



Front Row: Josh Taylor, Darren Kirby 'A', Robbie Short 'C', Blake Lewis

Middle Row: Josh Phillips (G), Ryan Landels, Ryan Oliverius, Joey Klein, Skyler Hodgson, Mitch Steel, Morgan McKenzie, Tony Minchenko, Joel McKenzie, Brodie MacDonald (G)

Back Row: Myles Brumpton (Coach), Jess Villeneuve (Coach), Jeremy Meredith, Tyler Plante, Darcy Bell, Patrick Quigley, Steve Clark, Kyle Whieldon, James Dobrowolski, Brennan Plante, Ross MacDonald, Rich Zecchel (Pres/GM)

Missing: Braidy Webb, Ryan Krusel, Miles Jespersen, Kail Clarke, Rily Soleway, Braiden Cantelon, Bryan Klein (Coach)

2008 RE/MAX VERNON TIGERS JUNIOR LACROSSE CLUB

Roster: 00 Josh Phillips (G), 50 Bordie MacDonald (G), 2 Riley Soleway, 3 Joel McKenzie, 4 Skylar Hodgson, 5 Josh Taylor, 6 Braiden Cantelon, 7 Joey Klein, 8 Tony Minchenko, 9 Patrick Quigley, 10 Darren Kirby 'A', 11 Jeremy Meredith, 12 Kail Clarke, 14 Mitch Steel, 15 Brennan Plante, 16 Robbie Short 'C', 22 Ryan Oliverius, 34 Miles Jespersen, 44 James Dobrowolski, 45 Blake Lewis 'A', 55 Tyler Plante, 56 Steven Clark 'A', 68 Braidy Webb 'A', 79 Darcy Bell, 80 Kyle Whieldon **Call-ups:** Ryan Krusel, Ryan Landels, Morgan McKenzie, Jeremy Chard, Matt Kold, Evan MacAulay, Josh Point (G)

Staff: Head Coach: Myles Brumpton, Asst. Coaches: Bryan Klein & Jess Villeneuve, Trainer: Ross MacDonald, President & General Manager: Rich Zecchel, Governor: Dale Rintoul

Tigers Awards: MVP & Top Scorer – Robbie Short, Top Rookie – Darcy Bell, Coaches Choice – Patrick Quigley, Unsung Hero – James Dobrowolski, Most Improved – Tony Minchenko, Best Defensive – Blake Lewis

TOJLL MVP (Shared) – Robbie Short

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2008 "REGULAR SEASON" STATS

No. Player GP Goals Assits Points PIM

00 Phillips, Josh 'G' 0 0 0 0 0
2 Soleway, Riley 3 2 0 2 5
3 McKenzie, Joel* 0 0 0 0 0
4 Hodgson, Skylar* 6 1 1 2 0
5 Taylor, Josh 7 6 3 9 4
6 Cantelon, Braiden* 10 1 1 2 10
7 Klein, Joey 12 1 4 5 4
8 Minchenko, Tony 12 1 2 3 10
9 Quigley, Patrick 14 4 8 12 6
10 Kirby, Darren 'A' 14 13 13 26 40
11 Meredith, Jeremy 12 6 12 18 2
12 Clarke, Kail* 9 2 5 7 2
14 Steel, Mitch 7 3 8 11 10
15 Plante, Brennan 12 3 4 7 10
16 Short, Robbie 'C' 11 22 14 36 33
22 Oliverius, Ryan* 10 0 0 0 4
34 Jespersen, Miles 14 11 6 17 93
44 Dobrowolski, James 11 9 6 15 15
45 Lewis, Blake 'A' 13 0 5 5 4
50 MacDonald, Brodie 'G' 12 0 4 4 15
55 Plante, Tyler 14 3 3 6 12
56 Clark, Steven 'A' 14 6 7 13 39
68 Webb, Braidy 'A' 14 6 6 12 96
79 Bell, Darcy* 14 2 5 7 2
80 Whieldon, Kyle 11 2 3 5 33
Krusel, Ryan* 4 0 0 0 11
Landels, Ryan # 3 1 1 2 4
McKenzie, Morgan* 2 0 0 0 0
Chard, Jeremy# 1 0 0 0 0
Kolb, Matt# 1 0 0 0 2
MacAulay, Evan# 2 0 0 0 0
Point, Josh 'G' # 0 0 0 0 0

* = Rookie # = Midget call-up 'G' = Goalie

Stats graciously provided by Nicole Berg

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2008 "PLAYOFF" STATS

No. Player GP Goals Assits Points PIM

00 Phillips, Josh 'G' 0 0 0 0 0
2 Soleway, Riley 6 5 2 7 4
4 Hodgson, Skylar* 2 0 0 0 0
5 Taylor, Josh 6 4 9 13 2
6 Landels, Ryan* 2 0 0 0 2
7 Klein, Joey 6 0 2 2 2
8 Minchenko, Tony 6 0 0 0 2
9 Quigley, Patrick 6 6 3 9 2
10 Kirby, Darren 'A' 6 2 2 4 2
11 Meredith, Jeremy 6 2 2 4 0
14 Steel, Mitch 3 1 0 1 0
15 Plante, Brennan 2 0 0 0 0
16 Short, Robbie 'C' 6 8 3 11 11
22 Oliverius, Ryan* 4 0 0 0 2
34 Jespersen, Miles 3 1 0 1 7

44 Dobrowolski, James 6 3 4 7 6
 45 Lewis, Blake 'A' 6 0 2 2 0
 50 MacDonald, Brodie 'G' 6 0 3 3 4
 55 Plante, Tyler 6 0 0 0 2
 56 Clark, Steven 'A' 6 2 1 3 21
 68 Webb, Braidy 'A' 5 0 2 2 30
 79 Bell, Darcy* 6 0 0 0 0
 80 Whieldon, Kyle 6 0 0 0 9
 * = Rookie - # = Midget call-up - 'G' = Goalie
 Stats provided by Nicole Berg

Leading Goaltenders

Player	Team	GP	MIN	SOG	GSV	SV%	GA	GAA
Brodie MacDonald	Vernon Tigers	10	532	392	334	0.852	58	6.541
Josh Phillips	Vernon Tigers	6	308	203	169	0.833	34	6.623

Legend

GP Games Played
 MIN Minutes Played
 SOG Shots on Goal
 GSV Goals Saved
 SV% Save Percentage = (GSV/SOG)
 GA Goals Against
 GAA Goals Against Average = (GA*GL/MIN)

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July-15-08

-- Rattlers eliminate Tigers --

by Nicole Berg - 

After a thrilling 5-4 overtime win Sunday night at Wesbild Centre, the Vernon Re/Max Tigers were in upset mode Monday night at Memorial Arena in Kamloops.

