

Exhibition hockey

Birds dropped 9-0 by Vernon

A high-flying Vernon Junior Essos Hockey Club jumped into an early lead and never looked back as they blanked the UBC Thunderbirds 9-0 in an exhibition contest at the Vernon Civic Arena Friday night.

Led by the three goal performance of Jeff Wilson, the Essos held a 2-0 lead at the end of the first period, 5-0 in the second, and topped it off with four more in the third.

Goalie Al Alexander notched his first shutout of the season before over 1,200 fans by stopping 38 Thunderbird attempts.

UBC goalie Rick Bardal successfully blocked 35 Vernon shots but proved to be the main weak point in the visitors defence as al-

most every goal found him sprawled flat on the ice attempting to block a low shot.

Only seven penalties were handed out by referee Ernie Poggemiller in the contest which featured plenty of hard skating and checking by both teams.

Jeff Wilson's hat-trick was backed up by two goal performances from Bob Blanchette, and Jack Marsh. Singles were added by Bob Mayer and Lawrence Quechuck.

First period scoring:
4:47 J. Marsh from Manson and Merritt; 15:20 Blanchette from Dye and Inglis.

Second period scoring:
5:04 Wilson from Dye; 12:59 J. Marsh from Manson and D. Marsh; 18:44 Mayer from Quechuck and Vachon.

Third period scoring:
7:24 Wilson (unassisted); 8:33 Blanchette from Inglis; 10:50 Wilson from Quechuck; 19:54 Quechuck from J. Marsh.

The Essos received the edge in penalty time as they picked up four of the seven sentences to the "sin bin."

The largest crowd of the season was extremely impressed with the performance notched by the home-town club and especially with the fantastic acrobatics in the nets by Al Alexander.

For the Essos, the victory was slightly dampened by the news that the Regina Pats will not be coming to the area for a game on Jan. 31 as had been earlier planned. No reason was given for the cancellation.

in house sched.

Wee Reps vs Ernie's Esso.

Feb. 1-6:00-7:20, Nalley's vs Vernon News; 7:20-8:40 Pee Wee Reps vs Rennick Lumber; 8:40-10:00, A & W vs Ernie's Esso.

Feb. 4-5:45-6:25, Rennick Lumber vs A & W; 6:25-7:05, Nalley's vs Pee Wee Reps; 7:05-7:45, Vernon News vs Ernie's Esso.

Feb. 8-6:00-7:20, A & W vs Pee Wee Reps; 7:20-8:40, Rennick Lumber vs Vernon News; 8:40-10:00, Ernie's Esso vs Nalley's.

Feb. 11-5:45-6:25, Ver-

Additional

SPORT

Sunday afternoon

Vernon draws with Broncos

Just over 1,000 fans gathered in the Vernon arena Sunday to watch the Essos take a 5-0 lead over the Penticton Broncos and lose . . . almost.

After a scoreless first period, the home-town Essos turned on the steam in the second frame and beat Dave McLellend 5 times for what looked like a runaway lead.

Jack Marsh opened things up with a pair at 4:48 and 11:47. Assists were given to Don Manson and Dick Marsh.

At 16:29 Wayne Dye scored to make it 3-0 on a pass from Bob Blanchette on what was the beginning of a flurry of action on behalf of the Essos.

Just 15 seconds later, at 16:44 Blanchette roared in all by himself to score unassisted.

At 17:40, Jim Inglis picked up his first goal of the season and the last goal of the game for the Essos as he put his team ahead 5-0 on a pass play from Gordon Merritt and Wayne Dye.

At 19:04, Norm Jackson spoiled Gilroy's hopes for

a shutout as he put Penticton on the scoreboard and closed out the period at 5-1.

Four additional markers in the third period gave the Peach City visitors the 5-5 tie score which was the final outcome of the game.

Goals were scored by Ed Hayes, Reg Cherenko, and Pat Laughton with two.

When the Broncos had closed the gap to 5-4, Odie Lowe decided to replace Gilroy with Al Alexander. The Broncos scored their tieing goal on Alexander at 16:28 on a screen play from 20 feet out.

McLellend stopped 29 and Alexander 7 for a total of 36.

Fifteen penalties were handed out by referee Ernie Poggemiller including a game misconduct to Lawrence Quechuck of the Essos who protested too volubly about the fact that he felt he should have been awarded a penalty shot when he was tripped on a breakaway.

The Essos see action next Friday night when they travel to Kelowna to take on the Buckaroos.