

Big weekend ahead

Vernon gains second place in BCJAHL

Vernon Esso's 10-goal onslaught over Pentiction Broncos on home ice Wednesday night has raised them into lone possession of second place in the B.C. Junior A hockey standings.

Essos literally walked away with the onesided 10-3 victory over fifth place Broncos with 900 home town fans on hand to cheer them on.

As in most games of late, it was another true team effort as a dozen players featured on the scoring point totals.

League-leading point man, Wayne Dye, along with teammates Lawrence Quechuk and Bob Craig, shared the scoring limelight as each man notched a pair of goals with singles coming from Gordon Merritt, Jack Marsh, Gordon Osinichuk and John Price.

For Dye it was his 31st and 32nd goals of the season and raised his point total to 65 so far this season.

For Quechuk, it was one of his better games too as he

added three assists to make it a five point night and raised his over - all season total to 52 points.

Others picking up assists in the game were Bob Mayer with three, while Jack Marsh, Barry Bleakley and Gordon Merritt added two each with single assists coming from Don Manson, John Price, Bob Craig, Jim Marsh and Bill Owens.

While Vernon was busy putting down Pentiction, Victoria strengthened their first place hold by edging New Westminster Royals 8-6 in the Royal City to move four points ahead of second place Vernon.

In the third game played of the night, Kelowna Backaroos pleased their loyal supporter by taking a 5-3 win away from Kamloops Rockets at Kelowna.

The win by Kelowna still gives them a mathematical chance of reaching the fourth and final playoff spot.

They have 12 games to go before the regular schedule

B.C. Jr. 'A' Standing to January 28, 1970

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
Victoria	40	25	10	5	182	137	55
Vernon	36	24	9	3	186	111	51
Vancouver	40	22	12	6	162	127	50
Kamloops	37	19	14	4	171	132	42
Pentiction	37	14	18	5	146	151	33
Kelowna	36	15	21	1	164	194	31
New West.	38	1	35	2	118	252	4

closes out and are only 11 points back of Kamloops who currently hold the fourth and final playoff spot.

Between these two clubs is Pentiction with two points better than Kelowna and 11 games to go in the schedule.

The situation between these three clubs in their fight for that last playoff spot should prove just as interesting as does the current see - saw battle between the top three teams.

Although Victoria does hold a lead at the present time at the top of the ladder, they have only eight games to go in the schedule, as does Vancouver while Vernon has four games in hand over the two Coast clubs and seems to hold the advantage over the teams they have to play yet.

Essos have four home games remaining. This weekend they meet Vancouver in a Sunday afternoon game but take to the ice two times before this as they travel to Pentiction Friday night and then move into Kamloops Saturday night.

On the strength of their successes of late, this weekend could decide things once and for all, and six points added to their present total just might see them take over first place and stay their for the pennant title.

After the Sunday action, Essos host Kamloops Feb. 11, Kelowna Feb. 15 and Pentiction Feb. 24.

Their away games after this weekend include: Feb. 4 at Kamloops, Feb. 14 at Kelowna, Feb. 25 at Kamloops then the final three game swing to the Coast when they take on Vancouver Feb. 27, Victoria Feb. 28 and New Westminster Mar. 1.

Wednesday night Essos took a 2-0 lead in the first period with Wayne Dye the marksman for both goals.

The first one was a real work of art as Bob Mayer and Bill Owens fed Dye as he swooped in on the Pentiction net, with the goal coming at 5:03, on a power play with Jack Borno sitting out a tripping penalty.

A good effort on the part of Pentiction saw Vic Merceredi, later, Gordon Osinichuk got his goal of the night with linemates Bob Craig and Gordon Merritt setting him up.

John Price then took his turn with Lawrence Quechuk and Jim Marsh setting him up with Prices' goal coming at 8:43.

At 3:53, just 20 seconds later, Gordon Osinichuk got his goal of the night with linemates Bob Craig and Gordon Merritt setting him up.

John Price then took his turn with Lawrence Quechuk and Jim Marsh setting him up with Prices' goal coming at 8:43.

Following this goal, Coach Odie Lowe decided with the seven goal cushion to give back up goalie Gordon Mackintosh a little exercise following his several game layoff because of an eye injury.

