

Take semi-finals

Junior A club still on top

Vancouver 4, Vernon 1
Vernon 6, Vancouver 2

Vernon Essos literally sprinkled themselves with champagne following their 6-2 win in the seventh and deciding game of the semi-final series with Vancouver Centennials at Vernon Civic Arena Wednesday night.

Essos took the series four games to three and won the right to go on to meet Victoria Cougars in the B.C. Junior A finals which start here in Vernon next Friday.

While the Essos were busy taking the Centennials to task following the Monday night defeat of 4-1 at the hands of the Vancouver club at the Coast city Victoria were also taking good measure over Kamloops Rockets to the tune of 8-4 at Victoria to win that series four games to three also.

As the final whistle blew, the victorious Vernon team swarmed onto the ice pummeling each other and in particular goalie Gary Osborne who played another fantastic game in the nets.

For Vancouver it was a tough series to lose as they kept Vernon on their toes throughout the complete seven games played, taking Vernon in the first two games 5-4 and 9-5, allowing Vernon to come back with three straight victories of 6-2, 4-0 and 4-2 then putting the sixth game into their own win column by a 4-1 listing.

Wednesday night was a much different game than that of the game played Monday night when the game got out of control by referee Bunker Hill of Victoria with a resulting series of fights and other disruptions that totalled 159 minutes being assessed on 40 penalties.

There were 20 calls made in the third period alone and in the last two minutes of the game it took 15 minutes to play with the game being called at 40 seconds to go in the encounter.

Many comments of the officiating after the game indicated Hill lost control early in the first period as he failed to assess proper penalties.

There were 22, two minute minors, 13 five minute majors, three 10 minute misconducts and two game misconducts, with Vernon being assessed 23 as compared to 17 by Vancouver.

After a scoreless first period, Essos struck early Monday night with Bob Craig tipping in a blistering drive by Lawrence Quechuk. Craig had momentarily taken Centennial goalie Lionel Trudell out of the line of fire and kept him occupied while Quechuk and Jim Marsh set the play in motion.

This was to be all for the Essos however as Vancouver came back with three of their own to end the second frame leading 3-1 then adding the final marker in the third period.

Neil Murphy led the Vancouver attack with a pair of goals while Ken Love and Bob Gaston added the singles.

Back home for the wrap-up game, Wayne Dye started the ball rolling at 11:53 of the first period when he scored from Barry Bleakley, Gordon Osinchuk. A minute and 17 seconds later Jack Marsh added Vernon's second goal with John Price doing the assist honors.

With just over a minute left in the initial period, Vancouver came through with their first marker when Larry Simons teamed with Bob Gaston and Bob Salo to beat Osborne.

In the middle stanza, Wayne Dye again came through with another goal as he and Gordon Osinchuk teamed to beat Trudell with the clock showing 5:12.

Bob Craig then made it 4-1 to end the period as he and Gordon Osinchuk and Jim Marsh teamed to go in over the Vancouver line with the clock reading 16:43.

A powerplay effort by Wayne Dye at 10:26 in the third frame gave him a hat trick for the night with Osinchuk in for his fourth assist of the night with Bob Craig helping too.

By 12:35 it looked like Vernon might run away with the game as defenceman Jim Marsh went up the ice and scored Essos sixth and final marker with Lawrence Quechuk and John Price again assisting.

Vancouver then added their last marker of the game when Lloyd Bittner, a rookie on the roster, scored unassisted with a minute and a half to go.

As in the previous playoff games, Gary Osborne had to be something just short of sensational in the nets for the Essos as he came up with many key saves in each of the three periods, one of them at the 11 minute mark of the middle period when he stopped a clean break away play by Vancouver.

This could be considered the big play of the game as Vernon were only leading 3-1 at the time and the goal may have given the hard skating Vancouver club some initiative to go in for several more.

Actually Vernon were outshot by the Coast crew as Osborne was called upon to stop 11 drives in the first period, 14 in the second and six more in the final session for a total of 31 saves in the game.

At the other end of the rink, Lionel Trudell was also kept fairly busy as he pushed aside 10 in each of the first two periods with six added in the final period for a 26 save total.

Unlike the Monday night game, the action at the penalty box was kept to a minimum as Referee Sarge Sammartino of Kamloops along with linesmen Dale Castle and Jim Bond, were on top of the rough stuff with Vancouver picking up six infractions and Vernon getting the nod five times.

After he ran over the foot of a policeman who was attempting to help him park his car, a Portland man was fined \$60.

Coy Cup semi's

Intermediates in Prince George

It's good luck and well wishes from Vernon hockey fans as the Intermediate Luckies take to the road and travel to Prince George this weekend to meet the P. G. Mowhawks in a quarter-final series in provincial Coy cup hockey playdowns.

First game of the best of three series starts Friday night, with the second Saturday and the third Sunday afternoon if necessary.

Playing coach Jim Moro is highly optimistic of the

Vernon club taking the series and hope they can wrap it up two games straight.

Winners of the Prince George playoffs then go on to meet the Coast winners in the B.C. finals and the Coy cup.

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Games start Friday

Victoria here for Jr. finals

It is B.C. Junior A hockey finals here in Vernon starting Friday night as Vernon Essos take on B series winners Victoria Cougars in a best of seven games to declare the champion of the province and the right to go on to vie for memorial cup honors across the nation.

With both teams just nicely out of a tough semi-final series with Vancouver Centennials and Kamloops Rockets, the action promises to be hot and heavy as each squad try for the honor of meeting a Saskatchewan team for Western Canada honors.

While one of these teams will continue along the Memorial Cup trail the loser of the series will travel to Winnipeg late this month to represent B.C. in a National Junior hockey tournament

where eight top junior teams will play out a four day tourney as part of the Manitoba Centennial celebrations.

The game Friday starts at 8:30 p.m. with the second encounter set for the following night at the same time and then the next two games back in Victoria sometime early next week.

The series must be completed by March 21 so as to meet a Prairie club on B.C. home ice March 23 for the first of two games in that series.

With a record crowd on hand Wednesday night, of well over 3,000 fans, ticket sales for the Friday game go on sale starting today at Ernies Essos Service station until 5 p.m. each day with rush tickets then available at the arena door starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday.