

Kamloops takes 5-3 win

Vernon dropped to fourth place

If close plays could be counted as goals and injuries didn't have an obvious effect on a team's strength, then maybe... Vernon Essos would be the league leaders in B.C. junior "A" hockey today.

However, all the if's and maybe's in the world will never change the final results of any game.

This was the case Wednesday night, as Kamloops Rockets came to town, scored enough goals and went home with a 5-3 victory tucked away in the record books.

For Kamloops it was a big win, as it moved them two points up on the Essos in league standings and gave them sole possession of third place with 12 points.

Vernon fourth

Penticton lead the league with a nine-point bulge over second place New Westminster who now have 13 points by virtue of their 5-4 win over Victoria Wednesday night in a game played in the Royal city.

Vernon are relegated to fourth place with 10 points, Victoria is in fifth with eight points and Kelowna are mired in the league cellar with only seven points.

Typical loss

The loss to Kamloops by Vernon was typical of their loss record to date, as they again proved to all concerned that they are a contender, but can't score the crucial goals that mean the difference on the score sheet.

Essos set this pattern early in the season, keeping pace with every team they met through two periods of good hockey but failing to score when the opportunity arose and then running out of steam in the final stages of the game.

Wednesday, Essos had the crowd on their feet on more than one occasion as they made fantastic plays around the Rockets' net, only to have goalie Wally Denault outsmart them with his quick moves.

Missed chances

Denault was outstanding for the Kamloops cause, but more often Essos missed chances of sure goals by not finding the mark.

Injuries have been the nemesis of the Essos so far this season and a small roster of experienced second and third year juniors have attributed to a certain extent the lack of finish the club needs in crucial plays and last minute drives. All four games lost this season have been in the third period because players could not sustain themselves.

Injury problems

Injuries have played a big part in the final results. With two highly rated defencemen out with injuries, coach Odie Lowe has been forced to pull back some of his better veteran players to act as blueline patrolmen.

The face of Bob Mayer was missed in the Wednesday game as he was forced to sit out the game because

of an injury received in a practise. His defensive moves have been invaluable to the team's play. Also out, and badly needed is Ken Pollon who has sat out several games because of torn knee tendons.

Graham Elliott opened the scoring for Vernon early in the first period with Mike Perepolkin setting him up from a scramble.

Kamloops bounced back at the mid-point of the same period on the first of two goals by Randy Rota. It was a power play with Lawrence Quechuk off for holding.

Going into the second period, Kamloops took the lead on a goal by Rick Beauchamp, with Ken Tarnow and Rota setting up the play.

With only 29 seconds remaining in the second frame, several good attempts to score payed off for the Vernon squad as Jeff Wilson picked a corner after getting a break-away when Tom Serviss fed him a pass at centre ice.

Deadlock broken

Kamloops broke the 2-2 deadlock early in the third period on a goal by Gerry Janicki, then, just over a minute later, Jim McNeill scored what proved to be the winner.

Jeff Wilson's second goal came soon after, when he deflected a hard drive by Dick Marsh who had worked the puck to the Kamloops blueline.

Fail in third

Randy Rota completed the game's scoring near the mid mark of the third period when he took a Tarnow pass and scored on a screen shot.

Vernon out-shot Kamloops 31-27, with both goalies doing an excellent

job, although Jack Gilroy looked a little shaky after receiving a hard drive that he took on the right temple with a little more than two minutes to go in the second period. Pat Murphy, a junior "B" player called up for the game, also received a skull cut when he took a savage check by Greg Scriver. It was Scriver who put Pollon out of action a few weeks ago.

NORTH

SPORTS

OKANAGAN

B.C. Junior "A" standings

SCORING STATISTICS — games played up to and including Nov. 19, with the exception of the Vernon-Kamloops game played Nov. 1. This game was protested and to date no decision has been received.

