

Down Rockets 8-4

Vernon has best game of the year

Vernon Essos put on one of their best exhibitions of the year before more than 1,000 hometown fans as they completely dominated play to wallop Kamloops Rockets 8-4 in B.C. junior "A" hockey action Wednesday night.

Rookie stars

Fourteen year old Wayne Dye was the hero of the night as he paced the Essos to the win with two goals and three assists. He is the youngest player registered in the league and his sparkling play brought applause from the spectators on more than one occasion.

It was one of the better games of the season for the Essos, as they outscored and outplayed the Rockets at every turn. Their forechecking was brilliant and was particularly noteworthy because they are not known to be a forechecking club, relying in previous games to fall back into their own zone on defensive plays.

Wilson scores two

Other standouts for the Essos was the play of Jeff Wilson and Tom Williamson. Wilson brought his goal total up to 20 for the season on two excellent plays and he picked up an assist for 38 points of the season. Williamson also was a major contributor to the Essos cause as he came through with four important assists for his night's work. This brought his statistics up to nine goals and 10 assists so far this season for 11 points.

Pollon gets points

Other scorers for Vernon were Tom Serviss, Jerry Vachon, Bob Mayer, and Ken Pollon. Serviss also picked up an assist to put him amongst the top leaders in league statistics. Keith Rolston picked up points with three important assists as did Jerry Vachon with two, Ken Pollon

with one. It was Pollon's first points of the year.

Nothing for Rota

Rockets scoring ace, Randy Rota, was kept off the score sheet and as a result hurt his chances of taking over the league leadership from Serviss and Bob Mowatt of Penticton.

Kamloops markers came off the sticks of Ken Begg, with two goals and singles from Larrie Morrey and Lyle Harp.

Gilroy in form

Jack Gilroy was back to his sharp style of netminding for the Essos' cause as he came through with several key saves. It was his fantastic save at the five minute mark of the opening period when he outguessed left winger Jim McNeil on a clear breakaway that was the turning point of the game. McNeill came in alone from centre ice with no one in his way and tried to pull Gilroy out, but Gilroy covered the short side for the brilliant save.

Essos lead throughout

Essos led 2-1 in the first period, 5-3 in the second and outscored Kamloops 3-1 in the final period for the four goal edge to take the important win.

Vernon picked up five of the eight penalties called, with Lawrence Quechuk and Grant Evans of Kamloops going off with five minute majors for fighting late in the third period.

Goalie Wally Denault for Rockets was called upon to make 38 saves in the game while Jack Gilroy pushed aside 26 drives that came his way.

Essos travel to Penticton tonight to meet with the league leading Penticton Broncos. A win for Vernon could put them into second spot and place them in a good position for their next meeting with the Rockets here in Vernon on Boxing Day, Dec. 26.

Next three here

The Boxing Day game starts sharp at 2:30 p.m. and could prove to be one of the most important games of the year to either club as Vernon plays host to both New Westminster and Victoria on the last weekend of the month while Kamloops has only a single game with New Westminster, New Year's Eve.

Holiday swim schedule

Crash swimming lesson program is being offered at the Community Centre during Christmas holidays starting on Dec. 26 and finishing on Dec. 29.

Mile Swim Award — 10 to 11 a.m. (Fees: \$1.75, including exam and crest).

Survival Swim Award — 10 to 10:30 a.m. (Fees: \$1, including exam and crest).

Drownproofing — 10:30 to 11 a.m. (Fees: \$1).

Special Christmas Swim Program - Dec. 26, 11 to noon, fun races for all ages. Dec. 27, 11 to noon, clown diving competition — all ages. Dec. 28, 11 to noon, snorkle and flipper swim — public; Dec. 29, 10 to noon, drownproofing contest — all ages.

Public swimming every day from 1 to 5 p.m.

Local car club helps Venture training centre

The Coachmen Car Club's recent food hamper raffle to raise funds as a project to help the Vernon Venture Training Centre was hailed by club officials as being one of their most