However, the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League regular-season champion Rattlers had their own agenda, and iced the stubborn Tigers 7-5 in the third and deciding game of the semifinal series.

Kamloops now meets the Kelowna Warriors in the championship series starting Thursday in Kamloops. Kelowna (10-4) advanced to the final by knocking off the 9-2-3 Rutland Raiders in three games.

The 11-2-1 Rattlers have been the league's powerhouse, winning the pennant the last four seasons. The Tigers haven't had a taste of the league trophy since they won it in 2002 and 2003.

Vernon forced game three after captain Robbie Short connected with a hard, low 25-foot shot with just 20 seconds remaining Sunday night. Short had a stellar showing and earned second star behind Tiger goalie Brodie MacDonald, who was sensational with 57 saves.

After finishing the season at 6-6-2, the underdog Tigers played the Rattlers tough after losing the opener.

It was a very hard-fought series that could have gone either way, said Tigers' head coach Myles Brumpton. I'm very proud of our team, they are a fantastic group of young men. It was a pleasure and great honour to be a part of the team this year.

Brumpton agreed that the deciding factor was the second period where Kamloops had a six-goal outburst.

The second period definitely cost us the game. We had a bit of a mental lapse entering that period. After having that 3-1 lead after the first period, we kind of let the game get out of our hands.

Vernon pulled out of the first period on goals by Josh Taylor, Steven Clark and James Dobrowolski. Craig Mattioli tallied for the Rattlers.

Cole Eustache netted the hat-trick while Eric Tomassini, Devon Larsen and Tyler Halliday chipped in with singles for Kamloops in the second period.

The Cats came out hard in the third, notching two goals and holding the Rattlers scoreless but it wasn't enough.

Short pocketed Vernon's fourth goal 40 seconds in, and Patrick Quigley scored later in the period.

Kamloops coach Rick Baker felt his team ran into much penalty trouble in the third frame but benefited from their second-period explosion.

"We took a couple untimely penalties that hurt us in the third, and their transition game was bang on. Even though they scored a powerplay goal, our defence shut them down and held on for the win. We were more concerned with playing a solid defensive game than an offensive one."

In game 2, Taylor, Jeremy Meredith, Mitch Steel and Miles Jespersen notched other goals. Halliday, Curtis McIntosh and Mattioli, with a pair, responded for Kamloops.


MacDonald made several superb saves, including many breakaways.

"That was the first game in a long time I've had to face that many shots but the defence played pretty well in front of me. Kamloops was the top team in goal scoring this season (137 goals opposed to Vernon's 99), but I held their top shooters scoreless," said MacDonald who finished the season with a 6.54 goals against average.

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July-10-08

-- Helton holds off Tigers --

by Nicole Berg - 

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers had their adrenaline pumping heading into game one of the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League semifinal playoff series Thursday night against the Kamloops Rattlers.

The Tigers pounced into McArthur Sports Centre on a high after defeating the Kamloops Venom 10-7 in a come-from-behind first round series that went three games, Monday night.

However, the regular-season champions Rattlers promptly dispatched the Cats 9-2. Game 2 goes tonight (7:30) at Wesbild Centre.

The Rattlers held period leads of 3-1 and 5-1.

"Overall I thought we played a consistent game," said Vernon's head coach Myles Brumpton. "We had so many good opportunities to put the ball in the net but just couldn't convert on our chances. Their goalie Scott Helton stood on his head the entire game. He is a terrific goaltender."

Kamloops' Russ McIntosh showed his stick skill, getting things rolling with the game's first goal.

Robbie Short equalized the score just a couple minutes later but it was the closest the Tigers would get.

Trent Evans put the Rattlers in front again at the midway mark and McIntosh added his second of the game to round out the first period.

McIntosh, who is known more as a set-up man than a goal scorer, really shined for his two goals, observed Rattlers' bench boss Rick Baker.

"Russ played a great game scoring the two quick goals and giving us a huge early lead. It was nice to see him break out with those goals so early, as he plays more of a playmaker's game."

On McIntosh, Helton said: "Russ provided the early spark for us which was nice. It really takes the pressure off the top shooters when a player like him can start the scoring early."

Vernon's Miles Jespersen made his playoff debut after being suspended the first three games of the playoffs due to a match misconduct he received in the last game of the regular season. Jespersen played a solid game, taking a ton of hits and getting numerous breakaway chances but couldn't convert on Helton.

Craig Mattioli, Gavin McIntosh, Tyler Halliday (2) and Eric Tomassini (2) connected for the Rattlers. Short added the other goal for the Tigers.


I was proud with how we started the game tonight, said Helton who made 35 saves. The boys grinded away in the first then the bounces came our way later in the second. Vernon's goalie Brodie MacDonald (39 saves) stood on his head and we just stuck to our game plan by throwing as many balls on net as we could.

In other playoff action, the Kelowna Warriors rattled the Rutland Raiders 11-4 Thursday night. The series is now tied at 1-1 with the deciding game taking place Saturday in Rutland.

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July-8-08

-- Clark scrap sparks Cats for win --

by Nicole Berg - 

With his team down 5-4 five minutes into the third period, Vernon Re/Max Tigers Steven Clark took on Kamloops Venom's Brandon Morphy in a spirited bout in which Clark clearly dominated.

Sparked by the fight, the Cats netted six goals en route to a 10-7 win in the third and deciding game of the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League first-round playoff series Monday night at the Wesbild Centre.

The Cats forced a game three by edging the Venom 6-3 Sunday night at Memorial Arena in Kamloops. The Tigers advance to round two against the regular-season champion Kamloops Rattlers (11-2-1). The Rattlers won the season series over Vernon 2-1.

The best-of-three series starts tonight (Thursday) at McArthur Island Sports Centre in Kamloops.

We stuck to our game-plan which was to focus on our defence and stay out of the penalty box by only taking nine minutes in penalties, said Vernon head coach Myles Brumpton. Our guys showed a lot of character when we were down two goals in the game at one point but fought hard to win a great game tonight.

The fight erupted when Morphy challenged Clark in front of the Venom net. Clark saw the opportunity to change the momentum in the Tigers favour so he threw down his gloves and squared off.

Clark, who scored 13 points in 14 games this season, said: We needed to do something to get our team going again by being down a few goals. Morphy wanted to fight me so I used that to get my team back into the game. He gave me a few good shots but I took it for the team.

Morphy left the floor with a face laceration from the scrap. Morphy wasn't the only Venom player to leave the game with an injury as two others players, including captain Tyler Reid, (1G) didn't finish the game. Reid was sandwiched between two Tigers along the boards and left favouring his leg in the second.

Kamloops Ryland DeRose (3G) agreed that the fight was the turning point in the game.

