage. Stairs tied the game, only to have Coquitlam go back in front minutes later. A late goal by Point tied the game. The game ended in a draw although Matt Holte almost stole the win in the dying seconds with a shot that hit the post. Rob Rintoul, Chris Usselman, and Andrew Hamilton had a pair of helpers each. Tanner Skolrood and Kody O'Brien supplied single assists. Coquitlam out shot Vernon 54 to 50 in a contest typified by speed, crisp passing and gritty defence.

A tired Tigers team faced the determined and winless Peninsula Falcons Saturday afternoon in what turned out to a close game. The Tigers fell behind 3-2 by the end of the first period. Jeff Stairs (2+0) kept Vernon in the game. In the second period, the pendulum swung back in Vernon's favour, as Rob Rintoul (1+2), game MVP Mitch Schochter (1+1), and Kyle Point (2+0) led Vernon to a 5-5 tie at the end of the period. Peninsula scored twice in the third period to keep the game close. Andy Holte (1+1) and Point maintained the tie. Then Rob Gray (1+0) picked off an errant Peninsula pass and scored the winner with less than a minute to go. The Tigers out shot the Falcons 42-36.

Vernon Tigers vs South Okanagan Flames  
Game Report 26 May 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

It was hat tricks all round as the Vernon Tigers' captain and assistant captains led their team to a 15-5 victory over the Summerland Flames Monday night in Summerland.

Captain Rob Rintoul (3+2), Assistant Andrew Hamilton (3+0) and Assistant Matt Holte (3+1) each scored three times in the Tigers' sixth win of the season. At 6 wins and 2 losses, the Tigers now trail the Rutland Raiders by one point for top spot in Thompson-Okanagan Junior League play.

The Tigers ran into a hot goaltender in the first period as the Flames' Brock Warr managed to hold off a determined Vernon offence, giving up just one goal to Matt Holte (3+1). The Flames ran up a 3-1 lead at the end of the first on the strength of two goals by David Grant (2+0) and one by Karl Marsh (2+0).

The Tigers' snipers found their range in the second period. Andrew Hamilton (3+0) scored three times while line mate Matt Holte completed his hat trick as well. Rintoul rounded out the scoring from the Tigers' most productive line of the game. Mitch Schocter (2+2) added a pair, with Andy Holte (1+3), Karl Friesen (1+0), and Amret Dhoot (1+1) running the score to 12-4 in the Tigers' ½ favour by the end of the period. Marsh scored the lone Summerland tally.

In the third period, Rintoul completed his hat trick and Chris Evans (1+2) added a single. The Flames got one from Trent Franks (1+0) to complete the game's scoring. Kody O'Brien (0+2) played goal for the Tigers and recorded a pair of assists. Kyle Point (0+2), Rob Gray (0+1), Chris Usselman (0+1) and Tanner Skolrood (0+1) all added helpers.

The Tigers had 32 minutes in penalties to the Flames' 23.

The Tigers host Rutland at the Multiplex on Wednesday, June 4th in a game that should decide first place in the league. Game time is 7:30 for what promises to be yet another Rutland-Tiger barnburner.

**Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Rob Rintoul (3+2) Matt Holte (3+1) Andrew Hamilton (3+0) Mitch Schocter (2+2) Andy Holte (1+3)  
Chris Evans (1+2) Amret Dhoot (1+1) Karl Friesen (1+0) Kody O'Brien (0+2) Kyle Point (0+1)  
Rob Gray (0+1) Chris Usselman(0+1) Tanner Skolrood (0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Rutland Raiders  
Game Report: June 7, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

**Tigers Defeat Raiders Again**

For the second time in a week, the Vernon Source for Sports Tigers defeated the Rutland Raiders in Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League play. The 13-11 win in Rutland Saturday night

improves the Tigers' record to 9 wins and 2 losses, three points ahead of Rutland. Rutland has not beaten the Tigers in the last two seasons.

The Tigers ran up a 5-2 lead in the first period on goals by James Grant (2+1), Karl Friesen (1+2), Matt Holte (2+0), Rob Rintoul (2+2) and Kyle Point (12). Raiders Geoff Wray (3+3) and Travis Wray (1+0) kept Rutland in the game.

The Raiders evened things up in the second period. Wes Donnelly (1+1), Dave Haas (1+0), Nick Iver (1+0), Travis Lee (1+0) and Mark McLennan (2+3) all scored for the Raiders. Goals by Tigers Rintoul and game first-star Mitch Schochter (1+3) made it 7-7 at the end of the period.

The Tigers regained the lead in the third period. Andy Holte (3+0) scored a hat trick while his brother Matt, Grant and Andrew Hamilton (1+0) completed the Tiger offence. Raider Geoff Wray completed his hat trick and Kyle McLennan (1+0) and Mark McLennan contributed one apiece in the losing cause.

Darcy Holte added two assists, with Rob Gray, Kyle Greer and Amret Dhoot each contributing one helper.

According to Tiger coach Bill Kirkland, the game was a typically rough match between the teams. He credited goalie Kody O'Brien with another excellent game.

The Tigers managed to stay out of the box, earning a total of just 18 minutes in penalties. The Raiders added 35 minutes to their league-leading penalty total, including a match penalty assessed to Geoff Wray for a high stick incident after the game had ended.

Next up for the Tigers: a home stand against the Kelowna Dragons at 7:30 PM Wednesday night at the Mutliplex.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte (3+0) Mitch Shochter (1+3) Rob Rintoul (2+2) James Grant (2+1)  
Matt Holte (2+0) Karl Friesen (1+2) Kyle Point (1+2) Andrew Hamilton (1+0)  
Darcy Holte (0+2) Rob Gray (0+1) Amret Dhoot (0+1) Kyle Greer (0+

Vernon Tigers vs Armstrong Shamrocks  
Game Report: June 5, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Squeak By Shamrocks**

The Vernon Tigers barely held off a determined counter-attack by the Armstrong Shamrocks Thursday night in Armstrong to salvage a 17-16 win. The victory improves the Tigers' record to 8 wins and 2 losses and keeps the Vernon team in first place in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse league.

