

Home-away-from-home

Rockets steal league opener

It was a heartbreaker for the Vernon Essos as they dropped their first "home" game to the Kamloops Rockets by a 4-3 score.

Fully aware of the old saying "you can't beat city hall," the boys found out Saturday night, you can't beat officials who leave their posts to brawl in the stands.

The Vernon "home" encounter had to be switched at the last minute to the North Kamloops Municipal Sports Centre because the Kamloops team refused to cross local CUPE picket lines.

It was a tight game all the way with the Essos checking, passing and shooting well. However, at the last minute, almost every play seemed to be broken by the Kamloops defense.

The Rockets opened the scoring at the 17:45 mark of the first period and the score remained at 1-0 until the 6:24 mark of the second period when they pushed

another marker past Vernon's Jack Gilroy.

Essos' first encounter came at the 14:11 mark of the second period, when Lawrence Quechuck scored on a "picture play" from Dye and Ritchie.

With the score 2-1 for Kamloops, the Essos took to the ice in the third period with a renewed effort and pushed the play all the way to tie the game 2-2 at the 1:52 mark. Jack Marsh scored Vernon's second goal on a pass from Bill Tarnow.

However, the heavier Kamloops team was not to be outdone, and came back with two more goals at the 6:42 and 9:15 minute marks of the third period.

With just five minutes remaining in the game, Jack Marsh intercepted a Kamloops pass and set up Don Manson for Vernon's third and final goal of the evening.

With approximately two minutes to play and Vernon Essos holding the play in the Kamloops end, the of-

ficial timekeeper became involved in a sparring match with one of the fans. The battle moved away from the time-keepers area, but he persisted in following through and wound up brawling in the fourth, fifth and sixth rows of the arena.

Meanwhile, the play on ice had been called for an off-side, under which circumstance, the clock should have been stopped. But, with no timekeeper available, the electric timer just kept right on popping off the seconds.

When order was finally restored, and the fight-minded fans ejected from the arena, the clock was advanced instead of setback to show the correct time.

Whether this shortage of playing time cost Vernon a tie in Saturday's encounter will never be known but according to coach Odie Lowe, there would seem to be no advantage to protesting the game on the grounds of the clock being out.

"It's like trying to protest a referee's decision," he said, "it's already happened, and there's nothing that can be done."

To this reporter, the North Kamloops Municipal Sports Centre seemed to



Stopped again

Vernon Essos veteran goal-tender Jack Gilroy breaks up a Kamloops Rocket scoring attempt during Saturday's league opener. Rushing in to assist is Dawson Waite in the helmet, and Dick Marsh (foreground). The Essos dropped the encounter 4-3 on Kamloops ice.

have a complete lack of crowd control and police facilities. As one of the Essos team members said in the dressing room after the game, "It could't happen in Vernon."

The Essos return to Kam-

loops Wednesday night to face the Rockets once again

in the second game of the regular league schedule.

NORTH
SPORTS

Big heat bills?
There's a
STANDARD*

Fuel bills too high?
There's a
STANDARD*

From the Sports Desk

by WES RUSSELL

Having already said my "piece" about last Saturday night's partisan efforts at the North Kamloops Sports Centre, I'll leave the other nasty things I could say to die a natural death.

Some very important points did come out of Saturday's game though, and it's very easy to see that the Vernon Junior Essos are going to be a very competitive team during the upcoming season.

Let me drop a few names at this point of the boys who showed up very well in their encounter with Kamloops. First of all, there's Jack Marsh who played an up-tight game all the way. This fast skating rookie not only notched the second goal for the Essos, but also picked

up an assist on Manson's tally.

Bill Tarnow, a former Kamloops player showed his old team a lot of style, and gave the goalie a few causes for concern with his "hornet-like" playing around the net. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to drop the pill in the bag, but he was in there all the way.

Another young man that really gave his team a morale booster was Lawrence Quichuck. "Quich" notched the first Essos encounter of the season, and was instrumental in holding the team together in some of the bad moments of the game.

Of course, we can't forget Odie Lowe, who did a great job of coaching in spite of the fact that he didn't know how half of his players looked on the ice. Odie has stopped entering the Vernon Civic Arena during the current CUPE dispute, so he went into the game "cold" and found himself at the helm of a pretty hot club.

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Before we leave the topic of hockey altogether, don't forget that Vernon has two home games over the Thanksgiving weekend against Victoria and New Westminster. It should provide some excellent action for the home-towners.

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Just in passing, I took Everluvin and dog for a hike up Silver Star the other day. It's a great experience! However, if you decide to try it, take along a warm jacket as it's a bit on the nippy side when you get to the top.

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For you people who have been wondering about what to do with those long Sunday afternoons, load up the family in the car and drop over to MacDonald Park. There's been some excellent soccer action lately from both the "A" and "B" divisions, and you can spectate from the warmth of your car. However, due to somebody's not getting together with the scheduling, there won't be any home games in either division in Vernon over the upcoming long weekend. Oh well, back to the tiddly-winks board.

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In closing I would like to pass along a quote from an old friend: "If at first you don't succeed . . . so much for skydiving."

Ski Tips

by Gerry Goudge, C.S.I.A.

It's time to knock the cobwebs off the skis . . . shake the accumulation of summer sand from your ski boots and give your equipment a good going over. A good deal of time and effort should also be spent on working off that lazy summer "excess" that most of us seem to acquire.

It's a well known fact that pre-season conditioning and toning-up of the ski muscles can and will help to prevent a ski accident. For this very reason, the "Dry Ski School" was developed under the auspices of the Adult Education Branch.

This course is designed through lectures, films, demonstrations and special ski exercises to prepare and teach you the ABCs of skiing. On Tuesday evenings, starting Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Beaird School gym, you will receive instruction in ski safety, ski equipment, and ski techniques demonstrated by yours truly, and ski fitness led by Vic Binne, experienced gymnast and ski instructor.

To wind up this course, there is a complete day on the slopes which includes a ski lesson of your calibre and an all-day lift ticket. Although this course is designed mainly for the beginner and novice skier, an intermediate would also benefit greatly.

For the more advanced and expert skier, I can think of a finer way of condi-