

# In B.C. Jr. A hockey

# Vernon holds second place

Vernon Essos came away from a tough three game weekend exactly the way they went into it, holding a slim lone point ahead of third place Vancouver Centennials.

Surprising to say the least is the way Essos dropped two games to supposed less superior teams while edging one of the better teams in the league.

As a matter of fact there were other surprises after a weekend of play in the B.C. Junior A League when New Westminster Royals came through with only their second win in 39 games, dropping Kelowna 8-2 at the Coast city Sunday afternoon.

Vernon started off the weekend one point ahead of Vancouver but dropped a 2-1 decision to fifth place Peniticon Friday night, travelled to Kamloops Saturday and found themselves bombed to the tune of 8-2.

While Essos were suffering their tenth and eleven losses of the year, Vancouver was busy slaughtering Kelowna 8-2 Friday night and league-leading Victoria had their swat at the same Kelowna team as they hosted the Okanagan boys with a 6-1 shelling Saturday night.

What Vernon Essos probably didn't realize was that three wins this past weekend would have put them into a first place tie with Victoria and still leave them two games in hand over the Island city.

Friday at Peniticon it was Bronco night all the way as the host club, skated their way to a narrow 2-1 win over the Essos.

Both clubs traded play for play in the first period with neither team managing to hit the mark.

The second period however gave spectators an indication of things to come as Broncos came out fast and held the majority of play which finally paid off at 18:35 when Brian Barrett scored unassisted from a scramble type play at the Vernon goal mouth.

Peniticon held the slim one goal lead although the Essos threw almost everything but the kitchen sink at Bronco goalie Fred Whitlow particularly in the first half of the final period.

For Whitlow and company it was a drastic change from their Tuesday night encounter at Vernon when the Essos bombed them 10-3.

At 13:46 of the third, Peniticon used a powerplay to good advantage as Ron Boyle, Vic Mercederi and Dayne Pentland teamed to work their way deep into Essos territory with Boyle finally scoring after Essos goalie Gary Osborne had kicked aside several tries. As a matter of fact it was a rebound from one of these efforts that gave Peniticon the go-ahead goal.

At the time, Vernon defenceman Jim Marsh was sitting out a questionable tripping penalty that had even local team backers shaking their heads at the call.

On the subject of the refereeing, Jim O'Neil, only

three years removed from playing in the B.C. Junior A League, with Peniticon was the man in charge and his call throughout the encounter left something to be desired.

Unhappily so, it was Vernon who took the brunt of his obvious inexperience as O'Neil handed out seven infractions, to Vernon, one of them a 10 minute misconduct to Bill Owens while Broncos were assessed four.

The biggest percentage of all the calls O'Neil made, including Peniticon's were seemingly afterthoughts as he let glaring infractions go and then tried to cover up by calling innocent looking offences.

The score officials tally of goal keepers saves also made eyebrows raise after each period and at the conclusion of the game as this official gave Fred Whitlow 7-1-13 for a total of 31 the figure by periods of the amount of saves the Bronco goalie made, while at the other end of the rink, Gary Osborne was only given 7-6-5 for a total of 18 saves in the game.

To most bystanders, Osborne didn't have it nearly so soft as the Peniticon attackers kept him more than a little busy for most of the game.

Taking nothing away from the Essos attacking lines, they too had many good chances and Whitlow was called upon to save several sure goals, as a matter of fact he was chosen as first star of the game for his outstanding work.

After Peniticon took the 2-0 lead at the three-quarter mark of the final frame, Essos really put on the pressure which finally paid off at 19:19 when Don Manson slipped in a goal mouth effort after Bill Owens and Wayne Dye had made a couple of tries themselves.

At Kamloops Saturday night, 23 penalty calls plus fan interruptions highlighted the 8-2 drubbing Vernon took at the hands of the host Rockets.

Referee Sarge Sammartino wasn't really the most popular person in the jammed packed arena of nearly 2,000 fans as he handed out 11 minor infractions to the Essos and gave Rockets 12, one of them a five minute major to Bernie Doan for fighting.

While the Essos were having a fight on their hands to stave off repeated superior Kamloops attacks, three bus loads of Vernon fans, plus several more carloads of supporters were creating mayhem in the stands.

On two occasions, one late in the second period, a beer bottle was thrown onto the ice shattering just in front of the Kamloops goal and causing the game to be halted while attendants hand picked the fragments imbedded into the ice service.

Then again in the final session, a whiskey bottle also splattered the playing area, with both bottles coming from the area where the Vernon fans were congregated.

On the second occasion, police escorted one culprit from the building.

Goals by Mary Ferg and



## Go Essos go at Kamloops

Vernon Junior A hockey fans turned up en masse at Kamloops Saturday night to cheer the Essos towards the B.C. championships this Spring. Three bus loads plus a large number of cars invaded the

North Kamloops arena to yell their support to the home town team. In the photo, just part of the large Vernon delegation are caught by the camera as they wave and cheer for the home town club.

Tim Peck gave the Rockets a 2-0 lead in the opening period. Early in the middle frame, Jack Marsh brought the Essos back into contention when he and John Price worked the puck deep into Rocket territory. This goal coming at 2:20.

Two more goals in the same period gave Kamloops a strong 4-1 lead however to go into the final 20 minutes of play with Oliver Stewart and Andy Laramee doing the honors.