Losing Brandon after that fight there was a huge loss. Vernon really seemed to use winning that fight to their advantage by scoring the six goals which was what ultimately did us in.

While Clark contributed to the game with his physical play, captain Robbie Short (3+5 and first star) and sophomore Riley Soleway used their scoring skills by each adding hat-tricks.

On his second goal, Soleway fearlessly dove across the crease and fired the ball through starter Stu Ford's legs for the equalizer.

Soleway, who was named the third star, said: It's been a few games since I have played because of limited playing time. I'm not really known as a goal scorer but tonight I pulled together the hat-trick and put in my share.

Josh Taylor, Darren Kirby, and James Dobrowolski, with a pair, led the remainder of the Tiger attack. Andrew Paskell, Liam Haggerty and Tuff Pierro-Zabotel scored for Kamloops.


In Sunday's game, Patrick Quigley (2), Jeremy Meredith, Clark, Taylor, and Short produced the Tiger offence while Paskell, Riley Donahue and Adam Vincent paced the Venom.

Quigley, who has stepped up his play as of late benefiting from playing on a line with Short and Taylor, said: "We came into this game really fired up with all the guys just into it, knowing our backs were against the wall. We had great ball movement in the second period where we came out of it with a 3-1 lead after trailing 1-0 after the first." Added Kamloops head coach Doug Clark: "We didn't give ourselves a chance to win as we took too many costly penalties at key times of the game. Also, our powerplay was lacking as we only managed to score once on the man advantage."

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July-3-08

-- Venom strikes fatal for Tigers --

by Nicole Berg - 

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers wish they could have erased the opening minutes of the second and third periods in a 10-6 loss in game one of the best-of-three playoff series with the Kamloops Venom Wednesday night at Wesbild Centre.

Game two in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League series is slated for Sunday night at Kamloops Memorial Arena.

If needed, game three goes Monday night at Wesbild Centre (7:30).

The fourth-place Tigers (6-6-2) struck early, building a 3-1 first-period lead on goals by Patrick Quigley, Riley Soleway and Darren Kirby. Riley Donahue tallied for the fifth-place Venom (4-7-3).

"We came out pretty good in the first but come the rest of the game, we just came out flat," said Tigers assistant coach Jess Villeneuve.

"Kamloops just came out flying from the get-go and wanted it more. We tried throwing the ball on net with a ton of breakaway chances but couldn't get anything past their goalie Stu Ford."

The Venom wasted no time in the second period catching up to the Tigers, and quickly put the game out of reach on five straight, by Donahue 30 seconds in, Kyle Smail, Liam Haggerty, Ryan Hildebrand, and Cory Cooper.

During Kamloops' scoring streak, Vernon starting netminder Brodie MacDonald was pulled in favour of Josh Phillips, but returned to his place in goal at the beginning of the third frame.

Quigley notched Vernon's lone goal in the second and added another along with Soleway in the third. Quigley's second came on a penalty shot thanks to a too many men penalty to the Venom.

Steve Borden (three minutes in), Hildebrand, and Smail (2) picked up the remaining Venom goals.

"In the first period, our offence just wasn't happening. We were playing right into their trap," said Venom assistant coach Al Forster.

The Venom got things going quickly in the second period with a powerplay marker and scored three quick goals to follow it up.

"We hadn't had a run like that all year long, and it was nice to see our offence was running."

The Venom are playing in their inaugural season in the Junior B league. Forster said the team can compete against the Tigers.

"Against this team it was quiet evident that we need to move our feet in the offensive zone. If we do that we could beat them," he said.

Though the Venom have the series lead, Forster said the team won't be taking any chances.

"They will come at us hard. There is no doubt about it. We can't take our foot off the gas pedal. We have a good chance of taking this game. I think if we play like we did in the second and third period we'll take this thing."

Unlike his teammates, who had a few days off to rest before the playoffs, Tiger captain Robbie Short faced a busy

long-weekend of lacrosse as he was chosen to participate in the Junior B All-Star Game.

Short was supported by Jarrett Medhurst (Armstrong Shamrocks), Curtis McIntosh and Tyler Halliday (Kamloops Rattlers), Joe Brown (Kelowna Warriors), Doug Langlois (Rutland Raiders), Rory McDowall and Brad Deshane (South Okanagan Flames), Donahue (Venom) and some stars from the Prince George Posse, in a hard-fought 11-9 loss to the Mainland All-Stars Saturday night in Merritt.

It was fun to get out there with the guys, knowing how they click on offence from playing against them during the season, and getting to work together as a team, said Short.

It's a great way of showcasing the talent our league has to offer in a fun game. We definitely out-played the coast team, but just came up short for the win. The mainland all-stars have a huge talent within their speed and skill.

Rick Baker, bench boss of the Kamloops Rattlers, served as coach. Langlois was named MVP at the Nicola Valley Arena.

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June-24-08

-- Tigers make playoffs --

by Nicole Berg -



The Vernon Re/Max Tigers did just enough to secure home advantage in the first round of the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League playoffs after by earning a 10-10 tie with the host Kamloops Venom Sunday.

The fourth-place Cats (6-6-2) held a brief two-goal lead on the Venom, who they'll meet in the first round, but Kamloops pulled even in the last minute.

Playoffs start Wednesday, July 2, 7:30 p.m., at the Wesbild Centre.

I was impressed with the Kamloops game on how solid our offence was, said Vernon assistant coach Jess Villeneuve. Robbie (Short) played fantastic both games (the Tigers tied Rutland Raiders 4-4 Saturday at Wesbild Centre) and Patrick Quigley has been coming along lately too, really stepping up his play. Also Steven Clark was unreal on the backend.

I'm impressed with how the boys have come together these last few games and get themselves home advantage for the playoffs. It should be a great series.

The Cats looked slow in the early going, falling into a 2-0 deficit in the first five minutes on a pair of goals by Kamloops' Riley Donahue (4).

Short (5) got things going with a pair of his own, including one shorthanded. The Venom's Tuff Pierro-Zabotel added a powerplay marker, and Short completed the hat-trick to round out the first period. On Short's third goal, he beat Donahue on a nice one-on-one deke.

Clark (2), Quigley, Darren Kirby and James Dobrowolski tallied the remaining Tigers goals while Keaton Seaby, Pierro-Zabotel, Kyle Charkos and Andrew Paskell (2) led the Venom attack.

I think the game was pretty even at the start, but then in the second period we had a bit of a lapse when Vernon made it 5-3, but we hustled back for the tie, said Paskell. Once we scored the final tying goal we made sure we kept possession of the ball and didn't have a lapse.

