



Players dwarfed by Victoria rink

The camera catches in a bird's eye view the immense size of the Victoria memorial arena during a game between the Essos and the Victoria Cougars. The rink can seat better than 5,000 people and the Cougars have been fortunate to maintain good crowds throughout the current junior "A" season, averaging better than 2,000 people per

game. Saturday, 1,920 fans came out to watch as the visiting Essos edged the hometown boys to the tune of 9-6 in a thrilling game. More than 3,400 fans turned out in the first game of the year between these same two clubs early in November. That game ended in a 4-4 tie.

Two games at Coast

Vernon splits weekend series

Vernon 9, Victoria 6
Vernon 4, New West 7

Vernon Essos split of two weekend games at the coast is considered good in the eyes of coach Odie Lowe. His comment came after the Essos dropped a hard fought 7-4 decision to New Westminster Royals Sunday afternoon.

The night before, Essos picked up an encouraging victory when they edged Victoria Cougars 9-6 in a spirited battle before 1,920 Victoria fans.

Lowe was happy with the effort Essos put forth in both games.

"It is always good to win on out of town ice and their loss today was just one of those things. Our boys certainly had their chances but Royals beat us fairly," said Lowe.

At Victoria, Essos came on strong from the opening

whistle, aided by 50 wildly cheering Vernon fans presently living in the capital city, attending school or working. Mostly young women, the group brought answering yells from the partisan Cougar spectators every time they gave the familiar chant, "go Vernon go."

By the end of the first period Essos had chalked up a 3-0 lead on goals by Keith Rolston, Jerry Vachon and Dick Marsh.

In the second period, Cougars bounced back with four goals to a single Tom Serviss effort to even the scoring at 4-4.

Going into the final period, Cougars quickly moved out in front on a fast goal with only 32 seconds showing on the clock.

Their lead was short lived however when Rolston took a faceoff pass to swoop

in on the Cougar net with a hard drive that rebounded from goalie Murray Finlay in front where Jeff Wilson slipped it into the net.

This goal came eight seconds later and from then on the Essos never looked back, adding four more to the Cougars' one for the 9-6 win.

Wilson scored two in the period. Serviss scored his second and singles were added by Ivan Malinoski and Lawrence Quechuk.

In the assist department, Larry Hackman was the big gun with four. Rolston was close behind with three. Singles were by Quechuk, Serviss, Wilson, Blanchette, Mayer, Vachon and Wayne Dye.

At New Westminster Sunday, Essos came on strong at the start, scoring two goals in the first half of the period only to slacken off in the second half with Roy-

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als knotting two of their own to even the score at 2-2 going into the middle frame.

Royals banged in three more in the second period to a single answer off the stick of Larry Hackman.

Sporting a 5-3 edge in the opening moments of the final period, Royals added goal number four with only a minute and 30 seconds showing. Jeff Wilson nullified this one as he teamed with Tom Serviss and Bob Mayer.

Mayer started the play by carrying the puck into the Royal's zone, passing rink wide to Serviss who drove a hard shot that Wilson neatly deflected into the Royals' net.

Essos put on a fine display of hockey throughout the game. Royals' goalie Bruce Dowd was considered lucky on several plays as the Vernonites literally swarmed around him.

Jeff Wilson had the toughest luck of the day as he bounced the puck off the post three times. Larry Hackman also came close as he missed a break-away chance with no one around but the goalie to beat.

Vernon still hold down third place in the league, but the gap is narrowing. New Westminster are now only two points behind and Kelowna Buckaroos are slowly creeping up.

Kelowna are only five points behind as they came through with a 4-4 tie with Penticton Saturday night and have yet to lose in their last 10 outings. They have picked up six wins and four ties since Dec. 29 and still have three games in hand over Vernon and at least one on the rest of the league members.

	GP	W	L	T	P
Penticton	30	23	6	1	47
Kamloops	30	16	14	0	32
Vernon	32	13	15	4	30
New West	31	13	16	2	28
Kelowna	29	10	14	5	25
Victoria	30	8	18	4	20

Daily program set for hockey week

Minor Hockey Week across Canada started last Saturday, Jan. 20 and thousands of youngsters will be trying a little harder than usual to put on a good show because they know their moms and dads will be in the audience.

Vernon and district will be no exception as the local minor association will be out in force to entertain parents.

The following schedule is listed per division and shows the program of events for the week of Jan. 20 through to Jan. 27.

The windup night of the National week will feature a junior "A" hockey fixture between Vernon Essos and Kelowna Buckaroos. This should be a fast paced ex-

Tuesday, Jan. 23
5:40-6:40 p.m. — Nalleys vs The Bay

Thursday, Jan. 25
5-6 p.m. — Capitol Tractor vs Kiwanis
6-7 p.m. — The Bay vs Butcher Boys
7-8 p.m. — Nalleys vs Archie Fleming

Saturday, Jan. 27
10-10:50 a.m. — Reliance Tractor vs Archie Fleming
10:50-11:45 a.m. — Toppers vs Kiwanis

BANTAM

Saturday, Jan. 20
6-6:55 a.m. — Credit Union vs NOCA
6:55-7:50 a.m. — Vernon Sports and Marine vs Vernon News
7:50-8:45 a.m. — Rennick Lumber vs Blue Bears

Tuesday, Jan. 23
8:40-9:40 p.m. — Midget Wings vs Bantam Reps

Wednesday, Jan. 24
7:15-8:15 p.m. — Midget Rep practice
8:15-9:15 p.m. — Lumby Flyers vs Midget Hawks

JUNIOR "B"

Sunday, Jan. 21, 4 p.m. — Junior Legionnaires vs Kamloops. First game of Okanagan Junior "B" semi-finals (Second game will be played in Kamloops on Jan. 24).

JUNIOR "A"

Jan. 27 — Vernon Essos host Kelowna Buckaroos. Game time 8:30 p.m.

Minor Hockey is a major community affair.