At 3:59 of the third, Kamloops moved one more goal up with Stewart scoring his second marker of the night.

Two minutes later team captain Bob Mayer gave Essos momentary life as he scored with help from brothers Jim and Jack Marsh.

This was to be all for Vernon as several more close attempts failed and from then on it was all Rocket power as the host club added three more markers two of them by Lyle Harp at 15:28 and 17:40.

At this point, Vernon coach, Odie Lowe, seemingly frustrated in his attempt to get the Essos on the right track, pulled goalie Gary Osborne in favor of junior B goalie Mike Smithson who held his own on several hard Rocket attacks and only allowing the final Kamloops goal to get by him with just one minute remaining in the game.

Sunday afternoon before over 1,900 hometown fans, Essos kept abreast of the fast skating Centennials in the first period as each team notched single goals.

Rookie Lloyd Bittner put Vancouver on the score board first when he teamed with Fred Lawless and Ken Love at 3:43 of the initial period.

The leagues leading scorer and point man, Wayne Dye came back with the equalizer three minutes later when he slapped in a power-packed shot after being set up by John Price and Gordon Osinchuk. Time of this goal came at 4:37 with Fred Lawless sitting out a kneeling penalty.

Essos then took their turn at going ahead with defenceman Jim Marsh doing the honors on a hard shot from outside the Vancouver blue line.

Wayne Dye and Bob Mayer had started the play with Dye putting a rink wide pass to Marsh at the red line who then scooted a few feet ahead before shooting a low drive on the short side.

going into the final period was short lived however as Ray Todd scored almost from the face-off to start the third period action.

Todd picked up a two way pass from Alex Dick and Neil Murphy and scored with only nine seconds showing on the clock.

A pair of Vernon markers late in the period, one of them a power play effort by Bob Craig while Dennis Metcalfe was off for holding. Later a pretty effort by John Price with help from Jack Marsh and Craig moved the Essos two goals up. Bill Owens and Manson by the way aided Craig in his goal.

## Curling bulletin board

Sunday, Feb. 8

- 1—Allison 2 vs Hydro 3
- 2—Flemings vs Cp. Vernon 1
- 3—Howries vs Finning
- 4—Hydro 4 vs Kivanis 2
- 5—Alf's Service vs Cam Jammers

- 1—"A" — 6 p.m.
- 2—Telephone 1 vs C. Vernon 2
- 3—Capitol Mtrs. vs CPD 2
- 3—Colds. Htl. 2 vs Telephone 3
- 4—Telephone 4 vs Kivanis 3
- 5—Hydro 2 vs SSIW

- 1—"B" — 8 p.m.
- 1—Hydro 1 vs Kivanis 1
- 2—Logan Lanc. vs Colds. Hotel 1
- 3—Vernon Frame vs Kal Hotel
- 4—Telephone 2 vs CPD 1
- 5—ACT vs Allison 1

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## B.C. Junior "A" standings to Feb. 2, 1970:

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Victoria	41	26	10	5	188	137	57
Vernon	39	25	11	3	194	125	53
Vancouver	42	23	13	6	174	133	52
Kamloops	38	20	14	4	179	134	44
Peniticon	38	15	18	5	148	152	35
Kelowna	39	15	23	1	169	216	31
New West	39	2	35	2	126	254	6

Vancouver fought back and came within a single goal of the Vernon club when Lloyd Bittner notched his second goal of the game with only a minute and 20 seconds remaining.

Both goalies played outstanding hockey, particularly Essos net man Gordon Mackintosh who went into the game still suffering from an injury to his right eye he received several days previously.



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DOUG BULWER Editor OKANAGAN

### Game branch staff change

The Fish and Wildlife Branch announces the appointment of Mr. Ray Halladay to the position of special projects biologist at headquarters in Victoria.

He replaces Mr. Ian Smith who has been transferred to Nanaimo where he will be the regional wildlife biologist for the Vancouver Island region.

Born in New Westminster, Mr. Halladay received his BSA in 1965 and his MSA in 1968 at the University of British Columbia.

For the past two years he has been with the Canadian Wildlife Service in Manitoba.

In addition to other duties Mr. Halladay will be carrying out waterfowl management studies throughout the province. Mr. and Mrs. Halladay and their daughter reside in Victoria.

A four-pound kiwi bird may produce a one-pound egg.

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	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
<b>SUNDAY</b>			11:05		3:05		7:55
<b>MON. WED.</b>	9:25	11:05		2:05			6:55
<b>TUES. THURS.</b>	9:25						6:55
<b>FRIDAY</b>	9:25	11:05		2:05			6:55
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:25						6:55

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We are closed Friday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m. (Coronation Night) in co-operation with a request from the Winter Carnival Society.



## **Athlete par excellence**

As a young man of only 17 years, Wayne Dye already has made his mark in local sporting endeavors and has been selected as one of four finalists in the Sportsman of the year awards for 1969. Although no resume of why Wayne was picked to the top four Sportsmen in this city for last year, it is presumed that he was chosen because of his prowess in the realm of baseball, for which already he has begun to move up the ladder. His contract to play professional baseball with the Seattle Pilots organization can attest to that. In the photo, Wayne proudly holds his own autographed bat and brand new shoes and glove, the basic equipment he will need when he reports to Clinton Iowa, a class A farm club of the Pilots next Summer.