Clark, who scored his second goal on a fabulous backhand shot, said: I was on a two-on-one with Robbie there, and I just tossed a sweet backhand on net, hoped for the best and it went in for me. While it would have been great to get the two points I'm glad we got the tie as it secured us home advantage for the playoffs, so that's awesome.

Miles Jespersen was tossed in the first period following a spearing major, which means he will likely be suspended for three games.

On Saturday, the Tigers jumped out to a 3-0 lead, but needed a highlight-reel tying goal from Short to earn the tie.

With 16 seconds remaining, Rutland's netminder Cam Needham was caught out of position and Short, who recorded two goals, slammed the ball in the empty net.

Even though we built a fast 3-0 lead, we just let it slip letting them tie it up, said Short. But we battled back hard and it was do-or-die time for us, so we put it all together at crunch time and pulled out a tie.

Brodie MacDonald (42 saves) stood tall for us in net playing just phenomenal. And it was great to hold Rutland's Doug Langlois (30G, 35A), who's the league leading scorer, to only one goal.

Kail Clarke and Jespersen supplied Vernon's other offence while Jared MacLennan, Ryan Phillips and Sheldon McDonald replied for Rutland.

After sleeping through the first 30 minutes, we chose to finally regroup and focus and that's what gave us a chance to getting back into the game, said Rutland head coach Travis Wray. I was especially happy with how the defence came back together in the last half.

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June-19-08

-- Hot goalie holds off Cats --

by Nicole Berg - 

Kamloops net detective Scott Helton stole the show Wednesday night in a 9-4 Rattlers' victory over the Vernon Re/Max Tigers at the Wesbild Centre.

Helton was stellar in recording 55 saves, stopping almost every breakaway that came his way.

It was a busy night with the shots for sure and I had a lot of fun out there, said Helton, who slammed the door shut on every scoring chance James Dobrowolski had. (Dobrowolski got three past Helton in a 9-8 Tiger victory Saturday night).

Tonight was my night and Saturday was his, said Helton. On Saturday I got my first chance to see what this team was made out of, and from what I learned there, I used to my advantage tonight. Our squad played much better than last game, hustling on the loose balls and having a more focused effort.

Kamloops (9-2-1) dominated the first period, pocketing five goals by Tyler Halliday, who had a four-goal outburst in Saturday's loss, Leigh Besanger, J.J. Woldum, Craig Mattioli and Eric Tomassini.

On Kamloops' second goal, Brett Baker fed a nice pass to Besanger who caught the ball at the outside circle of Brodie MacDonald's net from the Rattlers' bench. It was also one of many breakaway scoring opportunities the Tigers gave up.

We gave up just one too many breakaway chances tonight and was really one of the things that did us in, said Vernon's assistant coach Jess Villeneuve. Our first period was one to forget, but come the start of the second and third periods we stayed focused and had positive energy from the bench. Helton was just a wall for Kamloops, stopping just about all the shots he faced. Our defence played solid.

The second and third periods were a better showing for the 6-6 Tigers as they tied the Rattlers in each period by matching Kamloops' two goals in both.

Darcy Ricard, Cole Eustache, Woldum and Tomassini supplied the Rattlers' goals, while Miles Jespersen, Patrick Quigley, Robbie Short and Brennan Plante replied for Vernon.

Said Kamloops' coach Peter Angle: We wanted to prove a point tonight, to show that we were a better team than we were on Saturday and I'm very proud of the boys for doing that tonight. Vernon really beat us while we were on the special teams as all but one of their goals was shorthanded or on the powerplay. I think we're a much better team in five-on-five play.

Vernon entertains the first-place Rutland Raiders (9-1-2) Saturday night at 7:30.

Former Armstrong Shamrock Jeremy Meredith, who produced 16 points in nine games this season, has joined the Tigers, and will play out his remaining year of junior eligibility for Vernon.

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June-17-08

-- Tigers brush back Rattlers in upset --

by Nicole Berg - 

Just when they needed to step it up and boost their playoff hopes, the Vernon Re/Max Tigers shaded the undefeated Kamloops Rattlers 9-8 in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League action Saturday night at Wesbild Centre.

The Rattlers also lost 8-7 to the Rutland Raiders Sunday night, dropping to 8-2-1.

Kamloops is back in Vernon tonight (7:30).

The underdog Tigers, (6-5) who have faced a bit of a rollercoaster season by not once managing two straight wins until Saturday, held a two-goal lead for most of the first period until they got into penalty trouble and allowed Kamloops to equalize at 2-2.

Other than taking too many penalties, we definitely stuck to our game-plan, said Tigers' head coach Myles Brumpton. If we just learn to quit taking so many costly penalties (Braidy Webb was tossed for five penalties), and in turn not spend so much time in the penalty box and play more five-on-five lacrosse, we'd have a better chance to play a more even game.

The game, which lasted a good two and a half hours, saw plenty of rough stuff with Kamloops leading the penalty parade with 88 minutes compared to the Tigers' 61. The contest also featured three fights. Webb had a spirited bout with Jordan Woldum, the Cats' Darren Kirby tangled with Trent Evans, and Vernon's Kyle Whieldon fought Tyler Halliday.

James Dobrowolski, with his first of three, and Robbie Short scored the Tigers' goals in the first period. Eric Tomassini and Halliday countered for the Rattlers.

Dobrowolski, a forward with the Western Hockey League's Prince Albert Raiders in the hockey season, has 12 points in 10 games this season.

I was really happy with the effort everyone gave, said Dobrowolski. Everyone showed up to play and battled hard. For my three goals, I found that their goalie Scott Helton's weak spot is the high top corners, so that's where I shot all my goals and they all went in. I think this game was a big step for our team, and it really gave us a lot of confidence for future games, especially the playoffs, by beating the number one team.


Halliday added three more goals for the Rattlers, with singles coming from Russ McIntosh, Leigh Besanger and Tomassini.

Josh Taylor potted a pair while Short, Steven Clark and Darcy Bell added other goals to complete the Tigers' attack.

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June-08-08

-- Tigers order up dozen on Rocks --

by Nicole Berg - 

The Vernon Tigers' roller-coaster season continued Friday night in Armstrong, this time on a massive upswing, as the Cats bagged a season high in goals to drop the Armstrong Shamrocks 12-4.

In a match-up critical to the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League standings, the Cats potted seven straight goals to secure the win and improve to 5-5, taking sole possession of fourth place.

The Rocks fell to 2-10 and are just one point up on the last-place South Okanagan Flames (1-9-1).

The boys played excellent tonight, said Vernon assistant coach Bryan Klein. In practice this week, we worked hard on the offence because it just hasn't been there all season and tonight we were bang on it. The defence was also strong with Josh Phillips in net. He played spectacular and will be a big part of the team in the next few games.

