

Win 11-7, lose 5-2

Vernon win-lose on coast trip

Vernon Essos switched tactics on their weekend road trip to Victoria and New Westminster by losing first to Victoria Saturday and then outplaying New Westminster, Sunday afternoon for a surprising win in the Royal city.

In the night fixture at Victoria on Saturday, Essos came on strong in the first period, playing classic hockey as they skated, passed, forechecked and out-shot Victoria 13-3 to take a 1-0 lead going into the second period.

Then for some unknown reason the tide began to change and before the mid-frame was completed, Cougars had scored twice to Essos single effort to leave both teams deadlock-ed at two apiece for the final 20 minutes of play.

There was no mistake about the way the Cougars wanted to see the score board read in the third period as they came on strong to score three unanswered goals to take the win by a 5-2 margin.

In New Westminster Sunday afternoon, the Essos still smarting from their loss to fifth place Cougars

outscored Royals 6-1 in the first period and then went on to coast to a 11-7 victory over the powerful Royal city squad.

At Victoria, cougars coach Doug Anderson got his boys to hit in the second period and the complexion of the game changed. Vernon still had most of the play but the Cougars were starting to come with the result of three unanswered goals in the third period.

Scorers for Vernon were Tom Williamson at 7:02 of the first period, with Larry Hackman setting him up. Lawrence Quechuk notched Essos second and last marker at 18:35 of the second frame on an unassisted play that tied the game while Vernon was a man short. Quechuk broke in past defenceman John Margetts on a two in one situation to beat Victoria goalie Murray Finlay.

All of the Cougar goals came on single efforts from the sticks of Bob Webb, John Margetts, Terry Mitchell, Barry Clarke and Dave Williams.

The stellar performance of goal tending by Cougars Murray Finlay, no doubt made the difference in the

Victoria victory as he came through with brilliant saves to thwart Essos on several occasions. By comparison, he was forced to stop 31 drives by Vernon, while at the other end of the arena Essos Jack Gilroy had one of his worst nights of the season as he looked almost stale in his efforts to push aside 17 shots by the Cougars and let in at least three, what could be considered soft goals.

At New Westminster, Vernon's win was paced by two goal efforts by Tom Williamson, Jerry Vachon and Keith Rolston, with singles by Wayne Dye, Dick Marsh, Bob Mayer, Tom Serviss and Jeff Wilson.

Both Wilson and Serviss led the Essos for points as they also picked up four assists for a five point afternoon.

Royals goals came off the sticks of Ray Wallis with two and singles by Al Knight, Brent O Hanen, George Morneau, Barry Wilcox and Terry Mutler.

Brilliant goal tending by Jack Gilroy made a strong difference for the Essos victory as he pushed aside 43 saves, a marked change from his indifferent play of the night before. Essos took the win but certainly didn't shine as far as shots on goal were concerned as they managed only 17 drives at rookie Al Lang.

Wait For ... The New Yamaha Snowmobile