The first period was a seesaw affair, which ended in a 4-3 advantage for the Tigers. Chris Madsen (1+3), Rob Rintoul (2+2), Mitch Schochter (2+5) and Tanner Skolrood (4+1) scored for the Tigers. Armstrong sniper Brett Logan (3+5), Kevin Bigsby (4+2) and Matt Keller (3+0) supplied the

Shamrock offence.

The second period was all Tigers as they ran up the score to 11-6. Skolrood scored three times while Darcy Holte (3+1), Matt Holte (1+1), Schochter and Chris Usselman (1+1) all added singles for the Tigers. Devin Ritter (1+2), Logan and Wyatt Williams (2+1) scored for the Shamrocks.

The tables turned in the third period as the Shamrocks scored ten times and fought their way back into the game, capitalizing on a number of Vernon penalties. Three goals by Bigsby, two by Keller, and singles from Logan, Mark Wagner (1+0), Shawn Strohm (1+2), Dan Stebbing (1+1) and Williams made for an exciting finish. Two goals from Gord MacDonald (2+1) and singles from Darcy Holte, Chris Evans (1+0) and Rintoul kept the Tigers alive as the lead changed hands several times in the dying minutes. Darcy Holte's second goal of the period on a pass from Andrew Hamilton (0+3) proved to be the game winner.

Peter Foucher earned the victory in net for the Tigers. Greg Radies and Mitchell Wright shared the goaltending duties for the Shamrocks.

Tiger coach Bill Kirkland gave the Shamrocks full credit for showing up to play and outthrusting the Tigers at key points in the game. He was "disappointed" in his team's performance and relieved to be leaving with two points.

Next up for the Tigers: Saturday night in Rutland, where Kirkland hopes that the Tigers put out the same effort they did this past Wednesday in a 17-9 drubbing of their arch-rivals, the Raiders.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Mitch Schochter (2+5) Tanner Skolrood (4+1) Darcy Holte (3+1) Rob Rintoul (2+2)  
Gord MacDonald (2+1) Chris Madsen (1+3) Matt Holte (1+1) Chris Usselman (1+1)  
Chris Evans (1+0) Andrew Hamilton (0+3) Karl Friesen (0+3) Ryan Minchenko (0+2)  
Rob Gray (0+1) James Grant (0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Rutland Raiders  
Game Report: June 4, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Seize First Place From Raiders**

The Vernon Tigers took over top spot in the Junior B Lacrosse rankings with a convincing 17-9 victory over the Rutland Raiders Wednesday night. The win before a crowd of about 300 at the Multiplex takes the Tigers' record to 7 wins and 2 losses, one point ahead of Rutland.

Head coach Bill Kirkland termed the game "a hard-fought battle" and attributed his team's success to a "better commitment to defence and good ball movement that created a lot of chances offensively."

The Tigers ran up a 7-0 lead in the first period. Matt Holte (3+2) and Rob Rintoul (3+2) each scored twice. Single goals from game first star Mitch Schochter (2+6), Karl Friesen (2+2), and Darcy Holte (1+2) rounded out the first-period offence.

The second period was a more even affair. Tanner Skolrood (3+0) had the first two of his eventual hat trick, with singles coming from Schocter, Chris Madsen (1+0), Friesen and Kyle Point (1+0). Cory Davies (1+0), Dave Haas (1+0), Steve Plasko (1+0), Darcy Leach (1+2) and Jamie Klarenbeek (2+0) with a pair replied for Rutland. The score at the end of the period was 13-6 in Vernon's favour.

The Tigers regained control in a much rougher third period. Matt Holte, Skolrood and Rintoul all completed their hat tricks and Rob Gray (1+1) capitalized on a break-away. Raiders Dylan Lye (1+1) and Travis Wray (1+1) scored for Rutland. Rutland resorted to rough play, sparking two fights. Tiger Andrew Hamilton (0+1) took on Geoff Wray after Wray ran the Tiger goalie. Rutland's Travis Wray earned himself a major and game ejection for unsportsmanlike conduct after he attacked Darcy Holte. Late in the period Darcy Holte and Andy Holte (0+2) tag teamed Rutland's well-padded big guy Steve Plasko.

Kody O'Brien (0+1) played another solid game for the Tigers, turning aside 61 Rutland shots. At the other end of the floor, Jody Kwasnewski relieved starter Erik Wray in the third period. Between them, the Rutland netminders stopped 60 shots, letting in 17 goals.

Next up for the Tigers: a road game in Armstrong Thursday night and then a trip to Rutland for a re-match Saturday night.

#### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Mitch Shocter (2+6) Rob Rintoul (3+2) Matt Holte (3+2) Tanner Skolrood (3+0)  
Karl Friesen (2+2) Darcy Holte (1+2) Rob Gray (1+1) Kyle Point (1+0)  
Chris Madsen (1+0) Andy Holte (0+2) Chris Evans (0+1) Kody O'Brien (0+1)  
James Grant (0+1) Andrew Hamilton (0+1) Ryan Minchenko (0+1) Luke Lecavalier (0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs South Ok. Flames  
Game Report: June 25, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

#### **Tigers Whip Flames 18-1**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers hosted the Summerland Flames Wednesday night at the Multiplex in what looked more like a practice session for the home team than a game. The league-leading Tigers' 19-1 victory improves their record to 13 wins and 2 losses in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League.

The Flames only managed to field nine players plus their goaltender. They were unable to keep pace with the faster and more skilled Tigers.

The Tigers scored six unanswered goals in the first period. Rob Rintoul (3+0) scored twice, while Matt Holte (3+2), Andrew Hamilton (1+1), Chris Madsen (2+0) and Chris Usselman (1+2) each scored once.

In the second period, the Tigers continued their scoring practice. Rintoul completed his hat trick and Karl Friesen (2+0) potted two. Jeff Stairs (3+3), Chris Evans (1+1), Tanner Skolrood (1+3) and Rob Gray (1+1) made up the rest of the Tiger offence. Summerland's Dave Grant (1+0) ruined Kody

O'Brien's shutout bid to close the period 13-1 for the Tigers.