Actually Mackintosh had very little work in the last five minutes of the game, being called upon to stop only one shot that came his way.

In all, goal keepers saves weren't that much apart as Whillow pushed aside 26 Vernon efforts, while Osborne stopped 21, plus the save by Mackintosh.

Vernon also had little trouble in taking the edge of picking up the most penalties as they found themselves short a man eight times as compared to only two times by Pentiction.

Referees for the game were the Kamloops trio of Jim Bond wearing the red band, and Dale Castle and George Papp doing the linesmen chores.



BOB MAYER
... now has 50 points



LAWRENCE QUECHUK
... five point night

Panel selects four names for award night

Sportsman of the year chairman Curley Jellison has announced the top four names nominated in the search for the 1969 Vernon sportsman of the award.

"There were a total of 13 names submitted by the public for the contest and a panel of judges have selected four of the nominees to head the list of names submitted," said Mr. Jellison.

"The four are Dana Chanasyk, Wayne Dye, Gary Wheelhouse and Don Stinn and they will be honored at the awards night to be held at the Community Centre Feb. 5 when presentations and a

Better service at Arena Pre-game ticket sales for hockey

Vernon junior hockey fans are prepping themselves for a big weekend of hockey action as a host of loyal followers are expected to travel to Pentiction Friday night to watch the Essos meet once more with Pentiction Broncos.

Tentative plans call for two charter buses and several car loads of fans travelling to Kamloops Saturday night.

The big game of the weekend however, will be right here at home as Essos host Vancouver Centennials in a Sunday afternoon fixture.

Essos are still smarting from what they feel was a rough deal given them the last time the two clubs met at Vancouver.

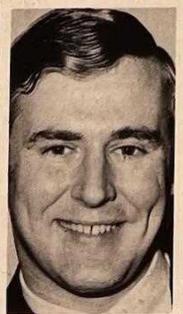
The Vernon boys kept pace with Centennials throughout the encounter but found the refereeing much to be desired. As a matter of fact, it is understood the referee, Barry Wilson, was told his services as a junior A official would not be required again.

Centennials by the way, took the game by a narrow 1-0.

Game time here in Vernon Sunday has been set for 2 p.m. and pre game ticket sales will be made available starting today with purchase points at Nolans Drugs and Ernies Esso Station.

The new system of pre game sales has been introduced by recreation director Jack Boutillier on a rush seat basis.

Director Boutillier however, hopes to institute a reserve seat system in the near future with season ticket holders



JACK BOUTILLIER
... Recreation Director

getting first choice.

The Recreation Director has been looking at the ticket sales problem at the door of the arena for some time and is hoping to get a proper system set up to facilitate quicker admission by customers particularly when large crowds are expected for the playoffs.

For those wishing information on the charter bus going to Kamloops Saturday night they are asked to contact team manager Vern Dye or transportation chairman Ernie Kowal.

One bus has already been booked to capacity by members and their friends of the Vernon Jaycee club and several car loads of fans are also expected to be on hand too.



Sunday, Feb. 1st, 2 p.m.

VERNON ESSOS

VS

VANCOUVER CENTENNIALS

at the

VERNON CIVIC ARENA

Avoid the Rush. Advance Tickets Now on Sale

ERNIES' ESSO, 3403 32nd St. Phone 542-4038

NOLAN'S DRUGS LTD, 3101 30th Ave. Phone 542-2929

ADULTS \$1.50 STUDENTS \$1.00 CHILDREN 50¢

TICKETS ON SALE FROM 1 P.M. SUNDAY AT THE ARENA

Support The Essos — Buy A Booster Button

Help the Essos to first position in the League by giving them your support this Sunday. Make your voice heard on Sunday afternoon. Last time the Essos went down 1-0 in Vancouver. You can help reverse this decision on Sunday afternoon.

HELP MAKE THIS THE GREATEST GAME THE ESSOS HAVE EVER PLAYED!

This Space Donated By—

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"THE KORRAL" WESTERN WEAR	MacKAY'S PRESCRIPTIONS LTD. VERNON	ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION Branch No. 25, Vernon	THE VERNON NEWS