

Now have 39 points

Vernon continue win streak

A win is important no matter who it is won from and Vernon Essos couldn't make any exceptions as they took on lowly New Westminster Royals Friday night and came away with a 10-3 victory.

Playing before a good sized home town crowd of nearly 1,100 fans, Essos continued their unbeaten streak of seven straight games as they dominated last place Royals throughout the 60-minute encounter.

Led by a three goal effort on the part of Lawrence Quechuk (his second in as many games) Essos struck early and never looked back.

Quechuk opened the scoring in the first period at 1:27 with John Price and Jack Marsh setting up the play.

Marsh then put the home club two goals up six minutes later with defenceman Barry Bleakley the major puck carrier on the play.

It was Quechuk again at 14:17 to round out the opening period scoring with Price again in on the assist.

Holding the three goal bulge until the eight minute mark of the second stanza, Essos seemed unaffected when Murray Wilcox put a low shot under the pads of Vernon goalie Gary Osborne with Bob Buchanan assisting for the Royals first marker of the night.

This was all for the Royals in the middle frame however,



Yesterdays announcement that Canada will pull out of the 1970 world hockey tournament has brought a lot of varied comments from across the country with most people in the know on Canadian hockey matters fully agreeing with the decision.

From this quarter, there are many points to consider, both pro and con on the move and I for one am not the least bit surprised as I think such a move has been coming for a long time.

The word 'professional' seems to be the main stickler and the use of former players in professional ranks by the Canadian National team has brought much opposition from European circles.

Their point may be valid, but what about the Russian team for example? These men are all professionals in their own right. They are members of the USSR armed services and get paid for doing a job even though it is in the field of athletics.

Hockey is an all year round job for them be it on the ice or on a field or gym preparing themselves for world competition.

Most other teams that vie for hockey honors on the world standard are the best in their individual countries and if the truth were known are paid for doing nothing else.

Look at the many former Canadian hockey players who have gone to Europe and taken jobs as coaches for these teams, training them in the professional style of North America.

On the other hand, one of

as Essos came back with a triple effort of their own, to take a 6-1 lead going into the third period.

Bob Craig, Lawrence Quechuk and Jack Marsh did the honors with Wayne Dye and Barry Bleakley assisting Craig at 10:21.

John Price then picked up a pair of assists on Quechuk's and Marsh's goals with Marsh and Quechuk also taking turns helping each other.

By the ten minute mark of the final period, Essos had added two more goals for a commanding 8-1 lead with Wayne Dye scoring an unassisted effort and Don Manson coming up with a goal from Bill Owens and Wayne Dye setting the play.

Although playing with only 11 men dressed, Royals proved to be good sports as they valiantly tried to stay in the game.

They proved this at the 15:04 mark when Mike Andruff slipped on another low drive past the feet of Osborne with Bob Buchanan and Jim Dalzell assisting.

Their good try was again in vain however, as Essos came back another pair for a ten goal cushion with Jim Marsh scoring from Wayne Dye and Don Manson picking up his second marker of the game with help from Dye and Owens. These goals coming 14 seconds apart at 18:08 and 18:24.

If nothing else, Royals did

have the last say with Jon McCracken scoring with only a minute and three seconds left in the game. Bob Buchanan and Mike Andruff set the play up.

Obviously the under-dogs from the opening whistle, Royals did get good rounds of applause from the Vernon fans, particularly Royal goalie Maurice L'Heureux, who faced a barrage of 64 drives, stopping all but 10 of them.

His stellar net minding won the hearts of a good many fans as he came through with

spectacular save after save. For example, L'Heureux stopped 17 in the first period while Osborne at the other end of the rink had only two shots to contend with. The second period saw the Royals goalie save another 20 shots with six being recorded by Osborne.

In the final frame, it was a repeat from the opening round as L'Heureux again stopped 17 shots with Osborne blocking only five.

For penalties, Vernon took the edge, picking up five of the seven registered.

Travel to Kamloops

Big test Wednesday for Vernon A club

Vernon Essos will put their current seven game win streak on the line Wednesday night as they travel to Kamloops for their first game on Hub city ice this season.

Essos will go into the game with a 19 win, one tie and seven loss record for a comfortable third place standing in the B.C. junior A hockey league with 39 points.

Kamloops on the other hand aren't that far behind as they light back to regain seven points taken from them in December for illegal use of three players.

The Rockets go into the Wednesday game holding down fourth place only six points back of the high flying Essos.

One major point in favour of the Vernon club is the fact they have two games in hand over the Mainline club but have yet to win over the Rockets in two previous meetings.

Although individual scoring statistics on the league leaders has not been brought up to date recently, several Vernon players are sure to be near the top with Wayne Dye leading the way.

Dye has a good record of 20 goals and 29 assists for 49 points so far this season while teammate Lawrence Quechuk has been having big point nights of late and has moved into second place on the Essos scoring list. He has 22 goals and 19 assists to share 41 points with Don Manson who has notched 18 goals and picked up 23

assists. Another Vernonite who should also be in on the top 10 list is John Price who has 13 goals and 26 assists for 39 points in the 27 games played so far.

In the team race for the B.C. championship this year, both Vancouver Centennials and Victoria Cougars hold down first place with 42 points each with Vernon next with 39.

Kamloops follow with 33 points, Penticton is in fifth spot with 27 points, Kelowna follows with 26 and New Westminster hold the cellar spot with only three points in 32 games played so far.

Essos have played the least games of any other team in the league with 27 played and their goalies, Gary Osborne and Gordon Mackintosh, have the best goals against average of 3.25.

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