

Buckaroos take 6-4 thriller over Essos

By Wes Russell

The largest crowd of the season entered the Vernon Civic Arena Saturday night, and though the Vernon Essos dropped a 6-4 decision to the Kelowna Buckaroos everyone left with the feeling that they had attended a real action packed evening of junior hockey.

The game was marked by rough-play on the ice and verbal outbursts from Kelowna Buckaroos Coach Clayton Lavallo. In fact, Lavallo became so abusive that police had to step in and stop what could easily have been a brawl with Kelowna Buckaroos players and fans behind the visitors bench.

Lavallo's biggest outburst came after Buckaroo Gordie Osinchuk was ejected from the game for shoving linesman Russ Keckalo.

The shoving incident occurred as Kelowna's Larry Lenarduzzi and Vernon's Barry Bleakley were trading punches behind the Kelowna net. Osinchuk moved in and cross-checked Vernon's Don Manson who was attempting to prevent any more players from getting involved in the scramble. Linesman Keckalo then moved in to get Osinchuk out of the way. The Kelowna player was bumped and knocked to the ice by what appeared to be a light one-handed shove from the linesman. Osinchuk jumped to his feet and charged Keckalo which resulted in the game misconduct.

At the end of the game, Buckaroos Manager Scotty Angus told The Vernon News that he intends to launch a protest against the actions of both linesmen Keckalo and referee Ernie Poggemiller.

However, it was the feel-

ing of the press and of many fans, that Poggemiller called his best game of the season, and was extremely hard-pressed to maintain control on the ice as both teams indulged in an overabundance of the chippiness that has become prevalent in this year's BCJHL.

The Essos jumped into a 2-0 lead in the first period on a pair by Wayne Dye. His first goal came with the aid of Jeff Wilson, the second was assisted by Dick Marsh and Bob Blanchette.

The Buckaroos, who entered the arena with an undersized 13-man roster, scored their first goal at 15:20 of the first period when Gordie Osinchuk beat Gilroy on a pass from Earl Morris.

Kelowna tied the score at the 27 second mark of the second period as Gene Carr blinked the light to make it 2-2.

The Buckaroos scored two more during the second stanza at 7:41 and 9:20 as they put on the pressure and held the play in the Vernon end. These goals were notched by Chuck Carigan and Dave Cousins against Gilroy who did everything except turn himself inside-out in the Vernon nets.

It was at this point in the game that the turmoil erupted which resulted in Osinchuk's game misconduct and Coach Lavallo being warned by the police to confine his activities to coaching.

Up to this point, the Kelowna coach had been shouting abuse at everyone in general as well as pounding a hockey stick against the boards to show his disapproval.

A flurry of penalties handed out mainly to the Kelowna team at that point and in the few moments which followed resulted in

the Buckaroos having at one time only one man to act as a substitute on the bench.

During the "near brawl" in the stands in which Kelowna's Dave Yarocki made repeated attempts to get into the crowd area and persisted in jabbing spectators with his stick... one over exuberant fan was ejected from the game by the RCMP.

One Kelowna player told this reporter, "I don't want anything to do with what's going on over there. Our coach started this whole mess with his actions, we'd be a lot better off if we still had Cully."

He was referring to the former Buckaroos coach who resigned from the team under business pressures.

Neither team was able to score following the 11 minute mark although the Kelowna team was assessed three more minor penalties.

The second period which got underway at 9:20 finished at 10:35.

The Buckaroos came on strong again during the third period, sporting a 4-2 lead as they re-entered the ice.

At the 18-second mark, Cliff McKay blinked the light to make it 5-2 for the visitors.

At the mid-point of the third period, the Essos applied the pressure and it looked as if another comeback from behind victory was in the offing.

Wayne Dye scored at 10:30 on a rush with Quechuck and Wilson. At 12:40, centre-man Don Manson weaved through the Kelowna defence with winger Pat Beccotte. Gary Osborne in the Kelowna nets was able to block Mansons attempt but was taken completely out of position as Gordie Merritt made no mistake on the rebound, to close the gap to 5-4.

At 19:30 Odie Lowe pulled Gilroy from the Vernon nets in favor of an extra attacker. In a flurry of action around the Kelowna net Gene Carr came up with

the puck and shot it all the way down the ice to hit the open net for the only unassisted goal of the evening. The time of the score was 19:58.

Both teams played an extremely tight brand of hockey with the goalies called upon to block an unusually low number of shots. Gary Osborne blocked 21 attempts, while Jack Gilroy stopped 18.

During the third period, two more Buckaroos were issued with 10 minute misconduct penalties. At 4:07, Dave Angus was sent to the box and at 9:33, Larry Lenarduzzi picked up a minor and a misconduct which finished him for the remainder of the game. This left the Buckaroos with only four substitutions on bench.

As tired as the short-handed visitors were, they

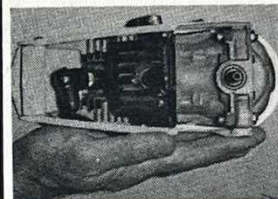
managed to stave off the final important rush by the Essos in their attempts to tie the game.

