

Schedule closing out

Playoff teams still in doubt

Vernon Essos found themselves in sole possession of second place in the B.C. junior hockey league after a two game series last weekend, but lady luck must have been looking over their shoulders at the sametime.

Friday night, Essos came away from Kelowna suffering a 7-2 drubbing at the hands of the Buckaroos and at Penticton, Broncos were handing Kamloops Rockets a 5-1 shellacking.

Saturday night, Essos played host to New West-

minster Royals and managed to squeeze by with a narrow 9-8 victory, while at Kamloops the Penticton squad were handing the Rockets their second loss in as many nights by a score of 5-4.

Vernon's win moved them two points up on the Rockets in league standings to give them a second place lead.

Going into their three game series, Kelowna moved out of fifth place with a two win one tie effort, to go four points up on New Westminster

Royals.

After their Friday night win at home over Vernon, the Buckaroos travelled to Victoria for Saturday's game and came away with a 3-3 tie, then Sunday afternoon in the Royal city, took good measure of the New Westminster squad with a one-sided 9-4 victory.

All four interior teams have three games remaining in their 40 game regular schedule while both Royals and Cougars have four sessions to go.

The playoff picture still does not look too clear.

Vernon has the best odds going for them at the moment, they have two games at home and one encounter at Victoria. Two games will be played against cellar dwelling Cougars and one against Kelowna. One victory would assure them of at least a playoff spot.

Both Kamloops and Kelowna face a tougher task in their three remaining games. Kelowna must travel twice, once to Vernon and again to Kamloops, while they play their last home game against league-leading Penticton.

Kamloops travel to the coast for a two game sweep against Royals and Cougars and then take on the resurging Kelowna crew at home.

Four points out of fourth place, New Westminster have their backs against the wall in their four remaining games. They travel twice to Penticton to meet the Broncos, play a final game in Victoria and then host Kamloops for their final game of the season on home ice.

Mixed doubles - winners-Rodger Kerby, Nelson and Phyl Hanson, Vernon; runner up-Louanne Crabbe and

team final playoffs, also have four games remaining. They travel just one more time to Vernon and then play three games at home against Kamloops, New Westminster and Vernon. If nothing else, Cougars could act as spoilers for the other teams in their drive for playoff positions.

Vernon gave Kelowna little trouble Friday night.

Although they did manage to keep pace for the first two periods matching single goals in each of the first two periods, they fell apart in the final stanza while Kelowna banged in five unanswered goals, four of them on power plays.

For the most part, Essos exhibited a sloppy style of play throughout the 60 minute encounter, looking very bad particularly in the first two periods.

The final period was a little better, although questionable refereeing may have made the difference on some penalties that resulted on goals from power plays.

There was no doubt from a spectator point of view, Essos were not pulling their weight as a team and it was obvious certain players did not put everything into it as a unit.

At home Saturday, Essos

matched two goals each in

the opening period with the

visiting Royals, slammed

in six goals to three by

New Westminster in the

middle frame and then fell

back for the last 20 minutes

to let Royals outscore them

three goals to one.

As one bystander said

later, another two or three

minutes longer in the game

and Vernon would have lost.

Lawrence Quechuk paced

Vernon to the win with a

three goal hat trick with

Jeff Wilson and Bob Blan-

chette scoring two each.

Singles came off the sticks

of Keith Rolston and Tom

Serviss.

Rookie Wayne Dye and

Jerry Vachon paced the

assists column with three

each for one of their better

nights.

Next home game for the

Essos is Saturday, Feb.

24 when they take on Kel-

owna and then play host

to Victoria the following

Wednesday, Feb. 28 before

moving to the Capital City

for the final game of the

season on March 2.

NORTH

SPORTS

OKANAGAN

Junior "A" hockey standings to Feb. 19.

