

Down two games

Junior A club faces uphill battle

By DOUG BULWER
 Vancouver 5, Vernon 4
 Vancouver 9, Vernon 5
 A second overtime period 5-4 loss Tuesday and a subsequent 9-5 loss again Wednesday night has given Vernon Essos a tough two game deficit in their best of seven semi-final playoff series with Vancouver Centennials in B.C. Junior "A" hockey.
 The Essos, hosting the first

two games of the series seemed to be battling insurmountable odds, plagued with injuries, playing seven games in nine days, losing a heartbreaker Tuesday night when Vancouver edged them early in the second overtime period and then running out of steam Wednesday night.
 Looking like a bunch of bantam roosters, the Essos skated onto the ice Tuesday night to face a very big

looking Vancouver club and but for a couple of miscues, nearly knocked over the visitors in the opener of their best of seven semi-final series.
 Playing before a disappointingly small crowd of only 1,525 fans, Essos spotted the Centennials two goals then came back to even the first period scoring 2-2.
 In the middle frame both clubs matched single

markers and repeated the act again the third frame.
 The first overtime period of 10 minutes saw the door closed for each club as neither team were able to break the deadlock.
 Moving into the second overtime session, which called for a 20 minute, sudden death period, it was Vancouver who came through with the winner with only 51 seconds showing on the clock.
 Neil Murphy and Dennis Metcalfe started the Vancouver ball rolling in the first period with Metcalfe scoring what has to be termed one of the oddest goals scored in these parts for a long time.
 The play started deep in Vancouver's zone with the Vernon lines well up and fore checking when Metcalfe sent a somewhat looping shot in the direction of the Vernon goal from between the centre red line and his own blue line.
 The puck seemed almost in slow motion as it moved towards goalie Gordon Mackintosh who in turn was momentarily lulled as he slowly placed his stick in front of the puck which at the last moment seemed to hop, then roll over the top of the stick and through the legs of the diminutive goalie.
 Two minutes later Bob Mayer came back with a goal for Vernon on a power play when Murray Swales found himself sitting out a charging penalty. John Price and Jack Marsh were in on the assists.
 With less than 36 seconds to go in the first period, Gordon Osinchuk teamed with Bob Craig and Barry Bleakley to go in and even the score.
 In the second period, Larry Simons put Vancouver ahead once more at the 6:55 mark only to have Jim Marsh come back with the equalizer one minute and two seconds later, with Wayne Dye and Gordon Osinchuk assisting.
 In the third frame, both clubs battled it out for over 15 minutes before Jack Marsh put Vernon out in front with help from Barry Bleakley and John Price.
 However, Vancouver came back to tie the score at four each with less than three minutes to go in the frame and to force the extra periods.
 Both teams, showing signs of becoming tired, managed to hold their own in the first 10 minute over time session and then in the next session it was Vancouver as Alex Dick scored from a scramble in front of the Essos goal mouth with only 51 seconds gone in the extra period.
 Wednesday night Lawrence Quechuk brought Vernon fans to their feet as he opened the scoring for Vernon when he and Jack Marsh and Wayne Dye worked in on Vancouver goal tender, Lionel Trudell on a power play with Keray Wing sitting out a hooking penalty.
 The lead was short lived however, as Vancouver came back with a power play goal of their own just 41 seconds later when Bill Owens went off for high sticking at 3:46. It took Ray Todd just 11 seconds to score what proved to be the first of a three goal effort on his part in the game.
 Going into the second period, Vancouver had a padded lead of 3-1 over the Essos with Larry Simons and Ray Todd's second marker adding to the lead in the first session.
 By 5:49 of the middle frame, Vancouver racked up goal number four with Dennis Metcalfe scoring from Neil Murphy.
 Lawrence Quechuk then came back with his second marker and Vernon's number two goal of the game when he and Jack Marsh teamed to beat Trudell at 8:39.
 Two and a half minutes later, Bob Mayer again brought the fans to their feet as he took advantage of a power play with Keith Nordin

