

Essos face full weekend

This weekend, the Vernon Essos start the final drive to the wire as they enter the home stretch of the BCJHL regular league schedule.

The league has finalized into a four-way contest among the Penticton Broncos, Victoria Cougars, Vernon Essos, and Kelowna Buckaroos.

The New Westminister Royals and the Kamloops Rockets are now definitely out of the running and have no hope whatsoever of a playoff berth.

For the Essos, this weekend's double-bill with the Penticton Broncos could very well hold the key to their final placement in the top four.

Saturday night, the Essos travel to Penticton then return to Vernon with the Broncos for action in the arena at 8 Sunday night.

Two wins for the Essos will put them right back in a two-way tie with the Victoria Cougars for

George, Kamloops, Vernon and Princeton. Should this suggestion come to pass, the early spring won't be the only time that residents of the North Okanagan see fine horse flesh at the Vernon track.

second spot. However, two losses by the Essos could see them tied for third with the Kelowna Buckaroos.

No matter how the Essos fare, things are shaping up for one of the most exciting final series ever witnessed in British Columbia Junior Hockey.

Several fans who have attended every junior game this year have voiced the hope that Vernon and Kelowna will square off in the finals after disposing of Victoria and Penticton in the semi-finals.

The Essos are hoping to meet the Penticton Broncos in the semi-finals as they have been the giant killers in the league this far. Penticton hasn't been able to get a good lead on any of the other teams in the league due to the fact that they have been unable to defeat Vernon. This weekend, they'll be out to change the story, while the Essos on the other hand will be hanging on for dear life to their perfect no loss record against the Penticton crew.

A full house is expected for Sunday's contest and

regular Essofans are urged to arrive well before the eight o'clock face-off time in order to get a good seat.

Lumby drops exhibition encounter

The new Lumby Arena set the stage Saturday night for an exhibition contest between the Vernon and Lumby Midgets.

The first period was a wide-open encounter with Vernon outscoring Lumby 4-2, both teams scored three goals in the second period, and Vernon topped off the game with a single tally in the third, to gain an 8-5 win.

Peter Vlasveld was the high scorer for the evening as he picked up four goals for the Lumby squad. Wes Young picked up the single to close out the scoring for the losers.

Lumby goaltender John Reusch was injured twice during the game and was taken to hospital but later released. Each team picked up two penalties during the game.