

## Penticton gains seventh win

# Essos blanked by tough Broncs

Lack of bench strength certainly didn't deter Jack Taggart's Penticton Broncs as they swept Vernon Essos under the rug with a 4-0 victory in B.C. junior "A" hockey play before more than 1,400 Vernon spectators Saturday night at the civic arena.

It was a frustrating night for Essos as they threw everything but the kitchen sink at Bronco goalie Bob Belbin who withstood the avalanche to shutout the locals at every turn.

Both teams put on a dazzling display of hockey in the first period with neither able to hit the score sheet.

However, the first period play was only a prelude to what was to come. Even the spectators, normally noisy from the opening whistle, kept an almost hushed silence as if waiting for something spectacular to happen.

They were not to be denied. From the faceoff to start the middle period, Vernon really put on the pressure and for five minutes they swooped in on goalie Belbin time and again only to have him rob them on at least three spectacular saves that should have been sure goals.

At the 6:57 mark of the period, the tide began to change when Bronco forward, Adrain Blais took a two-way pass from Larry Stock and Dale McBain to put Penticton on the score sheet. Three minutes later it was Penticton again with Jim Whitlam driving a partially screened shot past Essos netminder Jack Gilroy.

The Peach city crew then hit the score sheet again late in the second period when Gene Taylor banged in his first of two goals at the 18:21 mark.

It was Taylor again at 2:11 of the third period when he and Jack Taggart jr. worked the puck over the Vernon blue line to beat Gilroy from close in.

Penticton outshot Vernon 26-18 and picked up six penalties to Vernon's three. One of these was a 10 minute misconduct to Taggart who didn't care for a two minute tripping penalty referee Bill Neilson handed out to him. He said so and was overheard by Neilson who promptly gave him the misconduct. Because there was less than 10 minutes left to play in the game Taggart headed for the dressing room and was given another two min-

utes minor for leaving the penalty box.

In another incident, Vernon's team captain, Tom Serviss was assessed an elbowing penalty when he checked Taylor on the sidelines. Taylor fell to the ice and remained there until carried off on a stretcher suffering from a back injury. According to referee Neilson, Taylor had a bad back and the injury was not the result of the Serviss check.

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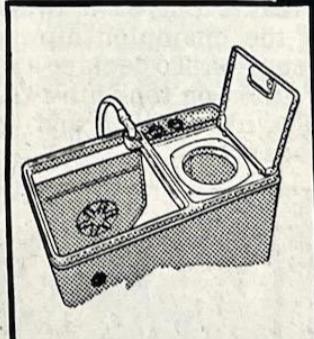
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In the Thursday game, Kamloops completely dominated the play, scoring twice in the first period, knotting two more in the second and then lighting up the score board four times in the final period before Vernon broke the goose egg with only a minute and three seconds left in the game. King Cam took the honors on that one with Alexander assisting.

Sunday, Vernon traded goals with Kelowna, scoring two each in the opening period then in the second period the local squad picked up three more to Kelowna's one to lead 5-3 going into the final frame. It was a deadlock again in the third as each team scored two apiece to end the game's scoring. King Cam followed with a pair of goals.

Single Vernon goals were scored by Gary Best and Mike Perepolkin.



## **Businessman sponsors sweaters**

Two sets of hockey sweaters were officially handed over by their donor, Ernie Kowal, a Vernon garage operator, to coach Odie Lowe of the Vernon Essos last week. Left, above, coach Lowe examines both sets as Mr. Kowal looks on. The white set, with red and blue trim will be used by the Essos for all their home games and the dark blue set, with red and white trim will be worn when the junior "A" club is away on road trips.