

Vernon lose to league leaders

Penticton Broncos once again proved they will be the team to beat come play-off time in the B.C. junior "A" hockey league this season.

Sporting a league leading 40 points, the Broncos

arrived in Vernon last night obviously determined to extend their domination over all the B.C. six team loop.

Playing before one of the smaller crowds of 900 spectators at civic arena, the Broncos took a 2-1

edge in scoring in the first period, outscored the Essos by five goals to two in the middle frame and then added three unanswered insurance markers in the final stanza for a one-sided 10-3 victory over the slumping Essos.

Wayne Schaab, Bob Mowat and Ken Corner paced the Bronco victory with two goals each, with singles coming off the sticks of Jim Whitlam, Jack Taggart, Robin Agur and Dale McBain.

Tom Serviss was the big point man for the Vernon crew, scoring twice and adding an assist to Keith Rolston's single marker.

The Essos were frustrated at every turn to hit the score sheet by the steady play of the Penticton squad, which gave their rookie netminder, Bruce Johnson good cover on most of the Essos drives.

Although the score doesn't really indicate the play of the hometown boys their efforts at some points of the game could have been better.

There is no doubt, the Essos worked hard individually, but they seemed to lack the togetherness they are known to have when working as a smooth unit.

Gerry Allen started in the nets for Vernon, but was replaced early in the second period by regular goalie Jack Gilroy.

The move was just part of the bag of tricks coach Odie Lowe tried in an attempt to get his charges into the swing of things.

Lowe called for Gilroy after Penticton scored two quick goals in the middle period with the three minute mark yet to show on the clock. However, even this manoeuvre failed to stop the Penticton pressure, with Peach City boys finding the mark six times on Gilroy.

The loss to Vernon keeps them still holding down third place in the league standings with 28 points, two behind Kamloops and only two ahead of New Westminster.

Vernon travels to Kamloops on Sunday for what could be the most crucial game of the year to either team.

This is the replay game from Nov. 1 when Vernon protested the use of un-

signed players by Kamloops. The league ruled recently the game would have to be played over and set Sunday for the match.

A win for Vernon would give them a tremendous moral boost, something they are in dire need of at the moment and the points gained would certainly do no harm either.

Both Kelowna and Victoria, currently league cellar dwellers, have of late suddenly come to life with unexpected victories over stronger teams and they could be the ones to watch in last stage of the pennant drive.

Support for the Essos in Kamloops on Sunday, would give the boys a lift and everyone is urged to take the drive to the Hub city and take in the game that starts at 2 p.m. sharp in the North Kamloops sports arena.

Leo Fuhr wins lake fish derby

Winners of the Christmas holiday fish derby held on Okanagan Lake from Dec. 16 through to Jan. 3 were announced today by derby sponsor Viel's Sports Centre.

Leo Fuhr of RR4, Vernon took home first prize with his catch of a 15 pound Kamloops trout. Mr. Fuhr used a Mac Squid plug, with between three to four hundred feet of line played out. Picture of Mr. Fuhr and the fish appeared in the Dec. 20 issue of The Vernon News.

Other winners in the derby were, Pete Nickel with a 11¼ pound Kamloops for second money. Ron Postill was third with a nice 10¼ pounder and Al Kendall registered seven fish for the most fish caught prize.

The derby was termed a success with 15 hardy fishermen out to try their luck.

Mr. Fuhr's fish leads so far for the Jack Postill memorial trophy donated by R. E. Postill and Sons Ltd. This trophy is awarded annually for the largest Kamloops trout caught during the year in a registered Okanagan Lake derby for North Okanagan fishermen.

B.C. JUNIOR "A" HOCKEY LEAGUE

Scoring Statistics — Games played up to and including Jan. 7, with the exception of the postponed game Kelowna-Vernon, scheduled for Dec. 23. The protested game Kamloops-Vernon will be replayed Jan. 14, in Kamloops.

	G	A	P	PIM
Tom Serviss, Vernon	16	42	58	48
Randy Rota, Kamloops	39	17	56	13
Jeff Wilson, Vernon	29	21	50	11
Rick Beauchamp, Kamloops	14	35	49	18
Bob Mowat, Penticton	23	25	48	28
Ray Wallis, New Westminster	21	27	48	53
Jack Taggart, Penticton	15	26	41	52
Keith Rolston, Vernon	14	27	41	16
George Watson, New Westminster	13	25	38	14
Wayne Schaab, Penticton	16	21	37	9

Penalties: Individual — George Morneau, New Westminster, 98; Butch Deadmarsh, Kelowna, 93. Team — New Westminster, 481; Kelowna, 418.

GOALIES' AVERAGES

	GP	GA	Ave.
Doug Thompson, Penticton	10	27	2.7
Bob Belbin, Penticton	13	41	3.1
Murray Finlay, Victoria	17	61	3.6
Brett Kneen, Kelowna	23	111	4.8
Al Lang, New Westminster	5	25	5.0
Wally Denault, Kamloops	24	124	5.2
Jack Gilroy, Vernon	24	127	5.3
Lionel Trudel, New Westminster	11	59	5.4
Ron Grahame, Victoria	10	57	5.7
Fred Boyer, New Westminster	6	41	6.8

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