	GP	W	L	T	pts.
Penticton	37	28	7	2	58
Vernon	37	17	16	4	38
Kamloops	37	18	19	0	36
Kelowna	37	14	17	6	34
New Westminster	36	14	20	2	30
Victoria	36	9	21	6	24

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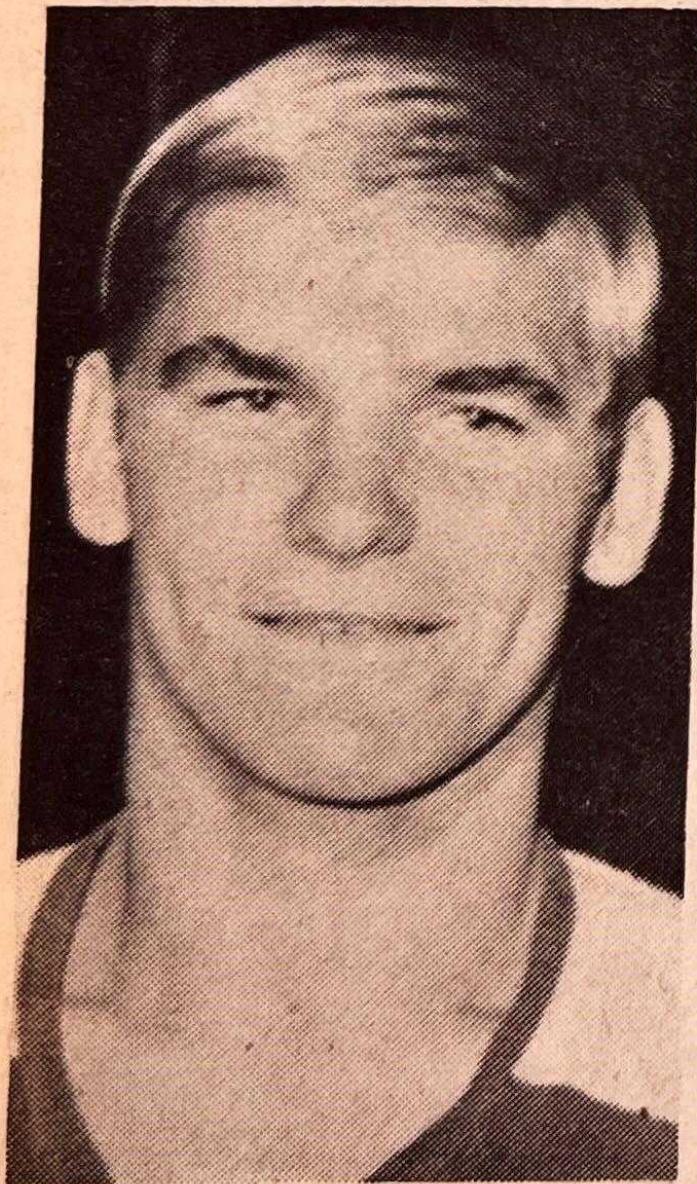
THE TRIP

ORIGINAL SOUND TRACK RECORDING ON TOWER RECORDS

Vernon scorers hold their lead

Although statistics from the remainder of the weekend games played in the BCAHL were not available at press time today, it seems unlikely that Tom Serviss or Jeff Wilson lost ground as leaders in the scoring race.

Serviss picked up one goal and two assists, while Wilson scored three times and added one assist in two games played.



TOM SERVISS
... league leader.

With only three games remaining for most of the teams in the league, it should be unlikely that anyone will catch up to Serviss who is seven points ahead of his second place teammate, Jeff Wilson with 80 points.

Going into the weekend series of games, Keith Rolston held a slim two point lead over Penticton's Bob Mowatt to hold fourth spot, but Rolston's single goal Saturday, may not do him much good if the speedy Bronco leader was up to his usual standard in the double header Penticton played against Kamloops Rockets, Friday and Saturday.

Essos scoring to Feb. 18:

	G	A	Pts
Serviss	26	54	80
Wilson	38	35	73
Rolston	27	39	66
Quechuk	25	21	46
Hackman	11	22	33
Vachon	11	22	33
Williamson	13	15	28
Dye	7	15	22
Mayer	12	9	21
Blanchette	8	7	15
Perepolkin	5	10	15
Marsh	3	9	12
Malinosky	5	6	11
Pollon	2	4	6
Reilly	0	2	2
Southward	0	2	2
Nelson	1	0	1