Flames' goalie Justin Cirous showed signs of frustration and bad judgment in the second period when he was awarded his second charging penalty of the game. Tiger captain Rob Rintoul returned the favour moments later, flattening the Summerland netminder. Things got a bit testy when Rintoul returned to the floor and leveled another Summerland player. Rintoul's second major got him tossed from the game.

The third period was all Tigers again. Stairs and Matt Holte both completed their hat tricks, with Madsen adding his second of the night. Summerland tempers began to boil over. Flame Jeremiah Louis challenged Gord MacDonald and paid dearly for his mistake. Both earned game ejections.

Flames' goalie Cirous continued to try and goad the Tigers into retaliation. He finally succeeded in doing so in the dying minutes when he cross-checked Andy Holte (1+4) after Holte scored the game's last goal. Tiger back-up goaltender Peter Foucher was playing as a forward. He came to Holte's rescue, taking on Cirous and then fighting Jeremiah Louis. At the same time Stairs got into a vigorous tilt when attacked by the much taller Jamie Lyons. Lyons not only lost the fight but he also earned two majors and two game misconducts. Stairs received a five-minute major. The referees let the time run out and handed Cirous two majors and two game misconducts. Cirous managed to amass a total of 37 penalty minutes in the game by himself.

Tiger goalie Kody O'Brien earned first star honours, turning aside 30 of the 31 shots he faced, including some spectacular saves. Cirous faced 71-shot barrage from Vernon.

Vernon was awarded a total of 56 minutes in penalties to 108 for Summerland.

Tiger Ryan Minchenko had three assists with Mitch Schocter, Gord MacDonald, Amret Dhoot, and Kody O'Brien all adding single helpers. Sixteen of the eighteen Tiger players participated in the scoring.

The Tigers host the Kelowna Braves at the Multiplex at 7:30 PM Wednesday, July 2nd. The Tigers will be looking for revenge against the Braves, the only team to defeat Vernon all season.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Jeff Stairs(3+3) Matt Holte(3+2) Rob Rintoul(3+0) Christian Madsen(2+0) Karl Friesen(2+0)  
Andy Holte(1+4) Tanner Skolrood(1+3) Chris Usselman(1+2) Andrew Hamilton(1+1)  
Chris Evans(1+1) Rob Gray(1+1) Ryan Minchenko(0+3) Mitch Schochter (0+1) Kody O'Brien(0+1)  
Kyle Point(0+1) Amret Dhoot(0+1) Gord MacDonald(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Kamloops Rattlers  
Game Report: June 22, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Defeat Rattlers 13-8**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers returned from Kamloops Sunday night with a 13-8 victory over the Kamloops Rattlers. Sunday's hard-fought win gives the first-place Tigers a season record of 12 wins and 2 losses in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League.



Head Coach Bill Kirkland was happy with the win but very sad to see veteran playmaker and sniper Darcy Holte taken to hospital near the end of the first period with what appeared to be a bad knee injury. "Darcy had been having an excellent season," he said. "We hope he recovers quickly."

The Tigers came out of the gates shooting. Jeff Stairs (1+1) converted a crisp pass from Rob Rintoul (0+4) and Andrew Hamilton (2+0) quickly made it 2-0. Matt Holte (2+0) scored twice while his brother Andy (2+3) and Mitch Schochter (2+2) each added singles. Rattlers Mark Jurista (1+2), David Reid (1+1) and Alex Turner (1+1) kept the Kamloops team in the game. The injury to Darcy Holte brought the period to a premature close with three minutes go and the Tigers enjoying a 6-3 lead.

The second period got rough when the less skilled Rattlers tried to intimidate the Tigers with a lot of slashing and roughing. Things turned nasty at the mid-point when small but feisty Amret Dhoot (0+1) took a hard high stick from Rattler David Reid, which precipitated a fight between the two. In fact, the Rattlers succeeded in drawing the Tigers into the Kamloops penalty-laden style of play for much of the period. As a result, Kamloops outscored the Vernon team 3-2 in the second frame. Hamilton and Christian Madsen (2+0) accounted for the Tiger offence, while Rattlers Jared Emery (2+1), Ryan Bullock (1+0) and Ryan Kurzac (1+0) made it 8-6 for Vernon at the end of the second.

Although Kamloops' tactics didn't change in the third period, the Tigers returned more to their game of speed and ball movement to regain control. Chris Evans (1+0), Andy Holte, Schochter, Kyle Point (1+1) and Madsen scored for Vernon. Emery and Derek Jurista (1+0) replied for the Rattlers, who seemed more intent on trying to incite fights than scoring goals. The game ended with a fight between Tiger Kyle Greer and Rattler Mike Tremblay.

Tiger goalie Kody O'Brien turned in yet another solid performance. Mike Smith and Mike Evans shared the defeat for Kamloops. Vernon was awarded a total of 60 minutes in penalties to 58 for Kamloops.

Captain Rob Rintoul had four helpers with Tanner Skolrood, Ryan Minchenko, Amret Dhoot, James Grant and Karl Friesen all adding single assists.

The Tigers host the Summerland Flames at home at 7:30 PM Wednesday, June 25th at the Multiplex. There is little love lost between the teams, so fans can expect to see a physical game.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte(2+3) Mitch Schochter(2+2) Andrew Hamilton(2+0) Matt Holte(2+0)  
Christian Madsen(2+0) Kyle Point(1+1) Jeff Stairs(1+1) Chris Evans(1+0) Rob Rintoul(0+4)  
Tanner Skolrood (0+1) Kyle Greer(0+1) Karl Friesen(0+1) James Grant(0+1) Amret Dhoot(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Armstrong Shamrocks  
Game Report: June 18, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Defeat Dragons 15-8**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers played their most complete game of the season Wednesday night at the Multiplex. The Tigers solidified their hold on first place in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B

Lacrosse League and improved their record to 10 wins and 2 losses with a convincing 15-8 victory over the Kelowna Dragons.

Head Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased with the win. "We played a strong game at both ends of the floor – solid goaltending, terrific ball movement, and good defence," he said.

The Dragons scored first in what turned out to be a fast-paced game but the Tigers came right back, took over the lead and never relinquished it. Tigers' leading scorer Mitch Shochter (3+1) scored a hat trick in the first period while linemate Andy Holte (3+2) added two more. Dragons Pete Lewis (1+1), Eli Wood-Scowcroft (1+0) and Chris Philps (1+1) replied for the Dragons. Tigers led 5-3 at the end of the first.

The Tigers took charge of the game in the second period. Game first star Rob Rintoul (4+1) scored a hat trick, with Andrew Hamilton (2+0), Jeff Stairs (1+0) and Karl Friesen (1+1) each adding singles. Dragon Keyvan McPhail (2+1) scored twice and Brock Freeman (1+1) scored once to end the period with the Tigers leading 11-6.

The Tigers doubled the Dragon goal output in the third. Rintoul scored his fourth, Andy Holte his third and Hamilton his second. Gord MacDonald (1+0) rounded out the Vernon scoring. Dragons Phil Faasse (1+0) and Lee Zononce (1+0) scored for the Dragons.

Vernon goalie Kody O'Brien (0+4) had an excellent game. Not only did he stop 44 of the 52 shots he faced, but he also contributed four assists in the winning cause. Dragon goalies Ryan Cornish and Steve Weins faced a barrage of 75 shots from the Tigers

Darcy Holte, James Grant and Kyle Point added two assists apiece, with Rob Gray, Tanner Skolrood and Chris Evans each contributing one helper. Matt Holte had a three-point night, assisting on three goals.

The game was fast and clean, with each team earning just 13 minutes in penalties. The only fight of the game came in the third when Dragon captain Nick Evans challenged Rob Gray and received a sound thumping for his pains.

Next up for the Tigers: a home stand against the Armstrong Junior Shamrocks at 7:30 PM Wednesday, June 18th at the Mutliplex.

#### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Rob Rintoul(4+1) Andy Holte(3+2) Mitch Shochter(3+1) Andrew Hamilton(2+0)  
Karl Friesen(1+1) Jeff Stairs(1+0) Gord MacDonald(1+0) Kody O'Brien(0+4)  
Matt Holte(0+3) Darcy Holte(0+2) Kyle Point(0+2) James Grant(0+2) Chris Evans(0+1)  
Rob Gray(0+1) Tanner Skolrood(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons  
Game Report: June 11, 2003by: Jim Hamilton

#### **Tigers Defeat Dragons 15-8**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers played their most complete game of the season Wednesday night

at the Multiplex. The Tigers solidified their hold on first place in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League and improved their record to 10 wins and 2 losses with a convincing 15-8 victory over the Kelowna Dragons.

Head Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased with the win. “We played a strong game at both ends of the floor – solid goaltending, terrific ball movement, and good defence,” he said.

The Dragons scored first in what turned out to be a fast-paced game but the Tigers came right back, took over the lead and never relinquished it. Tigers’ leading scorer Mitch Shochter (3+1) scored a hat trick in the first period while linemate Andy Holte (3+2) added two more. Dragons Pete Lewis (1+1), Eli Wood-Scowcroft (1+0) and Chris Philps (1+1) replied for the Dragons. Tigers led 5-3 at the end of the first.

The Tigers took charge of the game in the second period. Game first star Rob Rintoul (4+1) scored a hat trick, with Andrew Hamilton (2+0), Jeff Stairs (1+0) and Karl Friesen (1+1) each adding singles. Dragon Keyvan McPhail (2+1) scored twice and Brock Freeman (1+1) scored once to end the period with the Tigers leading 11-6.

The Tigers doubled the Dragon goal output in the third. Rintoul scored his fourth, Andy Holte his third and Hamilton his second. Gord MacDonald (1+0) rounded out the Vernon scoring. Dragons Phil Faasse (1+0) and Lee Zononce (1+0) scored for the Dragons.

Vernon goalie Kody O’Brien (0+4) had an excellent game. Not only did he stop 44 of the 52 shots he faced, but he also contributed four assists in the winning cause. Dragon goalies Ryan Cornish and Steve Weins faced a barrage of 75 shots from the Tigers

Darcy Holte, James Grant and Kyle Point added two assists apiece, with Rob Gray, Tanner Skolrood and Chris Evans each contributing one helper. Matt Holte had a three-point night, assisting on three goals.

The game was fast and clean, with each team earning just 13 minutes in penalties. The only fight of the game came in the third when Dragon captain Nick Evans challenged Rob Gray and received a sound thumping for his pains.

Next up for the Tigers: a home stand against the Armstrong Junior Shamrocks at 7:30 PM Wednesday, June 18th at the Mutliplex.

#### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Rob Rintoul(4+1) Andy Holte(3+2) Mitch Shochter(3+1) Andrew Hamilton(2+0) Karl Friesen(1+1)  
Jeff Stairs(1+0) Gord MacDonald(1+0) Kody O’Brien(0+4) Matt Holte(0+3) Darcy Holte(0+2)  
Kyle Point(0+2) James Grant(0+2) Chris Evans(0+1) Rob Gray(0+1) Tanner Skolrood(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Braves  
Game Report: July 2, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

**Tigers Clinch First Place**

It was a game of play-of-the-week goals, speed and finesse as the Vernon Source for Sports Tigers clinched first place in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League with a convincing 14-4 victory over the Kelowna Braves Wednesday night at the Multiplex. As head coach Bill Kirkland said, his team “redeemed themselves for two earlier losses to the Braves and they did so with authority.” This is the second year in a row that the Tigers have dominated the league.

The game was never really in doubt as the Tigers out shot their opponents 85-56. Goals by Chris Usselman (2+0), James Grant (2+1), Matt Holte (3+2) and Rob Rintoul (2+1) opened up an early lead for the Tigers. The Braves’ Kyle VandeSyp (1+1) recorded the only tally for the visitors to close out the first period with the Tigers leading 4-1. The Tigers speedy offence tested the Braves’ goalie Mike Mead as they unleashed a barrage of 35 shots in the first period alone.

The second period was pretty much a carbon copy of the first. Game first star Matt Holte scored twice to complete his hat trick while Mitch Schocter (2+1) and sniper Kyle Point (2+3) each added single goals. Dave Carmichael (1+0) scored the lone goal for the Braves. Tigers led 8-2 at the end of the second.

