

## One win takes all

# Odds favor Vernon for Junior A title

Vernon hockey fans can begin to prepare themselves for exciting playoff hockey no later than next Tuesday as Vernon Essos officially clinched at least second place in B.C. Junior "A" league play Wednesday night.

Following their 6-0 blanking of fifth place Pentiction Broncos Tuesday before over 950 homes town followers, Essos travelled to Kamloops Wednesday and came away sporting a 5-2 win to keep pace with Victoria Cougars who at the same time were trouncing New Westminster Royals 10-2.

With only three games left to play at the Coast to round out the 48 game schedule, Essos can do no worse than end the regular season with 65 points which puts them out of reach of third place Vancouver Centennials who have only one game left and at the present time have a 61 point tally.

Actually, Essos have a better chance to finish in first as they only have to pick up one more win against either Vancouver or New Westminster while possibly dropping a game to Victoria to keep abreast of the Cougar point total.

Equal points by the two top clubs would still allow Vernon the pennant flag because they

would have a better win loss record.

Kamloops are assured of a playoff berth by virtue of their seven point lead over fifth place Pentiction. Both of these clubs clash in a Sunday afternoon fixture to finish their respective schedules. With only 44 points, Broncos cannot catch up to the Rockets.

As far as individual scoring is concerned, local statistics reveal Wayne Dye out in front with 80 points on 37 goals and 43 assists.

In second place is Lawrence Quechuk with 34 goals, 37 assists for 71 points and close behind him is Don Manson with 24 goals, 44 assists for 68 points.

At last word from the league headquarters in Pentiction, all three Vernon players topped the rest of the league.

Other Essos players sure to be in the top 10 are John Price and Bob Mayer with 61 points apiece. Price has 23 goals and 38 assists while Mayer has 21 goals and 40 assists.

A sixth Vernon player could also be within the top 10 as Jack Marsh has tallied 31 goals and picked up 25 assists for 56 points.

Vernon goal tending has also been in for its share of honors as the team of Gordon

Mackintosh and Gary Osborne along with newcomer Art Pague have effectively blocked the door, allowing 140 goals to get past them in 45 games for a goals against average of only 3.11 per game.

Tuesday night at home, which by the way was the last regular scheduled game at Vernon Civic arena, Essos made no mistake as to their intentions as they banged in five first period markers, settled for a scoreless second stanza then added one more in the final frame for the shutout.

The Pentiction club, well aware they were out of the playoff picture for this season, never really gave Vernon much to worry about, although their listless style of play seemed to rub off on the Essos to make the over all picture of the play look somewhat ragged throughout the 60 minute encounter.

For the Essos it was again one of their, spread the points, games with each goal being scored on single efforts with the exception of a pair by Lawrence Quechuk.

Vernon opened the scoring at 7:18 of the first period when Don Manson banged in a pass from defenceman Jim Marsh who carried the play out of his own end.

B.C. Jr. "A" team standings  
To Feb. 26, 1970

|          | P  | W  | L  | T | GF  | GA  | Pts |
|----------|----|----|----|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Ver.     | 45 | 31 | 11 | 3 | 233 | 140 | 65  |
| Vic      | 47 | 30 | 12 | 5 | 232 | 152 | 65  |
| Van      | 47 | 27 | 13 | 7 | 202 | 149 | 61  |
| Kam      | 47 | 23 | 19 | 5 | 187 | 176 | 51  |
| Pen      | 47 | 19 | 22 | 6 | 186 | 199 | 44  |
| Kel      | 48 | 17 | 29 | 2 | 200 | 260 | 36  |
| New West | 47 | 2  | 43 | 2 | 149 | 314 | 6   |

Essos team scoring to Feb. 27, 1970.

|                  | G  | A  | Pts. |
|------------------|----|----|------|
| Wayne Dye        | 37 | 43 | 80   |
| Lawrence Quechuk | 34 | 37 | 71   |
| Don Manson       | 24 | 44 | 68   |
| John Price       | 23 | 38 | 61   |
| Bob Mayer        | 21 | 40 | 61   |
| Jack Marsh       | 31 | 25 | 56   |
| Bob Craig        | 19 | 23 | 42   |
| Barry Bleakley   | 3  | 21 | 24   |
| Gordon Merritt   | 7  | 14 | 21   |
| Jim Marsh        | 6  | 15 | 21   |
| Gordon Osinchuk  | 12 | 8  | 20   |
| Bill Owens       | 6  | 12 | 18   |
| Ken Warner       | 2  | 8  | 10   |
| Al Wahlstrom     | 2  | 7  | 9    |
| Dale Craig       | 2  | 1  | 3    |
| Bruce Ritchie    | 2  | 2  | 2    |
| Pat Beccotte     | 2  | 2  | 2    |
| Perry Hiebert    | 1  | 1  | 1    |

John Price knotted goal number two three and a half minutes later with Lawrence Quechuk and Barry Bleakley picking up the assists.