sitting out another hooking penalty. John Price and Lawrence Quechuk were the play-makers on this one.
 Vernon's come-back was once more short lived as Neil Murphy took his turn at the power-play goal getting, when Bill Owens found himself once more sitting out a high sticking infraction.
 This goal came at 15:04 followed by another Vancouver marker three minutes later that visibly took the wind out of the puffing Vernon sails.
 Going into the third session faced with their three goal deficit, Essos again showed life as Jack Marsh teamed with Wayne Dye and John Price to beat Trudell with the extra man advantage after Bob Salo went off for interference.
 This goal came at 2:29 and just over a minute and a half later Vernon came back within a single goal as John Price scored from a Jack Marsh and Lawrence Quechuk effort.
 As in previous goals, the Vernon effort was again quickly nullified as Vancouver came back with goals seven, eight and nine to end the game scoring.
ICE CHIPS
 With Vernon down two games in the best of seven semi-final series, things don't look too good for the home town boys.
 Many things can be said of the play by the local squad with many criticisms looked for such as the poor effort certain players seemed to be showing while others such as John Price, Jack Marsh and Lawrence Quechuk literally worked their guts out to keep Vernon in contention.
 As in most cases, it always seems to be the same few who do all the work while others go along for the ride. Admittedly some on the Essos squad just haven't got the

talent but surely one would think they would realize a little more effort in playoffs of this magnitude would give them a little more incentive to try a little harder.
 One would like to think size is a major factor against the Vernon squad, but looking back over the season, this didn't seem to bother them as they out muscled the best in the league to the pennant championship although just barely over second place Victoria Cougars. Cougars, by the way, took a 6-4 decision over Kamloops in over time in their opening series of the semi-finals between the second and fourth place clubs at Kamloops Wednesday night.
 A final point on the subject of the Essos, deals with the absence of Don Manson from the Vernon line-up. This may be the major factor in the two losses experienced by Vernon.
 Don Manson is out of the series because of two injuries. In the last game with Kamloops, Feb. 25, Don received a stick across the right cheek bone causing a crack to that part of his face and a badly blood clot eye. Then in the final league game at New Westminster, he again felt the slash of a stick, this time to his right fore arm and again causing a cracked bone.
 Arriving home the next day, Dr. E. G. O'Brien, the team doctor, promptly put Manson in a cast which runs down to the palm of his hand. The loss of this player, considered by his own team mates as the most valuable player on the roster, is just now beginning to be felt. His tireless fore checking throughout the season, coupled with many times on the ice as a penalty killer is just now beginning to be appreciated.

Merritt here Vernon B club in crucial weekend game

It's another final end maybe most crucial game for Vernon hockey players this Saturday as Vernon Legion junior B's take on Merritt Copper-Kings in the third and final game of their Okanagan - Mainline final series for Junior B hockey supremacy.
 Both clubs go into the game sporting a win each in the best of three final and the game here Saturday night will be it, with the winner going on to meet Trail in B.C. quarter final series play later this month.
 Game time has been set for 8 p.m. and promises to be another thriller for Vernon hockey fans.
 Team officials are hoping for a good turnout with solid backing by fans to give the Vernon boys some well

deserved support.
 Tickets at the door will be \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students.

ALL STAR WRESTLING

* FRI., MARCH 6, 8:00 P.M. *
 * Vernon Community Centre *
 * CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP TAG TEAM MATCH *
 * BROWN vs LEWIN *
 * QUINN vs HIGUCHI *
 * Crusher vs John MOROWSKI TOLOS *
 * Steve Jack BOLUS vs BENCE *
 * Tickets \$2.50, \$2.00, \$1.00 *
 * Available at Nolan Drugs *
 * Vernon 542-2929 *



W. L. Seaton school won the A event of the annual inter-school bonspiel at the Vernon curling club last Saturday. Top photo, A event winners are: Bill Mills skip, Mark Longworth, third, Grant Smith lead and Shirley Owen second. Lower photo, B event winners from Clarence Fulton; Gordon Galloway skip, Bill Halina third, Brian Frockle second and Greg Blasco lead.

School curlers complete season

Friendly school rivalry took to the curling sheets last Saturday as 12 teams, six each from W. L. Seaton and Clarence Fulton Junior Secondary schools vied for honors in a day long bonspiel. The annual event, staged as

windup get-together following a season of fun at the facilities of the Vernon Curling club.

A Seaton rink with Billy Mills as skip, Mark Longworth third, Grant Smith lead, and Shirley Owen second took the top award in the A event series while a Fulton rink took home the B event title.

Winners in the B event were: Gordon Galloway skip, Bill Halina third, Brian Frockle second and Greg Blasco lead.

To round out a day of fun and keen competition, the teams had a big noon hour feed prepared where adult instructors, Mr. Larry Guenther of Fulton and Mr. Bill Simms of Seaton were honored.

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BOEING'

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The Vernon Little Theatre wish to thank the following firms for their assistance