In junior "A" play

All teams see weekend action

In weekend hockey games in the B.C. junior "A" league, all six teams saw action.

Kamloops Rockets, by virtue of their astounding 7-3 win over Penticton Broncos and their 7-6 squeaker over Kelowna Buckaroos gained the most of any team as they leaped from a 12-point fourth place position to a 16-point tie with New Westminster Royals and share of second spot with the same Royal City crew.

Kelowna on the other hand suffered the most as they took three straight losses in as many nights to mire themselves even deeper in the league cellar and to remain with only eight points in the standings.

Although Vernon Essos lost a 4-1 decision against the league leading Broncos Friday night, they remain in third place with 13 points, just two points ahead of Victoria Cougars and three points behind both Kamloops and New Westminster.

The Vernon-Kamloops game played over a month ago on Nov. 1, is still to be decided because of the protest by Vernon concerning Kamloops using two players not signed to cards. This protest may be decided next weekend when both Victoria and New Westminster make a swing through the Okanagan and league officials hold their mid-schedule meeting here in Vernon.

If the league upholds the Vernon claim, the game may have to be played over again although this would not sit too well in the minds of some of the Vernon officials as they feel Vernon should get the two points. If Kamloops is awarded the game, they will take over sole possession of second place with a five point bulge over the Essos.

Friday's match with Penticton, saw the Essos keep pace with the high flying Broncos for the duration of the first period, with each team almost equal in the play and unable to score against each other.

The beginning of the second period was similar to the opening stanza, not too much real action and both teams playing a gentle kind of tag game with each other.

Penticton's Wayne McInnes finally broke up the pussy-foot type of game when he drove a gentle shot to the short side of Essos goalie, Jack Gilroy who was temporarily screened by a motionless defenceman. McInnes' goal came at 5:23 of the period.

Thereafter, the pace quickened and Tom Williamson tied the score at one apiece when he picked up a pass from Larry Hackman to score from close in with less than three minutes remaining in the period. It was one of the few real good efforts by the Essos.

A short time later, rookie Wayne Dye, who played one of his better games of the year, bounced one off the pipes of the Penticton net. Broncos promptly brought the puck right back up the ice with Len Barrie scoring from a two-way passing play set up by Eddy Hays and Gene Taylor. Again the Essos defence seemed to remain motionless on the play.

Broncos added two more goals early in the final period to round out the scoring in the game. Eddy Hays scored at 4:34 with Taylor and Barrie assisting and Russ Cherenko knotching the final Bronco effort with help from Pat Laughton and Robin Agur at 6:05.

Statistics from the shots on goal department, showed both teams almost equal in each of the periods. Gilroy stopped 14, 12 and 13 shots for a total of 39 saves and Doug Thompson in the Broncos net did much the same, saving 13, 11 and 15 for an equal total of 39 saves.

Both teams were also equal in the penalty department, with each side picking up six minors apiece.

Next action for the Essos is at home this Saturday when they host Victoria Cougars. This will be a big game for both clubs. Essos could move up four points on the Cougars or Cougars could draw even with the Vernonites. The following day, Vernon will take on the New Westminster Royals in an afternoon fixture, that should provide plenty of action.

NORTH SPORTS OKANAGAN

B.C. junior "A" standings

B.C. Junior "A" standings to Dec. 3 are as follows:

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Penticton	18	16	2	0	100	50	32
New Westminster	15	7	6	2	74	84	16
Kamloops	17	8	9	0	91	88	16
Vernon	14	5	6	3	56	62	13
Victoria	16	4	9	3	60	75	11
Kelowna	16	3	11	2	61	79	8

NOTE: avove standings do not include Nov. 1 game between Vernon and Kamloops, because of protest.

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More than 140,000 Manitoba students won fitness awards this year under the Centennial Athletic Awards Program. The figure represents 61 per cent of the 230,000 students enrolled in Manitoba schools and nearly eight per cent of the total earned gold awards while another 40,000 students received silver and bronze awards.



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Hockey officiating clinic held

Probably the most unrewarding job in any kind of team sport is the work put in by the officiating members who must at all times act in a fair and just manner when refereeing a game such as ice hockey. To say the least, it is a thankless job and few people have the ability to handle such important work. How often are people heard to complain bitterly the judgment or decision of an umpire or referee, yet how could any of our national sports be played without the use of a referee. On Sunday a referees clinic, under the sponsorship of the BCAHA and the Community programs branch was held at the Vernon civic arena and nine interested and prospective refs were there, prepared to learn all they could about officiating. Instructor and well known Okanagan hockey referee, Tony Winichuk of Kelowna was on hand to teach the day long course and to give tests to qualify for either, A, B or C certificates at the end of the lecture and training period. Results of the test will not be known for at least a week. Pictured above, hard working Vernon minor hockey referee David Jones drops the puck between Russ Keckalo on the left and Ernie Poggomiller on the right during practical sessions of the course. Clinic instructor, Tony Winichuk is behind and to the right of Ernie Poggomiller.