

Shares spot with Kamloops

Vernon moves back into second place

Vernon Essos' thrilling 5-3 victory over Kelowna Buckaroos in junior "A" action at Vernon Saturday night and a pair of losses to Kamloops Rockets at the Coast over the weekend have moved the team back into a second place tie with Rockets with 32 points each.

Playing before more than 1,200 home town fans, the Essos came on strong from the opening face-off to lead the Buckaroos 2-1 in the first period, 4-2 at the end of the second and then matched single goals in the final period for the important win.

The loss to Kamloops at Victoria Saturday night by a score of 5-3 and their 7-4 drubbing at New Westminster Sunday afternoon kept the Rockets from moving away from the pack and let Vernon move in for a share of second spot.

Results of the weekend play brought the race for

playoff berths even tighter with four teams vying for the last three places. Only five points separate fifth place Kelowna from Vernon and Kamloops.

New Westminster are two points behind the second place position and three ahead of Kelowna.

Jeff Wilson led the Essos

A sad note was injected in the local junior hockey scene early Sunday morning when Vernon Essos star netminder, Jack Gilroy, was informed of the sudden death of his father, Wes E. Gilroy at the family home in Burnaby on Friday.

"The thoughtfulness of Mrs. Gilroy in holding back this information to Jack so that he could play the Saturday night game was an outstanding gesture," said Essos coach Odie Lowe when he was informed of the news.

to victory Saturday with two goals and two assists with Keith Rolston scoring once and picking up two assists, while the third member of the first line, Larry Hackman scored the opener early in the first period. Lawrence Quechuk scored the other Vernon marker.

Vernon took the edge of play in the first period, with their two goals, outshooting Buckaroos 12-6.

Early in the second period, Kelowna came back with their second goal of the night to tie the game momentarily, but Quechuk's goal mouth scramble marker with help from Wayne Dye and Tom Serviss moved the Essos back out in front and from then on they never looked back.

All three Kelowna goals were individual efforts by Dave Cousins, Bob Muir and Drew Kitsch.

At the mid point of the final period, Kelowna's third and final goal brought

them within a single goal of the Essos. They put on terrific pressure, keeping the Essos bottled up in their own zone for most of the remainder of the period. Vernon netminder Jack Gilroy was brilliant as he made save after save on almost sure goals and it was his one man show that saved the day for Essos as Kelowna could have scored

several times in the furious action.

With less than a minute left to play, Kelowna goalie Brett Kneen was pulled in favor of an extra forward, but the manoeuver failed as Jeff Wilson broke away from the pack on a passout from Keith Rolston to score on the open net with only five seconds left in the game.

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