The third period was a bit more even, with the Braves out shooting the Tigers 24-23. However, Kody O’Brien turned aside all but two of the Braves’ shots, allowing the Tigers to increase their lead again. Rintoul, Schocter, Point, Usselman, Grant and Tanner Skolrood (1+1) scored for the home team. Ed Porter (2+0) struck twice in the losing cause.

It was a clean, fast game. The Tigers amassed 27 minutes in penalties to 19 for the Braves. The only fight of the game featured scrappy Matt Holte gaining the advantage over the much taller Richard Linde of the Braves.

Not content with turning aside 52 shots, Kody O’Brien (0+3) assisted on three goals. Andrew Hamilton, Andy Holte and Gord MacDonald each contributed two helpers. Karl Friesen and Amrit Dhoot provided one assist each.

Kirkland was extremely pleased with his team’s play. “Kody passed the ball well, adding to an already potent offence,” he noted. “It was an excellent all-round game.”

The Tigers travel to Rutland Thursday night and then return home Saturday night to close out the regular season against the Kamloops Rattlers. Tiger fans at the Multiplex can look forward to another gritty battle between two teams with no love lost between them. The Tigers will face Kamloops in the first round of the playoffs.

**Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Matt Holte(3+2) Kyle Point(2+3) Rob Rintoul(2+1) James Grant(2+1) Mitch Schochter(2+0)  
Chris Usselman(2+0) Tanner Skolrood(1+1) Kody O’Brien(0+3) Andy Holte(0+2)  
Andrew Hamilton(0+2) Gord MacDonald(0+2) Karl Friesen(0+1) Amret Dhoot(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons  
Game Report: July 3, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

## **Tigers Squeak By Dragons 11-10**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers stretched their winning streak in the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League with a 11-10 victory over the Kelowna Dragons Thursday night at the Kelowna Memorial Arena. Head coach Bill Kirkland described the narrow victory as “a good tune-up for the forthcoming playoffs, which start next week.”

The game was a close one from beginning to end. The Dragons got the first goal in the first shift when Pete Lewis (3+0) scored. Matt Holte (2+0) scored four minutes later to even the score. Then Rob Rintoul (2+2) gave the lead to the Tigers. Dragon Chris Wagner (1+2) evened the score but Gord MacDonald (1+1) and Andy Holte (4+1) gave the Tigers a two-goal advantage. In the final five minutes the Dragons evened the game at 4-4 on goals by Lewis and Lee Zayonce (1+0).

The Tigers ran into a bit of penalty trouble in the second period but managed to hold off a determined Dragon attack to take a 9-7 lead by the end of the frame. Andy Holte scored three times for the Tigers, with Rintoul and Matt Holte each adding singles. Phil Faase (2+3) scored twice and Eli Wood-Scowcroft (1+2) once for the Dragons.

Thanks to some sensational saves by goalie Kody O’Brien and critical goals by Jeff Stairs (1+0) and Karl Friesen (1+3), the Tigers hung on in the third period to preserve a one-goal victory. Dragons Lewis, Leighton Loski (1+0) and Jordan Shaw (1+0) kept the game close and exciting up until the buzzer. Ryan Cornish took the loss in net for the Kelowna team.

Twelve Tigers participated in the scoring. Mitch Schocter had two assists, with Andrew Hamilton, Chris Usselman, Chris Madsen, James Grant and Kody O’Brien each contributing single assists. The Tigers had 23 penalty minutes to the Dragons 22.

The first-place Tigers will complete their near-perfect season Saturday night at the Multiplex when they take on the fourth-place Kamloops Rattlers. Game time is 7:00 PM for what will likely be a preview of the first round of the playoffs.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte(4+1) Rob Rintoul(2+2) Matt Holte(2+0) Karl Friesen(1+3) Gord MacDonald(1+1)  
Jeff Stairs(1+0) Mitch Schochter(0+2) Andrew Hamilton(0+1) Chris Usselman(0+1)  
James Grant(0+1) Chris Madsen(0+1) Kody O’Brien(0+1)

Vernon Tigers vs Kamloops Rattlers  
Game Report: July 5, 2003

by: Jim Hamilton

## **Tigers Complete Perfect Season**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers ended their Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League season the same way they began it - as winners. With a 12-8 victory over the Kamloops Rattlers in front of about 300 fans Saturday night at the Multiplex, the Tigers completed their second undefeated season in a row. Although the Vernon team had lost two contests to the Kelowna Braves, those games were over-turned because of the Braves’ use of an illegal player, giving the Tigers a perfect 18-0 record and first place.

The Tigers started off sluggishly, allowing the Rattlers to run up a 3-1 lead at the end of the first period. Karl Friesen (1+5) scored the lone marker for the home team. Jeff Stevenson (2+2), David Reid (1+0) and Kyle LeBlond (1+0) provided the Rattler offence.

The Tigers began to get back into the game in the second. Winfield sniper Andy Holte (4+3) had a natural hat trick, while Jeff Stairs (1+0) and Kyle Point (2+0) each added singletons. Rattlers Stevenson, Ryan Bullock (2+0) and Kin Kelsey (1+0) evened the score at 6-6 by the end of the period.

The second period was a bit more intense. Tiger captain Rob Rintoul was shoved into the Rattler netminder, provoking Rattler Kyle LeBlond to attack the smaller Tiger player. Rintoul acquitted himself well in the bout and both player received five-minute majors. As Rintoul and his opponent went to the box, a fracas broke out where the home and away benches meet. When the dust cleared, two players and two assistant coaches had been ejected.

The Tigers regained control of the game in the third period and returned to their style of play. Using their superior speed and ball handling ability, the Tigers scored six goals to the Rattlers' two. Holte scored his fourth of the night. Linemate Mitch Schocter (3+4) reeled off a natural hat trick. Rob Rintoul (1+1) and Point rounded out the scoring for the Tigers. Jordan Levin (1+0) and Bullock contributed one goal each for the Rattlers. Kamloops kept trying to intimidate the Tigers, leading to a bout between Vernon's Kyle Greer and Rattler Ryan Kurzac.

Chris Madsen, Tanner Skolrood and Peter Foucher each had an assist for Vernon.

