

Big game here Saturday

B.C. junior teams fight to finish

Vernon Essos had to make room once more in their second place standings for the Kamloops Rockets who came through with a major 5-1 victory over Kelowna Buckaroos in Junior "A" hockey action at Kamloops Wednesday night.

Both teams now share second place with a total of 38 points, well behind league leading Penticton Broncos, but have enough points to ensure themselves of at least a play-off berth in the semi-final series that is just around the corner.

It has been a nip-and-tuck battle between the two clubs for the second place honor since before the new year.

Although both clubs seemingly have a spot on the playoff list, the picture is still not too clear as to who will have the last three places on the playoff train.

Essos have three games remaining in regular action. They play a big game in Vernon this Saturday, when Kelowna arrives in town, then Wednesday night, Feb. 28, Essos play their last game of the regular season on home ice when they host cellar dwelling Victoria Cougars. The last game for Essos will see them travel back to Victoria to wind up the league schedule on March 2.

Kamloops has only two games remaining and for these they must travel to the coast for games in New Westminster and Victoria. Any combination of

losses by Kamloops and wins for Vernon will give the Essos second place.

On the other hand, Kelowna could easily tie both second place clubs providing they pick up wins in their final two games they must play, while Vernon and Kamloops lose.

To complicate things even more, New Westminster, who are currently in fifth place with 30 points could move back into the playoff picture providing they win their three remaining games and Kelowna loses both their games.

Victoria Cougars are out of the playoff picture, but could certainly make things tough for those that are still fighting it out.

Cougars have already demonstrated their spoiler role as they took good measure of the New Westminster Royals last Tuesday to

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the tune of a 7-2 shellacking.

Royals have by far the hardest final games ahead of them as they must take on Penticton twice at Penticton and then host Kamloops in their final game at home.

The game Saturday, when Kelowna will be in civic arena could be the most crucial and thrilling exhibition of hockey observed in Vernon since the old senior Allan Cup days of the fifties.

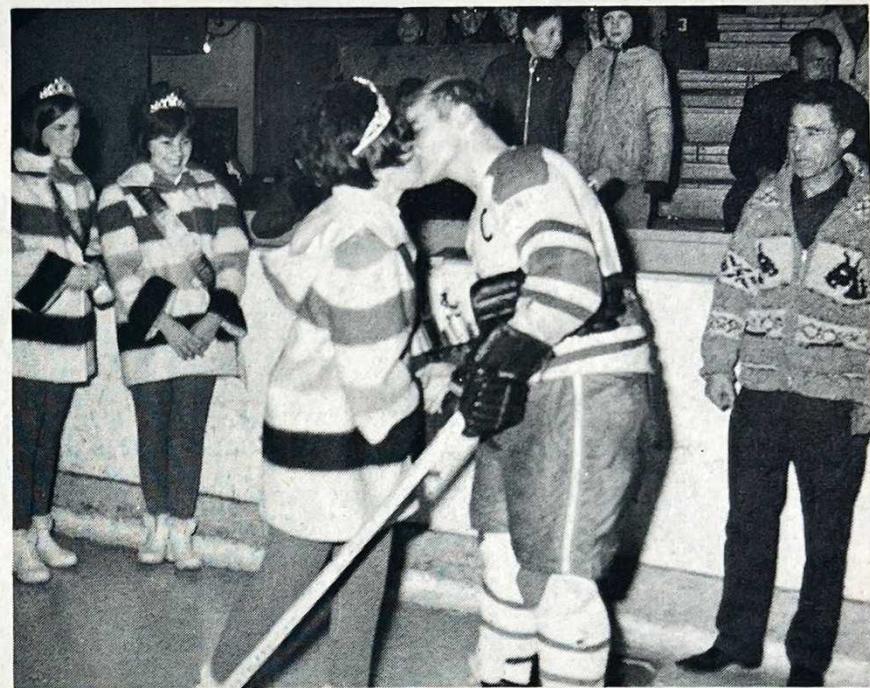
Game time is set for 8:30 p.m. but the ticket office opens an hour earlier with a promise of one of the biggest crowds this season on hand for the game.

B.C. scoring leaders

Scoring Statistics — Games played up to and including Feb. 18, 1968:

	G	A	P	PIM
Tom Serviss, Vernon	26	54	80	65
Jeff Wilson, Vernon	38	35	73	22
Randy Rota, Kamloops	45	27	72	22
Keith Rolston, Vernon	27	39	66	20
Bob Mowat, Penticton	33	33	66	41
Ray Walls, New Westminster	27	37	64	65
Rick Beauchamp, Kamloops	18	42	60	27
George Watson, New Westminster .	25	32	57	14
Dave Cousins, Kelowna	29	26	55	73
Wayne Schaab, Penticton	23	31	54	11
Jim Robertson, Kelowna	16	38	54	32

PENALTIES — Individual: Butch Deadmarsh, Kelowna, 131 min.; Dale McBain, Penticton, 113. Team: New Westminster, 637; Kelowna, 581.



A kiss is as good as a trophy

Queen Silver Star VIII, Wendy Dye, presented team captain Tom Serviss of the Vernon Essos junior "A" hockey team with the Vernon Winter Carnival trophy awarded each year for the team winning the major hockey game played in Vernon during the carnival week. Essos won a league game against Penticton Broncos by a score of 5-4 to win the trophy for the second year in a row. The camera catches Queen Wendy as she busses Tom just after she handed over the trophy during a short ceremony at last Saturday night's hockey game. Princesses Arleigh and Mary Lou standing on the left with carnival trophy chairman Chuck Reilly, extreme right, smile as Tom willingly accepts the kiss.

14th annual event here

Plumbers bonspiel set for weekend

The 14th annual plumbing, heating and gas industry's three day invitational bonspiel gets under way starting Friday at the Vernon curling rink.

Officially, the spiel will start with a challenge match between last year's interior and coast winners on Thursday night at 7 p.m., followed by a get acquainted "American style" party.

terior taking part with the finals of the spiel starting by 9 a.m. Sunday.

Windup of the annual event will be the presentation of trophies at the Banquet that starts at 12:30 p.m. Sunday in the Allison hotel.

Civic officials, headed by Mayor William Halina and the Rev. Canon C. E. Reeve

tion and was the originator and initial planner the Plumbers' bonspiel.

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