Goals three and four probably will go down in the record books as being the fastest two goals scored this season as Barry Bleakley drove a long shot through a maze of players to score at 16:11 with Wayne Dye and Don Manson doing the initial work, then seven seconds later, a fraction after the face-off at centre ice, Quechuk slipped in his first goal of the night from a play started by John Price and Bob Mayer.

Fifth goal of the starting period came at 18:39 when rookie Dale Craig banged in a blueline drive after Barry Bleakley carried the puck into the centre ice area.

Although Vernon controlled most of the second period play, out shooting Broncos 17-4 they couldn't seem to get the right combination, coupled with better than average goal tending on the part of Bronco goalie Fred Whitlow.

Vernon started off strong in the final session and by 5:48

scored what proved to be the final tally of the game.

In this goal, Lawrence Quechuk again featured, as he teamed with John Price and Jack Marsh to beat both the Pentiction defense and goal keeper.

Penalties in the Tuesday night game, again saw Vernon hold the edge as they picked up seven minor and two five minute majors, while Broncos sat out two minors, one five minute major and a 10 minute misconduct, the latter going to Dennis Carey

for not being too complimentary to linesman Ernie Poggemiller and referee Don Jakes.

Tuesday night also saw Essos newest goalie, Art Pague do some net chores as he replaced goalie Gordon Mackintosh at 12:48 of the final period, mainly to get the feel of the game.

At Kamloops, Essos spotted the Rockets a goal in the opening period then came back with a single of their own near the three-quarter mark of the same session.

Jack Marsh notched this one with John Price and Wayne Dye in on the assist.

In the middle period it was all Vernon as first Don Manson, Bill Owens and then John Price contributed to single efforts to lead Vernon into the final stanza by a wide 4-1 margin.

Within three minutes of the starting whistle, Wayne Dye banged in a sizzling blueline drive to open the third period scoring.

Kamloops came back with their second and last marker at the halfway point of the period with Marv Ferg scoring from John Senkpiel.

## Weekend sports agenda

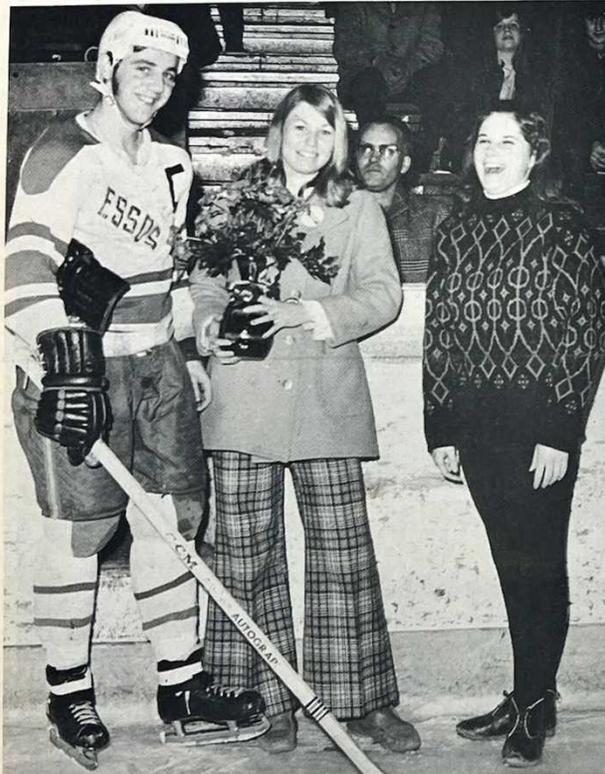
Another playoff hockey series begins it's torrid pace Saturday as Vernon Legion and Merritt Copper Kings start a best of three final set to determine the Okanagan-Mainline Junior B championship.

The two teams will meet here in Vernon Saturday night in an 8 o'clock start with a promise of plenty of good hockey as both teams are considered equal as far as ability is concerned.

Sunday at 2 p.m. there is more playoff hockey in store for Vernon fans as the Intermediate Luckies take on Kamloops Stars in the third game of their best of five series in a Coy Cup quarter-final session. Friday both clubs go at it in Kamloops for the second game with Luckies down one game lost here at Vernon last Friday 6-4.

Sunday night another playoff series begins in the hockey world as North Okanagan teams begin their semi-final series with second place Lumby meeting fourth place Grandview and pennant winning Head of the Lake taking on third place Armstrong. First game starts at 7 p.m. with the normal first two periods of each game running on a straight time basis followed by stop time in the final session.

Curling action will also be at its peak here in Vernon Sunday as the fourth annual Vernon Service Clubs take to the 10 rinks strong, to try and topple defending champions, The Kiwanis Club, who by the way are acting as conveners for the day long spiel.



Miss Vernon Esso 1970

Petite 15-year-old Kim Greig, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Greig, Tassie Drive, Coldstream, has won the honor of being named Miss Vernon Esso for 1970. In the photo, team captain Bob Mayer, Miss Greig and Queen Silver Star X, Debby Schaefer pose for the camera following presentation ceremonies Tuesday night during the Vernon - Pentiction junior A game.

Vernon drivers

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