Phillips got the nod in net after regular starter Brodie MacDonald earned a three game suspension after he was assessed a match penalty in the Tigers' previous game against Rutland.

I felt pretty comfortable in net and am really happy to play, but it sucks at the expense with Brodie being suspended, said Phillips, who was stellar in recording 29 saves. Armstrong's offence had lots of chances to score, but our defence really shut them down and they only managed to score screened shots.

After Jarret Medhurst opened Armstrong's account just 22 seconds into the contest, the Cats' Steven Clark replied less than a minute later, which turned into a scoring spree for Vernon, as Josh Taylor and Robbie Short, each with a pair, and singles from Riley Soleway and Tyler Plante built the Tigers a comfortable lead.

Plante's goal was an unassisted beauty where he caught the ball on a bad pass from an Armstrong defender.

I felt I played pretty good tonight, especially when I scored two goals and added a helper, said Plante. Probably one of my better games all year. It's good to see our team finally coming together, and just at the right time too with playoffs just around the corner.

The Tigers, whose previous best game-high total was nine, kept up the pace in the second period, getting two goals from Plante and Soleway. Medhurst added a single on the powerplay.

After a relatively calm second period where only three penalties were assessed, tempers flared in the third stanza, with players getting involved a scrum in front of Armstrong's bench with five minutes remaining.

After Vernon's Joey Klein scored, Braidy Webb exchanged words with Armstrong netminder Logan Pippolo. As Pippolo was walking towards the bench upon being pulled in favour of Colin Dodds, Pippolo went after Webb.

The Rocks' Jesse Quenneville jumped off the Armstrong bench and started fighting with Webb. Darren Kirby, who registered four assists, tangled with Pippolo.

Taylor and James Dobrowski completed the Vernon offence, while Medhurst potted his third and Taylor Trotter added a single for the Shamrocks.

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June-4-08

-- Tigers' erratic season persists --

by Nicole Berg - 

The Vernon Tigers have yet to put together back-to-back wins this season, and they couldn't buck that trend Saturday night, bowing 10-7 to the host Rutland Raiders.

Tied for third with the Kelowna Warriors in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League, the Tigers (4-5) looked sloppy in the first and second periods, but mounted a comeback in the third with four goals, however first-place Rutland (7-1-1) shut the door.

Aside from not giving a full-out effort for every game all season long, we also have too much trouble taking dumb penalties and it needs to stop, said Tigers' assistant coach Jess Villeneuve. We settled down in the third a little bit, and once we did that we started scoring some goals and easily won the third period (4-2). We also had five of our regulars missing so that was a bit of a factor too.

Vernon's comeback was sparked by a game ejection to the Raiders' net detective Cam Needham. Early in the

third period, the referee stopped the game and left the floor to measure Needham's equipment. They returned and announced Needham's equipment was illegal, and the goalie was promptly replaced by Cody Taschuk. Miles Jespersen (2+1) quickly scored his second of the game shortly after.

Mitch Steel, with a pair of powerplay markers, Josh Taylor, who made his Tiger debut after being sidelined since last season with an injury, and Darren Kirby, completed the Cats' third-period attack. Cats' netminder Brodie MacDonald was also tossed in the second period after he slashed league-leading scorer Doug Langlois (34 points in eight games) behind his net.

Langlois (4+1) promptly left the floor favouring his wrist, but returned to bag his fourth in the final frame.

Josh Phillips replaced MacDonald.

Langlois notched the first goal just 16 seconds in, but Vernon's Robbie Short answered just 26 seconds later. Steven Clark recorded the Tigers' other goal.


Sheldon McDonald (2+3), Nathan Illichmann, Taylor Grant, Jared MacLennan, Steve Noel rounded out the Rutland attack.

The Tigers visit the Armstrong Shamrocks (2-8).

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May-28-08

-- Short's hat-trick jumpstarts Tiger attack --

by Nicole Berg - 

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers' offence has been sporadic at best over the past few games, so captain Robbie Short's three-goal performance came as a welcome reprieve as the Cats doused the South Okanagan Flames 8-5 Monday night at Summerland Arena.

Short, Miles Jespersen and Braidy Webb got the Tigers rolling with first-period goals, while Patrick O'Neill and Derek Grimm opened the Flames' account.

The Tigers held the edge in play throughout most of the game, but netminder Josh Phillips provided timely saves when called upon in the Thompson/Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League tilt.

Our powerplay still seemed to struggle, said Tigers GM Rich Zecchel, pointing out that goal production league wide is down. If we can get a couple more goals a game from our powerplay, we could have turned a few of those losses into wins.

Our defence is quite sound, and our goaltending is solid, said Zecchel.

The other area where the Tigers have been looking to improve is discipline, and they got that against the Flames. Vernon took six penalties compared to South Okanagan's nine.

We kept our penalties down, which was nice to see, said Zecchel, adding that the Cats heavily outshot the last-place Flames.

In the second frame, the Cats (4-4) added to their goal cushion with two more by Short, and a single by Kail Clarke. Sean Maktaak answered for the Flames (1-7-1).

Nikolai Sopow and Kevin McDowall led the Flames' third-period comeback, but the Tigers replied with goals by Braiden Cantelon, Jespersen and Webb.

The Tigers visit the league-leading Rutland Raiders (6-1-1) Saturday night.

Meanwhile, the Kamloops Rattlers outgunned the Armstrong Shamrocks 19-6 Sunday in Kamloops.

On Saturday, the Rattlers iced the Flames 9-1 while the host Kelowna Warriors bowed 12-3 to the Rutland Raiders. Doug Langlois of the Raiders is the leading pointgetter with 17-12-29, followed by Jarrett Medhurst of Armstrong at 9-12-21.

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May-25-08

-- Scoring woes biting Tigers --

by Nicole Berg - 

If the Vernon Re/Max Tigers want to stay in the hunt for a Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League playoff spot, they are going to have find a way to crank up the offence and stay out of the sin bin.

Halfway through the season, the Cats (4-3) sit in fifth place, tied with the Kelowna Warriors, who slipped by Vernon 8-6 Thursday night at the Royal LePage Place.

½Overall we played two solid periods (first and third),½ said Tigers' head coach Myles Brumpton. ½The defence was good as always, including our goaltender Brodie MacDonald. All our contests are very close, low scoring games. The defence continues to play great every night, but we are really coming up short on our offence.½

Penalties also proved to be a problem for the Tigers as Braidy Webb and Miles Jespersen were both ejected in the first period. Webb really put his team down by taking a seven minute major at the conclusion of the period.

The Tigers still managed a 2-1 lead on a pair of goals by Robbie Short. Joe Brown on the powerplay tallied for Kelowna.

The Warriors rallied in the second, pushing ahead to a 4-2 lead, and despite a momentary lapse in the third when Vernon came out hustling, Kelowna didn't look back.