The Tigers' recently acquired, giant-size goaltender John Gee made his debut in net. At 6 foot 8 inches, Gee had a strong outing, turning aside 41 of the 49 shots he faced. Kamloops goalie Graham Turnbull let in 12 of 68 Tiger shots. Gee was particularly effective in the third period, making some key stops.

The first-place Tigers will entertain the Rattlers on Monday, July 5th at the Multiplex. Game two in the best of three series is Thursday in Kamloops ,with game three in Vernon.

#### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte(4+3) Mitch Schochter(3+4) Karl Friesen(1+3) Kyle Point(2+0) Rob Rintoul(1+1)  
Jeff Stairs(1+0) Chris Madsen(0+1) Peter Foucher(0+1) Tanner Skolrood(0+1)

## 2003 T.O.J.L.L. CHAMPIONSHIP, SEMI-FINALS #1

### **Playoffs: Game #1 Vernon Tigers vs Kamloops Rattlers July 7, 2003**

from the MORNINGSTAR

#### **Tigers snake by Rattlers**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers zapped the Kamloops Rattlers 13-4 Monday night in game one of their Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League best-of-three semifinal series at the Multiplex.

Game Two goes Thursday night in Kamloops with a third game, if required, back in Vernon Saturday night.

The Tigers ran up a 6-1 lead on the strength of goals by Andy Holte(1+2), Jeff Stairs(2+0), James Grant(2+0), Chris Evans , Rob Rintoul(2+3) and Kyle Greer(1+1).

Mark Jurista(2) was the lone scorer for the Rattlers.

The Tigers kept the Rattlers off the scoreboard in the second frame. Grant, Stairs, Tanner Skolrood(1), and Rob Gray(3+2) made it 10-1 by the end of the period.

The teams each scored three times in the third period. Rob Gray scored twice to complete his hat trick and earn first star honours. Rintoul provided the remaining offence for the Tigers. Jurista, Dave Reid and Kyle LeBlond replied for Kamloops. Karl Friesen, Matt Holte, Ryan Minchenko and Chris Ussleman contributed two assists apiece. Kyle Point provided a single helper. Kody O'Brien earned the win, facing 51 shots. Kamloops netminder Mike Smith turned aside 58 of 71 shots.

## **Playoffs: Game #2 Vernon Tigers vs Kamloops Rattlers July 10, 2003**

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Sweep Semi-Finals**

For the second year in a row, the Vernon Source for Sports Tigers have swept the Kamloops Rattlers in the semi-finals of the Thompson–Okanagan Junior B Lacrosse League season. A 14-8 victory over the Kamloops Rattlers Thursday night in Kamloops guaranteed the Vernon team a berth in the finals against either the Rutland Raiders or Kelowna Dragons.

The Tigers ran up a 4-3 lead in the first period on goals by Karl Friesen (2+2), Rob Rintoul (3+3), Chris Madsen (1+0) and Kyle Greer (1+0). Kamloops kept pace on goals by David Reid (1+0), Derek Jurista (2+2) and Sheldon Araki (3+0).

The Tigers lengthened their lead to 9-6 in the second period. Andy Holte (3+4) had a hat trick with Rintoul and Chris Usselman (1+0) scoring as well. Rattler Sheldon Araki completed his hat trick, with Jurista adding one.

After two periods of somewhat shaky play, the Tigers found their stride in the third. Friesen, Rintoul, Kyle Point (1+1), Tanner Skolrood (1+1) and Andrew Hamilton (1+0) cemented the victory and the series for the Tigers. Ryan Bullock (1+0) and Nathan Woldum (1+1) replied for the losing team.

Matt Holte and Jeff Stairs each had three assists and James Grant provided a pair. Single helpers came from Kody O'Brien and Ryan Minchenko.

Goalie Kody O'Brien had a busy night in net, facing 59 shots. Rattler goalies Mike Smith and Graham Turnbull shared duties for the home team, facing 55 shots between them.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte (3+4) Rob Rintoul(3+3) Karl Friesen(2+2) Kyle Point(1+1)  
Tanner Skolrood(1+1) Chris Madsen(1+0) Andrew Hamilton(1+0) Kyle Greer(1+0)  
Chris Usselman(1+0) Jeff Stairs(0+3) Matt Holte(0+3) James Grant(0+2)  
Ryan Minchenko(0+1) Kody O'Brien(0+1)

## **2003 T.O.J.L.L. CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS**

### **Playoffs: Game#3 Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons July 15, 2003**

by: Jim Hamilton

#### **Tigers Take Game One of Finals**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers continued their winning ways Tuesday night at the Multiplex. The home team easily defeated the Kelowna Dragons to take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five final series. Not only did the Tigers win 11-4 but they also dominated every aspect of the game: offence, defence and goaltending.

Led by a four-point performance from game first star Andrew Hamilton (2+2), the Tigers seized control early on, running up a 6-0 lead in the first period. Goalie Kody O'Brien held off an early surge by the Dragons until his team took over. Goals by James Grant (1+0), Jeff Stairs (2+0), Karl Friesen (1+0), Matt Holte (1+1), Hamilton and game second star Kyle Greer (2+1) gave the Tigers an insurmountable 6-0 edge by the close of the first.

The Tigers dominated most of the second period. Hamilton and Stairs each scored for the second time, with Rob Gray (1+0) chipping in one goal. Kyle Point (1+1) scored a highlight reel backhanded goal. The Dragons finally managed to get on the board, thanks to a pair of goals from Lee Zayonce (2+1). The Tigers took a 10-2 lead to the dressing room after two periods of play.

The third period was a bit more of a contest, with Dragons Eli Wood-Scowcroft (1+0) and Chris Phillips (1+0) scoring as the Tigers killed some penalties. However, the Tiger defence proved too much for the Dragons and Kody O'Brien denied the Kelowna shooters time and again. The Tiger defence forced a turnover in the final minute of play and Karl Friesen put the ball in an empty Dragon net with .7 seconds to go.



O'Brien (0+2), Andy Holte (0+2) and Chris Usselman (0+2) each contributed a pair of assists. Rob Rintoul (0+1) and Mitch Schochter (0+1) had one helper each. It was a clean game with the Tigers drawing 16 minutes in penalties to the Dragons' 6 minutes. The Dragons out shot the Tigers 47 to 44.

Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased to begin the final series on a winning note. "We dominated for much of the game," he said, "and our defence and goaltending got us through a few rough spots."

The Tigers travel to the Memorial Arena in Kelowna Thursday night where Kirkland expects the Dragons will put up more of a challenge.

Game three of the best-of-five series goes Saturday, July 19th at the Multiplex at 7:30 PM.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andrew Hamilton 2+2 Kyle Greer 2+1 Jeff Stairs 2+0 Matt Holte 1+1 Kyle Point 1+1  
Rob Gray 1+0 James Grant 1+0 Karl Friesen 1+0 Andy Holte 0+2 Kody O'Brien 0+2  
Chris Usselman 0+2 Mitch Schochter 0+1 Rob Rintoul 0+1

## **Playoffs: Game #4 Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons July 17, 2003**

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Slay Dragons in Game Two**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers defeated the Kelowna Dragons 21-7 in Kelowna Thursday night to take a commanding 2-0 lead in the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League finals. The victory puts the undefeated Tigers one game away from the league championship and a berth in the provincials.

The Tigers got off to a shaky start in the first frame. It was a seesaw period with the lead changing hands twice. Jeff Stairs (3+4) opened the scoring for the Tigers thirty seconds into the period. Colby Field (2+1) scored five minutes later to tie the game. A goal by Chris Madsen (1+0) gave the Tigers a 2-1 lead but Pete Lewis (1+0) tied the game up for the home team. The Dragons took the lead one minute later on a goal by Chris Phillips (1+0). Andy Holte (5+2) scored his first of five goals ninety seconds later to tie it at 3-3. The Dragons regained lead, thanks to Jordan Shaw, only to have Andrew Hamilton (2+0) even the score minutes later. Field scored once more with three seconds left, giving the Dragons a 5-4 lead at the end of the first period.

The Vernon team asserted its dominance in the second period, scoring twelve unanswered goals. Mitch Schochter (1+4), Hamilton, Chris Usselman (1+1), Kyle Greer (1+2), and Kyle Point (2+1) each scored once. Chris Evans (2+0), Matt Holte (2+0), Stairs and Andy Holte scored two goals apiece. The lone tally for the Dragons came at

the end of the period from Brock Freeman (1+0). Tigers led 17-6 after two periods. The Tigers padded their lead with four more goals in the third period. Andy Holte scored his fourth and fifth, with Point adding his second and Grant his first. Phil Faasse of the Dragons scored with twenty seconds left to make it a 21-7 rout by the Tigers.

Karl Friesen provided three assists for the Tigers, with Rob Gray adding one helper.

Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased with his team's effort. "After a shaky start, we seized control in the second period," he said. "It was possibly our best period of the year. For the last two periods, our defence was almost flawless, Kody played extremely well and the offence was spread over thirteen players."

The Tigers hope to clinch their second league championship in two years with a victory over the Dragons Saturday night at the Multiplex. A win Saturday would send the Tigers to the provincial championship for the third consecutive year. The game starts at 7:30 PM.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Andy Holte 5+2 Jeff Stairs 3+4 Kyle Point 2+1 Andrew Hamilton 2+0 Matt Holte 2+0  
Chris Evans 2+0 Mitch Schocter 1+4 Kyle Greer 1+2 Chris Usselman 1+1  
James Grant 1+1 Chris Madsen 1+0 Karl Friesen 0+3 Rob Gray 0+1

## **Playoffs: Game #5 Vernon Tigers vs Kelowna Dragons July 19, 2003**

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers League Champions Again**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers are champions once again. A 14-6 victory over the Kelowna Dragons at the Multiplex Saturday night allowed the Tigers to sweep the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League finals for the second year in a row. The win sends the undefeated Tigers to the provincial championships for the third consecutive season.

The Dragons struck first and in fact held the lead twice in the first period. However, thanks to two goals each from Karl Friesen (3+1) and Kyle Point (2+0) as well as singles from game first star Mitch Schochter (3+3) and Matt Holte (1+0), the Tigers ended the period with a 6-3 lead. Leighton Loski (1+0), Lee Zayonce (1+1) and Pete Lewis provided the offence for the Dragons.

Vernon took control of the game in the second period. Game second star Andrew Hamilton (2+2) scored twice. A pair from Schocter completed his hat trick and Andy Holte (1+2) and Peter Foucher (1+0) added one goal apiece. Brock Freeman (2+0) provided the only marker for the Dragons. Tigers led 12-4 at the end of the second

period.

The teams traded a pair of goals in the third period. Freeman and Phil Faase (1+2) scored for Kelowna. Friesen and Rob Gray (1+0) were responsible for the final goals of an undefeated season for the Tigers. Kody O'Brien picked up an assist and third star honours. Chris Madsen, James Grant and Ryan Minchenko had one assist apiece. Kyle Greer added two helpers in the winning cause.

The Tigers outshot their opponents 52-43. In a clean game, the Tigers racked up 26 penalty minutes to 12 minutes for the Dragons.

Coach Bill Kirkland was very pleased to see his team secure a berth in the provincials for the third year in a row. "Kody O'Brien celebrated his final league game as a Tiger in fine style," he said. "As he has done all year, Kody came up with big saves when we needed them." Kirkland complimented the Dragons for playing so well despite being seriously under-manned. He noted that the Tigers were without the services of captain Rob Rintoul, veterans Jeff Stairs and Darcy Holte, and rookie Tanner Skolrood. Kirkland expects to have all but Holte back in the line-up in time for the BC championship tournament August 7-10 in Coquitlam. "I am looking forward to the provincials," he said. "We have a very good team, so I am eager to see how well they do this year.

### **Tiger Scoring Summary:**

Mitch Schocter 3+3 Karl Friesen 3+1 Andrew Hamilton 2+2 Kyle Point 2+1  
Andy Holte 1+2 Matt Holte 1+2 Rob Gray 1+1 Peter Foucher 1+0 Kyle Greer 0+2  
James Grant 0+1 Chris Madsen 0+1 Kody O'Brien 0+1 Ryan Minchenko 0+1

## **2003 Provincial Junior B Championships Aug 8-10, 2003**

by: Jim Hamilton

### **Tigers Take Silver in Provincial Championships**

The Vernon Source for Sports Tigers may have lost the gold medal 9-7 game Sunday afternoon but they made history at the provincial championships. The Tigers are the first team from the Thompson-Okanagan league to gain a berth in the gold medal game and the only team from this league to win a silver medal. This was the Tigers' third consecutive trip to the provincials.

