

Lose 8-5 to Rockets

# Vernon in slump in junior hockey

A spectacular goal scoring spree by Grant Evans of Kamloops and the amazing continuation of the win streak on the part of Kelowna Buckaroos highlighted the B.C. junior "A" hockey picture over the weekend.

On Saturday night at Kamloops in a game between New Westminster Royals and the Rockets, Rookie Evans came through with a record breaking seven goals to tally all the markers for the Rockets in a losing 9-7 cause to the Royals.

The impressive feat by Evans was sparked by his five-goal effort in the second period, three of them coming within the space of 18 seconds. As far as is known at present, three individual marks set by Evans will go down in the Canadian record books as firsts in junior hockey across Canada.

The marks set by Evans will be listed as the most goals in a game, most goals in a period and quickest three goal hat trick ever recorded.

Evans also sparked the Rockets win over Vernon Essos the following day with two goals and four assists in the 8-5 victory.

Kelowna Buckaroos continued their amazing win streak as they notched their sixth and seventh win on the weekend to stretch their unbeaten streak to nine games.

The last time Buckaroos lost a game was on Dec. 16 when Kamloops took a narrow 7-5 win. Also their 4-4 tie with Victoria on Dec. 30 and a 5-5 tie with Vernon on Jan. 6 did them no harm as they picked single points.

Saturday night, Kelowna edged Victoria Cougars 6-4 in the Capital city and then went on to a 5-2 victory Sunday over the Royals in New Westminster.

They now have 10 wins, 14 losses and four ties to give them 24 points just two points behind New Westminster for a fourth place tie in league standings.

Vernon Essos' precarious hold on third place remained the same over the weekend, although they have cause for concern with their sudden weak showing in the last five games played since the first of the new year.

Essos have lost four and tied two and are now looking over their shoulders as both New Westminster and Kelowna are steadily creeping up on them.

League standings to Jan. 15:

	W	L	T	P
Penticton	22	6	0	44
Kamloops	16	14	0	32
Vernon	12	13	4	28
New West.	12	16	2	26
Kelowna	10	14	4	24
Victoria	8	17	4	20

In the Sunday afternoon match with the Rockets at Kamloops, the Essos put on one of the best efforts in several games as they kept pace with the Hub city boys for two periods only to lose steam in the final 20 minutes to lose 8-5.

Kamloops took a 1-0 lead in the first period, but Essos surged ahead in the middle period outscoring the Rockets 3-1 to take a one goal lead going into the final stanza.

Tom Serviss, Keith Ralston and Bob Blanchette tallied second period markers for the Essos to put them ahead, but a six goal spurge by Rockets, answered by only two on the part of the Essos marked the difference in the final period and the game.

Again it was a goalie duel as both Jack Gilroy for Vernon and Rocket netminder, Wally Denault came through with excellent sure-goal saves.

Gilroy, in particular was outstanding, as he made several brilliant saves in each of the three periods. This was one of his better games of the season. He came up with 47 saves, 10 more than Denault at the other end of the rink.

Essos inability to finish around the opposition net and their failure to clear the puck from their own zone were two of the main reasons for the loss to Rockets.

A win on Sunday would have been sweet for the Essos, as this was the replay game between the two rivals.

The league called for a repeat of the Nov. game after Vernon lodged a protest for the use of an unsigned player by Kamloops. The player, by the way was the weekend hero, Grant Evans.

Jerry Vachon and Ivan Malinoski were the other Vernon scorers. Tom Serviss also picked up three assists, with Jeff Wilson helping on two and Lawrence Quechuk, Jerry Vachon, Wayne Dye, Rick Reilly and Mike Perepolkin assisting on singles.

Essos took the lead in the penalty department, picking up nine, three of them majors. Wayne Dye received five minutes in the first period for fighting with Randy Rota and both Dick Marsh and Lawrence Quechuk picked up 10 minutes

each in the final stanza for disagreeing on referee calls. Kamloops took seven penalties, one of them a five minute major to Rota.

Vernon take to the road again Tuesday night, when they travel to Penticton for a game against the league leading Broncos.

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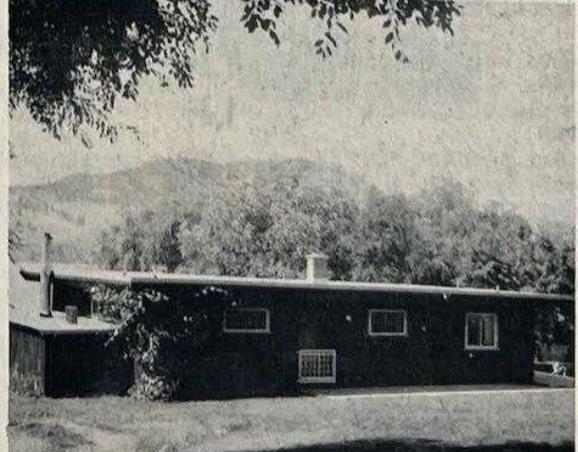
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