½In the third, we definitely made a go of coming from behind,½ said Brumpton. ½Even though we made it close being down just one goal in the dying minutes, their goaltending of Brant MacQuoid and Louis Ensign was too hot and we couldn't get anything past them.½

Short scored two more goals, while Mitch Steel and Steven Clark completed the Cats' offence.

Victor Wiens, Pete Friesen, Jake Brown, Darcy Gordon and two by Casey Wood paced the Warriors. Kelowna iced the game with an empty-netter with MacDonald pulled.


Vernon's next game action is Monday in Summerland versus the Flames, who they beat 9-3 earlier in the season.

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May-16-08

-- Cat attack back on track --

by Nicole Berg - 

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers finally found their scoring touch, earning a close-fought 8-5 win over the expansion Kamloops Venom in Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League play Wednesday at Wesbild Centre.

½That was a great game all around,½ said Vernon's head coach Myles Brumpton. ½We implemented a new system for tonight and the execution was right on. Kamloops is a quick aggressive team who are good on loose balls and were right in it the entire game. We also played a very disciplined game tonight, only taking 14 minutes in penalties (Kamloops was dinged for 17), so I was very pleased with that.½

After Miles Jespersen put the Cats (3-3) on the board, the Venom's Cory Cooper outran Darcy Bell down the middle and brushed off Steven Clark before popping the ball past starter Brodie MacDonald.

The period was called with three minutes still left to play due to a goalie equipment mishap for the Tigers, with the

extra time tacked on to the start of the second period.

The Venom (3-2-1) came out strong in the second, scoring goals 35 seconds apart by Kyle Smail and Adam Vincent to take the lead.

The Tigers responded in a big way, netting five goals and holding the Venom shooters scoreless. Braidy Webb, Darren Kirby, James Dobrowolski and a pair by Robbie Short clicked for Vernon.

Short, who also scored an empty netter in the dying minutes, was happy to be back playing in his second game after serving a three-game suspension.

It felt great to get back out there and play a good game, said Short. Now that we have a full lineup back, as there are no more guys serving suspensions, we have our full size and speed back and that should help us out along the road.

Before the game today we had a discussion about why we weren't generating the offence we needed to in order to win us games. We talked about guys being more creative and not be scared to show off what they could do. So we did just that tonight and it worked to our advantage.

Ryland DeRose and Andrew Paskell tallied for the Venom in the third period. Kirby potted a powerplay marker for the Cats.

Kamloops' head coach Doug Clark thought his squad played with a solid effort for the better part of the game.


Besides the second period where Vernon scored a bunch of goals and we didn't get any, I thought we played pretty even with them, said Clark. Also, I think if it wasn't for the five minute major and game misconduct assessed to Tuff Pierro-Zabotel with a little over five minutes left in the game, we may have had a chance to come back. But it was too late in the game for us to make a comeback and the odds were stacked against us.

After a break over the long weekend, the Tigers, will tangle with the Kelowna Warriors Thursday, May 22, at the Royal LePage Place.

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May-14-08

-- Cats hungry for offence --

by Nicole Berg - 

The Vernon Re/Max Tigers are in the midst of a scoring drought.

In their last two Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League games against the Kelowna Warriors and Kamloops Rattlers, the Cats have managed just eight goals, losing 6-3 to the Warriors Saturday at Wesbild Centre and 8-5 to the Rattlers Sunday in Kamloops.

With the losses, the Tigers' dropped to 2-3, tying them with the Warriors and Armstrong Shamrocks with four points apiece.

Lately, in our last two games we have run into a bit of a scoring block for sure, said Tigers' General Manager Rich Zecchel. Even though our offence isn't up to par, our defence has been playing phenomenal. Both the teams we faced this week are really fast moving, so next time we play them we have to compress our defence to make it tighter and not be so spread out down the middle allowing for an odd-man rush.

The Tigers opened the first period in Kamloops on a good note, stealing a 1-0 lead before falling into penalty trouble in the second.

We played a really good game up until the halfway mark of the game, said Tigers' forward Brennan Plante, who notched an assist in the Kamloops game. We got five straight penalties and sure enough, they scored on each opportunity, and the score quickly went from 1-0 for us to 7-1 for them by the end of the second period.

Realizing the Rattlers would walk away with the win if they didn't come out hustling in the third, the Tigers mounted a comeback, scoring five goals, but still fell short.

Tyler Halliday led the Rattlers with 2+3, while Derek Swan, Cole Eustache, Chris Kersas, Eric and Brian Tomassini and Russ McIntosh collected singles. James Dobrowolski (2), Patrick Quigley, Darren Kirby and Robbie Short responded for the Tigers.

In Saturday's action the Warriors came out with lots of energy, looked hungrier for the win, and were rewarded with ball possession for the better part of the game.

½We just came out a bit slow to start the game and it caught up with us in the end,½ said Vernon's assistant coach Jess Villeneuve. ½Kelowna is a really fast team who competes hard each time we meet. Even though we only scored three goals tonight, our defence played great allowing only six. It was also Josh Phillips' first start this season and he played terrific making 34 saves.½

The Warriors hit the scoreboard just a couple minutes into the game on a powerplay tally by Jake Brown. Deryk McPhail added a goal in the closing minute of the period.

The Tigers finally got rolling with rookie Skylar Hodgson's first of the season, but Victor Wiens replied for the Warriors.

Third star Dobrowolski scored the highlight goal of the night while his team had a four-minute powerplay. Dobrowolski swooped in to steal the ball at his end, and ran in alone shooting the ball past starter Lou Ensign.

Jordan Laverock and first star Jordie Schochter, with a pair, tallied Kelowna's remaining goals. Miles Jespersen potted a single with 14 seconds remaining.

Schochter, who is the younger brother of former Tiger standout, Mitch, was ecstatic with the win.

½It was key to come into tonight with a ton of pressure and keep that pressure going right up until the end of the game,½ Schochter said. ½We slacked off a little bit in the second by allowing them to score two goals but we came back hard in the third. Also, our young guys are already fitting in nicely, such as Laverock, who got his first goal in a Warrior uniform.½

Added Kelowna's head coach Dave McWhirter: ½Our plan all year has been to make the right passes at the right time and put lots of pressure on the other team during ball possession. We try to be an old fashioned run and gun team and just let the ball do the rest of the work.½

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May-07-08

-- Jespersen hot Tiger --

by Nicole Berg - 

Vernon Re/Max Tigers sophomore Miles Jespersen is making a name for himself in the Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League.

Jespersen supplied 2+2 as the Tigers brushed aside the South Okanagan Flames 9-3 Saturday night at Wesbild Centre.