	G	A	Pts	Pen
Bob Mowat (Pen.)	15	13	28	24
Wayne Schaab (Pen.)	10	13	23	2
Gene Taylor (Pen.)	12	10	22	11
Jack Taggart (Pen.)	5	16	21	34
Jim Robinson (Kel.)	7	14	21	11
Geo. Watson (N.W.)	10	10	20	10
Randy Rota (Kam.)	17	3	20	9
Tom Serviss (Ver.)	0	18	18	26
Gene Carr (Kel.)	11	6	17	16
Ray Wallis (N.W.)	5	12	17	26

Penalties: Individual — Ron Collingwood, New Westminster, 71 min.; Brian Koski, New Westminster, 53 min. Team — New Westminster, 278 min.; Kelowna, 240 min.

GOALIES' AVERAGES

	GP	G	Ave.
Bob Belbin, Penticton	5	12	2.4
Doug Thompson, Penticton	7	25	3.6
Murray Finlay, Victoria	9	35	3.9
Jack Gilroy, Vernon	9	42	4.7
Brett Kneen, Kelowna	10	47	4.7
Wally Denault, Kamloops	9	43	4.8
John Bade, Kamloops	2	10	5.0
Ray Matthews, Kelowna	1	5	5.0
Lionel Trudel, New Westminster	9	52	5.8
Ron Grahame, Victoria	4	24	6.0
Fred Boyer, New Westminster	2	16	8.0
Bart Hollinger, Kamloops	1	8	8.0

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	P
Penticton	12	11	0	1	80	37	22
New Westminster	11	5	1	5	55	68	11
Vernon	9	4	2	3	38	42	10
Kamloops	12	5	0	7	59	61	10
Victoria	12	3	2	7	46	59	8
Kelowna	12	3	1	8	47	58	7

At Kelowna in March

Brier curling set for Valley

KELOWNA — Kelowna's biggest up-coming winter sport is the annual curling spectacular — The MacDonald Brier Tankard. It's being held the week of March 4 and is expected to draw hundreds of visitors. There will be over 500 officials, players and

media representatives. Already over 350 rooms have been booked in local hotels and motels.

CBC Television will cover the Brier with seven cameras, two of which will be color; Briston Films of Montreal will have four color cameras on hand, and there is a possibility CTV might become interested. CBC radio as well as private radio and television, are also expected to cover the event.

A special CPR Brier train will start at Halifax, assemble at Montreal, picking up additional curlers at Winnipeg and Calgary. At Revelstoke the special cars will be taken off and attached to an Okanagan Valley train.

CPA will schedule extra flights that might be necessary to get curlers and guests to Kelowna Friday

and Saturday prior to the Brier.

There is a three day pre-Brier mixed bonspiel of 120 rinks, and already rinks are entered from as far as Brandon, Man. Some 30 to 35 rinks are expected to enter locally, the balance from out-of-town; and about 75 per cent of these curlers are expected to remain for Brier Week. Purpose of the pre-Brier 'spiel is not only to encourage spectators to the Brier, but this year it has been requested the curling ice be played on before the championships commence.

During the last week in October, 1,000 books of tickets went on sale locally entitling the purchaser to see all 11 draws in Kelowna and District Memorial Arena. By Nov. 9 over half of these had been sold. Tickets will be on sale in out-of-town centres by request from their respective curling clubs. On Nov. 10, 200 books of tickets were sent to the Pacific

Game club annual meet set Tuesday

Vernon Fish and Game club will hold its annual general meeting Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Elks hall.

One of the main items on the agenda will be the election of officers and the annual directors report.

Discussion on a constitutional revision is also planned, as well as other points pertaining to activities in the North Okanagan that come under the jurisdiction of local clubs.

Activity for local women

Hockey game Saturday

Kimberley to play exhibition games

Weekend hockey action at Vernon will see the local junior "B" club play host to Kamloops tonight, with game time set for 8.

Saturday afternoon, Vernon Midgets will open their doors to the visiting Kimberley all-stars in an exhibition tilt. Game goes at 3:30 p.m.

If the brand of hockey displayed by the minor

hockey divisions so far this season is any indication, then this game could be one of the best yet from a spectator point of view.

Friday night Vernon Essor travel to Kelowna and then move up to Kamloops for a return match on Saturday evening. Results of these games could show some interesting points.