Head coach Bill Kirkland was extremely pleased with the silver medal finish. "Our goal was to earn a medal," he said. "The silver medal is a grand finale to a great season." Kirkland noted that the all-Interior final game was another first. "Having the Prince George Posse and the Vernon Tigers leave Coquitlam with gold and silver marks the beginning of a new era in junior B lacrosse in BC. Until now, the provincial championships have been dominated by coastal and Vancouver Island teams. Our

performance may have surprised a few people but the teams from the Heartland are now at the top of the heap in BC.”

The final game was nearly a carbon copy of the Tiger-Posse match-up in game one of the championships. The Posse scored twice in the opening minutes. However, Mitch Schocter (2+1) scored at the 8-minute mark to get the Tigers into the game. Two more Prince George goals followed, ending the first period 4-1 for the Posse.

The Tigers began to recover in a much more even second period. Game MVP Matt Holte (2+1) scored a power-play marker for Vernon three minutes into the period. Prince George replied two minutes later but the Tigers came roaring back with another power play goal by Holte. The Posse scored again before Karl Friesen (1+0) narrowed the gap at the mid-point of the period. Two unanswered goals by Prince George seemed to place the game beyond Vernon’s reach as the Posse ended the period with an 8-4 advantage.

Another goal by the Posse early in the third gave them a daunting 9-4 lead. However, the Tigers never gave up. Just as they did in the first two games of the round robin, they stormed back. Kody O’Brien was again superb in net, refusing to give up any ground to the Posse. Goals by James Grant (1+0), Rob Rintoul (1+2) and Schocter made it a 9-7 game with minutes to go and the Tigers firmly in charge. Penalties by the Posse gave the Tigers several opportunities to even the score but, despite valiant efforts by the Vernon players, the game ended 9-7 in Prince George’s favour.

Star goalie Kody O’Brien played his last game as a Tiger, turning aside 45 of 56 shots. Prince George goalie Brandon Atherton faced 48 shots from the Tigers. Andrew Hamilton and Ryan Minchenko each supplied an assist for Vernon.

The final was a typically fast and physical game for the Tigers, who drew just 16 minutes in penalties. The Posse had 44 minutes.

Kirkland expects even greater things next season. “We were the youngest and smallest team in the tournament and we had the most challenging schedule,” he said. “We played four very demanding games in a 28-hour period to earn a berth in the gold medal game. From the veterans to the rookies, we played with heart and skill and we gained the respect of all of our opponents.” Kirkland noted that only three players – Kody O’Brien, Kyle Greer and Darcy Holte – are graduating this year. He believes that the selfconfidence resulting from the experience of succeeding at the highest level of play bode well for next year’s Tigers.

To get to the final game, the Tigers ended up in second in the round robin, having won two games, lost one and tied one. Prince George finished first with a 3-1-0 record. Coquitlam ended up in third with the same record as Vernon but Vernon’s goals for and

against record gave the Tigers the nod for the gold medal game. Coquitlam won the bronze over fourth-place Port Coquitlam. The Peninsula Falcons finished fifth.

Vernon opened the tournament on Friday morning with a hard-fought 9-7 loss to Prince George. Jeff Stairs (2+1), Matt Holte (1+1), James Grant (1+1), Andrew Hamilton (1+0), Tanner Skolrood (1+0) and Andy Holte (1+0) scored for the Tigers. Rob Gray was the game MVP for Vernon. Prince George out shot Vernon 56 to 39.

The Tigers gained their first victory Friday afternoon defeating the Coastal league champion Port Coquitlam Saints 12-8. Matt Holte led the Tigers with a hat trick and two assists. Kyle Point (2+0), Andy Holte (1+2), Jeff Stairs (1+2), Mitch Schocter (1+1), Rob Rintoul (1+1), Rob Gray (1+0), Andrew Hamilton (1+0) and Kyle Greer (1+0) provided the Tiger offence. Game MVP Kody O'Brien faced 60 shots from PoCo.

In their third game, played at 7:45 AM Saturday morning, the Tigers tied defending champion Coquitlam Adanacs 10-10 in a seesaw battle. Goals from Andy Holte (1+1), Karl Friesen (2+2), Matt Holte (1+0) and Kyle Point (2+0) gave the Tigers a 4-2 lead at the end of the first period. Coquitlam fought back in the second frame, scoring five times, including two markers from former Tiger Kyle Bronson. Goals from game MVP Jeff Stairs (2+1), Friesen, Mitch Schocter (1+2), and Rob Gray (1+0) enabled Vernon to maintain an 8-7 lead going into the third period. The third frame saw the lead change hands a couple of times. Coquitlam scored twice to gain a one-goal advantage. Stairs tied the game, only to have Coquitlam go back in front minutes later. A late goal by Point tied the game. The game ended in a draw although Matt Holte almost stole the win in the dying seconds with a shot that hit the post. Rob Rintoul, Chris Usselman, and Andrew Hamilton had a pair of helpers each. Tanner Skolrood and Kody O'Brien supplied single assists. Coquitlam out shot Vernon 54 to 50 in a contest typified by speed, crisp passing and gritty defence.

A tired Tigers team faced the determined and winless Peninsula Falcons Saturday afternoon in what turned out to a close game. The Tigers fell behind 3-2 by the end of the first period. Jeff Stairs (2+0) kept Vernon in the game. In the second period, the pendulum swung back in Vernon's favour, as Rob Rintoul (1+2), game MVP Mitch Schochter (1+1), and Kyle Point (2+0) led Vernon to a 5-5 tie at the end of the period. Peninsula scored twice in the third period to keep the game close. Andy Holte (1+1) and Point maintained the tie. Then Rob Gray (1+0) picked off an errant Peninsula pass and scored the winner with less than a minute to go. The Tigers out shot the Falcons 42-36.