Vernon returns to action Thursday afternoon as they travel to Kamloops to play against the Rockets. The next home encounter will also be an afternoon contest on New Year's Day as the Essos will host the Rockets at 2 p.m.

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Civic arena schedule

December 23

6:30-8:30 a.m. — Figure Skating

1-2 p.m. — Mothers and Tots

2:30-5 p.m. — Figure Skating

5:10-6:40 p.m. — Minor Hockey—Pups

7-8 p.m. — Junior A Practice

8-10 p.m. — Hit Parade Skating

10:30-11:30 p.m.—Commercial Hockey

December 24

3-5 p.m. — Intermediate Figure Skating

December 25—Arena Closed

December 26—Arena Closed

December 27

6:30-8:30 a.m. — Figure Skating

1-1:45 p.m.—My School

2:30-3:30 p.m. — Pre-School Figure Skating

3:30-10 p.m. — Figure Skating

10-11:15 p.m. — Intermediate Hockey

December 28

6-11:45 a.m. — Minor Hockey

12:10-1:30 — Tebo's Toddlers

1:30-3:30 — Public Skating

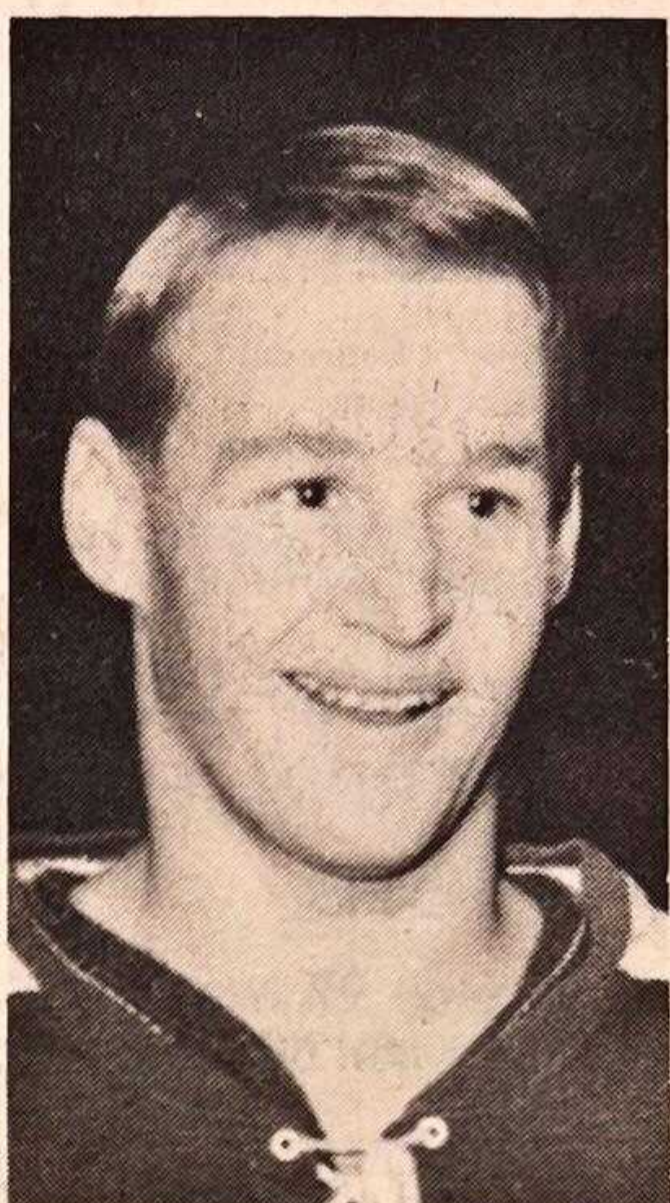
4-11 p.m. — Minor Hockey

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Win for Essos

Bucks stopped on home ice

Vernon 4, Kelowna 3

Paced by the three goal performance of Jeff Wilson, the Vernon Essos stopped the Kelowna Buckaroos by a 4-3 score at the Kelowna arena Friday night.

The Essos jumped into an early 3-0 lead on goals by Jeff Wilson, Lawrence Quechuck, and Wilson's second tally.

However, the rugged Buckaroos staged a comeback rally which kept Vernon's Jack Gilroy busy for most of the remainder of the game.

Kelowna's first goal came at 17:20 of the first period. The Orchard City squad also scored the only tally of the second frame. Both of these goals came off the stick of Cliff McKay who has proven himself extremely valuable to his team in the past few games.

The Essos came back with Jeff Wilson scoring his "hat trick" encounter at

2:55 of the third period, moving the team into a 4-2 lead.

Buckaroos Captain Pat McMahon laced the final Kelowna tally home at 18:39 of the third as he beat Jack Gilroy on a power-play rush.

Coach Odie Lowe was high in his praise of the teamwork displayed by the Essos in the Friday night game. "The boys played good solid hockey, and appeared to have the needed spirit to hold their early lead."

Jack Gilroy was in top form for the game as he kicked out 36 Kelowna attempts to score.

The return of Jeff Wilson from UBC was another big factor in the Essos win as they gave the centreman every opportunity to hit the Kelowna target.

The win served as a tightener on the Essos grip of third spot in the BCJHL.