Through three games this season, Jespersen has pocketed 4+3, matching his rookie season point total.

½South (Okanagan) is usually a hard team to play against, especially on the fast break where they are good all the time,½ said Jespersen. ½But come the second, the game got faster from our 3-2 lead and we poured on the goals. The third had a more chippy feeling to it where the Flames started playing with more edge, so we gave it to them right back.½

The play was even through 20 minutes, with the Tigers holding a 20-13 edge in shots. The Flames came close taking a 2-1 lead halfway through the first period on a shot by Pete McEwan, but the goal was called off as the Flames were called for too many men.

½That could have been a turning point moment for our team for sure,½ said Flames head coach Geoff Goodman.

½If we would have scored at that time, we could have got some momentum taking us into the second and not let the game slip away then like it did. However, I,½m not disappointed with how our boys played as the defence, backed

up by Rory McDowall, who made 48 saves, played well. He's usually our best player every game.

If he holds us in it, it gives us a chance to win if the offence isn't playing well.

Brennan Plante, Darren Kirby, Braidy Webb and Jespersen led the Cats' first-period attack, while Chris Johnson and Brad Deshane replied for the 0-3-1 Flames.

Vernon took off in the second, netting four straight goals by Patrick Quigley, midget call-up Ryan Landels, Webb and Jespersen, shorthanded, to go ahead 8-2.

Jespersen's second goal was a highlight-reel move where he stole the ball from his team's end, while down two men and threw it on net.

On the same play, a Flame hit Jespersen behind the net, earning a six-minute penalty late in the game, but the Tigers could only muster one goal though on the lengthy powerplay, from Kirby. McEwan rounded out the Flames' offence.

The Tigers' Mitch Steel chipped in with four assists while starter Brodie MacDonald made 31 saves.

Vernon's head coach Myles Brumpton thought his club played well for the most part.

Despite the slow start, by the second period, we jumped on the loose balls every chance we could get and played with tons of pressure which was the key to us winning.

The 2-1 Tigers host the Kelowna Warriors Saturday at Wesbild Centre, then tangle with the Rattlers Sunday at the McArthur Sports Complex in Kamloops.

The Armstrong Shamrocks fell to 1-5, falling 15-5 to the host Rutland Raiders 15-5 Saturday night. Rutland is 1-1-1.


The Shamrocks lost 11-3 to the visiting Rattlers Friday night. The Rattlers went to 2-0-1.

The Kamloops Venom are first at 3-0-1.

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April-30-08

-- Strohm stings Cats --

by Nicole Berg - 

Most Valuable Player-of-the-Year in 2006, Logan Strohm of the Armstrong Shamrocks appears serious of competing for that title again this Thompson Okanagan Lacrosse League season.

Strohm registered a four-goal game in a come-from-behind 9-5 victory over the Vernon Re/Max Tigers in the second half of a home-and-home series Saturday night at Civic Arena.

The Tigers dropped to 1-1 and the Rocks improved to 1-3.

With Vernon ahead 5-4 with 13 minutes remaining in the game, Armstrong scored five straight on a pair by both Strohm and Jarret Medhurst, and a single by Braydon Sanders.

Brad Wolgram and Nathan Strohm also supplied singles for the Rocks. Darren Kirby, Miles Jespersen, Kyle Whieldon, Mitch Steel and Brennan Plante replied for Vernon.

Plante, who scored his first goal for the Tigers in 11 games including last year's playoffs, was ecstatic to get his first goal as a Tiger.

It felt real nice to get my first goal finally, said the 18-year-old. It was a bit of a lucky shot though as I just threw the ball on net with the 30 second shot clock winding down but I'm glad to get it in the books.

The Tigers host the winless South Okanagan Flames (0-2) Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Wesbild Centre.

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April-27-08

-- Vernon Tigers crush i½Rocks in season opener --

Nicole Berg - 

Veteran sniper Darren Kirby scored five times as the Vernon Tigers grounded the Armstrong Shamrocks 9-3 in their Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League season opener Friday night at the Armstrong-Spallumcheen Sports Complex.

Kirby, who pocketed two assists, opened the scoring midway through the first on the powerplay, firing one past Armstrong netminder Logan Pippolo.

i½We had a slow start for sure, but really picked it up come the third period,i½ said Kirby, whose team notched four straight goals in the third. i½We made some good passes on the powerplay and clicked for four goals out of that. By the third, we finally figured out their goalies (Colin Dodds replaced Pippolo after the Tigers' ninth goal) were weak down low so that's where we began to generate lots of shots and scored some goals because of that.i½

The Shamrocks received offence from Taylor Trotter, Logan Strohm and Jarret Medhurst.

Steve Clark, Miles Jespersen, Kyle Whieldon and rookie Darcy Bell, with his first as a Tiger, rounded out the Tigersi½ offence.

Shamrocks' head coach Ken McGregor believed a missed opportunity on a five-minute powerplay in the second was one of the deciding factors in the game.

i½If we would have scored at least one or two goals on that powerplay, it might have been a different game. I think we ran into too much penalty trouble tonight and that always hurts a team in the end. But we are getting better each game and that is something we will just have to work on to be better in the future. Vernon's goalie Brodie MacDonald (41 saves) especially played very well for his team and was a hot goalie for our guys to beat tonight.i½

Said Tigers' head coach Myles Brumpton: i½I felt overall we played an okay game. The first period was a typical first period for a first game of the season, as there was lots of nerves. We also had quite a few new guys playing together for the first time in Skylar Hodgson, Braiden Cantelon, Ryan Oliverius, and Bell but came around in the later half of the game. Brodie played terrific in net, especially by the second half of the game as he faced a lot of rubber and made some good saves.i½

The Tigers hosted the i½Rocks Saturday at Civic Arena. They entertain the South Okanagan Flames Saturday at Wesbild Centre

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April-25-08

-- Tigers ready to rock --

Nicole Berg - The Vernon MorningStar

The Vernon Tigers jumpstart a new Thompson/Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League season tonight in the first game of a home-and-home with the Armstrong Shamrocks.

Sporting Re/Max as their new corporate sponsor, the Tigers will face off against the host Shamrocks at 7:30. Game 2 goes Saturday night (7:30) at Civic Arena.

All future Tiger games will be at the Wesbild Centre.

The Tigers are coming off a high after winning both games in the Ice Breaker tournament two weeks ago against the Shamrocks and the West Kootenay Wolf Pack. The Pack, who are based out of Castlegar, will primarily only be an exhibition team and will host the Tigers for two weekend home games in May.

Run by former Tiger Brett Logan, the Wolf Pack will also make an appearance in Vernon on June 7.

i½Those should be a couple of good upcoming games with Armstrong,i½ said forward Darren Kirby, who will be

wearing the 'A' this year. When we played them in the exhibition game it was quite close. They are good on their man advantage, so in order for us to beat them, we must buckle down on penalties and make smoother changes off the bench.

