

Vernon take another loss, but gain points?

By Doug Bulwer

Although the Vernon Essos may have been putrefying the air around them with a lousy style of hockey, they may still come out of it all smelling like a rose.

The scene was Vernon Civic Arena, the time, last Tuesday night and the local boys were busy showing over 800 spectators just how bad a team can play, particularly when the opposition were out classing them in every department, including fighting.

Essos were playing host to Kamloops Rockets and when the final whistle blew, the Rockets headed for the dressing room with a 4-3 victory tucked away in the B. C. junior A hockey league statistics-book or so it seemed at the time.

Wednesday morning, although the cloud of the sham of the night before still clung in the air, Essos manager Vern Dye reveals the game had been put under protest, because the Rockets had used three ineligible players.

Apparently Wayne Gibbs, Burnie Doan and Ernie Wurnlinger were in the game without playing cards as per the junior league rules.

Better yet, information out of Kamloops also revealed that Victoria had put last Sunday afternoons defeat at the hands of the same Kamloops team into the protest book. At this point it can also be presumed that Kelowna will also get on the

band wagon and protest their Wednesday nights 3-3 tie with Kamloops.

Be as it may seem, to gain or lose points by league or official decision is hardly the main question in the minds of a good many Vernon fans after watching the sickening exhibition put before them Tuesday.

How Vernon got by the first period without being trampled by a Rocket scoring spree one will never know. Main difference probably was superb goal tending on the part of Gordon Mackintosh as he came through with 13 saves while Vernon managed a mere six on target shots at Mark Adkinson at the other end of the rink.

In the second period, junior B regular netminder, Ted Adair stepped between the posts for Vernon as Mackintosh, suffering from flu was unable to continue.

Taking advantage of the goal tending situation, Kamloops opened the scoring quickly on a pair of soft goals by Bob Nystrom and Wayne Gibbs with both being listed

as unassisted, although the Vernon defence should have got credit for not clearing the puck out of their own zone.

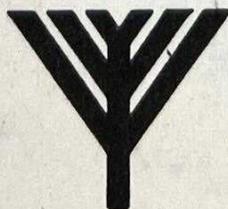
Vernon closed out the mid period scoring when Don Manson and Jack Marsh teamed to work the puck into the Rockets zone. Manson got the goal.

In the final period, both clubs matched two goals each with John Senkpiel and Don Olsen scoring for Rockets and Barry Bleakley and John Price notching tallies for Essos.

Kamloops outshot Vernon to the tune of 41-20 with Adair stopping 11 and 17 respectively and Adkinson coming through with four and 10 in the last two frames.

Kamloops also took the edge in penalties, getting the nod 10 times as compared to nine for Vernon. Penalty times added to 50 minutes in the 60 minute encounter.

Vernon go at it again this week with a trip to Kelowna on tap for Friday night and a Sunday afternoon home game set with Vancouver Centennials.



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