The Cats will welcome a familiar face behind the bench in former player Jess Villeneuve.

It's really overwhelming to be coaching for the first time, said the 22-year-old assistant coach.

There has definitely been a lot of learning so far. Myles (Brumpton, head coach) and Brian (Klein, assistant coach) have both been teaching me the ropes so far, and I'm starting to get comfortable with the coaching perspective, as it is quite different from being a player.

Recruited midget grad Darcy Bell is excited to get the season rolling in his new home.

I'm pretty stoked to get the season started, said Bell who hails from Mackenzie. I think we've got a pretty decent chance to have a successful season by the looks of it. I was a little nervous at first just coming out of training camp but I think I've got those nerves worked out now.

Villeneuve thinks Bell brings a lot to the Tiger den.

He's quite strong and has good chemistry with Kail Clarke who played midget in Quesnel last year. Darcy is a bit of a more chippy player who will have a lot of presence on the floor. He likes to play physical by using his size. He will also be a good goal scorer for us."

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April-06-08

-- Dobber delivers --

Graeme Corbett - The Vernon MorningStar

Opportunity knocked, and Vernon's James Dobrowolski opened the door.

James Dobrowolski earned a regular shift in his rookie year with the Prince Albert Raiders of the Western Hockey League.

Playing in his rookie campaign for the Western Hockey League's Prince Albert Raiders, the 6-foot-2, 180-pound forward went from playing limited minutes to earning a regular shift after the team lost several key players to injuries, leaving some glaring holes down the middle.

A natural left winger, Dobrowolski showed considerable versatility in switching to the pivot position on a young team, and he admitted it wasn't an easy transition.

The coach (Bruno Campese) really helped me out, showing me everything I needed to do, said the 18-year-old Vernon product. I still prefer the wing, and that's where he wants me to play next year because that's where I'll be the most effective.

We had some injuries to some key guys and we had a really young defensive core of 16- and 17-year-olds, and one 20-year-old. With those injuries, I jumped up to the third line for most of the season, which worked out very well.

Said Campese: It was a real tough situation. We had two guys go down with long-term injuries, and we looked around the room to see who might be able to fill in and, with his size, we felt James could do it. He's very conscientious at both ends of the rink.

It wasn't an easy thing to do, but we felt we adapted well in a new environment and a new position. He's a player with good size and a good skill set. As a rookie, it's more about getting comfortable in the league.

Dobrowolski, known as Dobber, was selected in the third round (48th overall) in the 2005 Bantam draft, played with the Okanagan Rockets of the B.C. Major Midget Hockey League.

He racked up some B.C. Hockey League playoff minutes for the Vernon Vipers in the 2006-07 season, playing on a line with David Robinson, who now skates with the Chilliwack Bruins.

This season with the Raiders, Dobrowolski posted 6-9-15 and 24 PIM in 66 games with the Raiders, who finished

10th in the WHL's Eastern Conference with 55 points in 72 games, missing the playoffs.

It was a bit of a slow start because I got a shoulder injury in exhibition, but then things picked up around Christmas and I started playing better. Everything is quicker and the guys are a lot bigger, but once you start playing there, you get used to it. The overall skill and talent is fun to watch and be a part of.

Dobrowolski has three more years of WHL eligibility, and Campese in his first year with the Raiders after coaching the BCHL's Penticton Vees for three years is hoping the talented winger will be a key part of the club's improvement.

We're trying to create a different atmosphere here and we've got a good core of young players who are buying in. He's a big-bodied player, and we'd like to see him be more assertive in the play. We're hoping he can make the next step and be a regular at five-on-five as well as on special teams.

While Prince Albert might not be a cultural hotbed as compared to some of the other WHL cities, such as Vancouver and Seattle, Dobrowolski is happy to continue his learning curve with the Raiders.

It's about the same size as Vernon, but it's a lot colder and there's not as much to do, said Dobrowolski, who occupies much of his spare time by playing Guitar Hero and Rock Band on his Sony Playstation 3.

Now back in Vernon for the off-season, Dobrowolski plans to keep in shape by playing with the Vernon Tigers of the Thompson-Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League.

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March-23-08

-- Tigers lock up Re/Max --

Nicole Berg - The Vernon MorningStar

The Vernon Tigers will be facing the 2008 Thompson Okanagan Junior Lacrosse League season with a new sponsor, new players, and a new opponent.

The Tigers' previous sponsorship with Sun Valley Source for Sports ended after a great five-year partnership, with Sun Valley moving on to sponsor minor lacrosse in the North Okanagan.

The Tigers' new sponsor will be Re/Max.

Re/Max stepped up this season to be our major corporation sponsor, of which we are very appreciative of, said Tigers' GM Rich Zecchel. They are a community-minded and locally owned and operated business. Our other ongoing sponsors include Safeway, Canaccord Capital, Boston Pizza, and Coca-Cola.

The Tigers open training camp on Monday at the Hassen Arena at 7 p.m. and they will also be practising Wednesday at 8 p.m. To shake off the rust, the Tigers will compete in the Icebreaker Tournament, Saturday, April 12, in a two-game exhibition tilt. The Cats' regular season opens in Armstrong on Friday, April 25.

After several months of consultation, the TOJLL will also be welcoming a seventh team this season -- the Kamloops Venom. In their debut season, the Venom will play their home games out of the Memorial Arena, while the Kamloops Rattlers will continue to play out of the McArthur Island Sports Complex.

The Venom will not have a draft, but any junior-aged players (16-21) are welcome to try out. Free agents from other teams and players cut from the Rattlers will also be invited to make the squad.

With so many kids out of Kamloops showing up at the Rattlers' training camp every season, it will be really nice to have another team in the league and it will give the Kamloops kids a second team to try out for if they don't make the Rattlers, said Zecchel. Having a second team also gives the league more parity and offers more games in the season.

Tigers' sniper Darren Kirby is excited about his new opponent.

It's great Kamloops finally got another team, although I think the Rattlers will be stronger than the Venom for the first while, but in the future I think they are going to be pretty even.

Junior grad Jess Villeneuve, who was a sparkplug for the Tigers last season, will be helping out as assistant coach

along with Brian Klein, and Myles Brumpton, who returns as head coach.

Midget grads Darcy Bell of MacKenzie and Quesnel's Kail Clarke have been recruited.

“Both these guys are great ball players and were top scorers in their league last year. They should be great at both ends of the floor,” said Zecchel.

Patrick Quigley, who was a top prospect for the Tigers a couple seasons ago, potting 25 points in 12 games, is back to play a full schedule after taking a year off to work.

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