

Name of the game

Weyburn's 34 goals proves the old adage

By DOUG BULWER

Weyburn 11 Vernon 1

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WEYBURN (Staff) — Goals, goals, goals — that is the name of the game and Weyburn Red Wings proved without a doubt this is what wins hockey games.

Scoring 34 goals to three by Vernon, in the last four games the Saskatchewan champions took over control of the best of the seven series with the Vernon

Essos in the Western Canada Memorial Cup semi-final series to win four games to two and the right to meet Red Deer Rustlers of Alberta in the Western section of the National Junior A Championship.

Essos, the B.C. champions, started well in the series taking the first two games by 12-4 and 3-2 wins on home ice only to find themselves off balance for the remainder of the game at Weyburn as the home town club

really looked good all the way, with superior skating, for checking and key defensive moves making the difference in each game.

Essos, try as they might could never come up to the form they showed in regular league play or in the way they dominated the semi and final series to take the B.C. title.

Last Tuesday, they got behind in the goals department allowing Weyburn to score three times in the first period, four more in the second frame and add two more in the final period, while Vernon only managed to hit the nets just once and that was in the second period while they were down four goals.

The second game at Weyburn Thursday night really spelled disaster for the Vernon club as they never did find the scoring mark until late in the final period.

In this encounter Weyburn came out strong with near perfect play making to score three times in the opening period, added four more in the second frame then topped off the 11 goal spree in the third period with four more while Alex Dick was the only Vernon player able to beat Moose Jaw pick up goalie Gerome Mrazek with Bob Craig and Neal Murphy assisting with this goal coming at 14:22 of the period.

Then Friday night, Essos looked close to their old style as they kept pace with Weyburn until the middle period when the Red Wings scored their only goals of the game to beat Vernon 3-0. All three markers came within five minutes of each other starting at 9:30 with Giroux scoring unassisted with Booth scoring 2:14 seconds later and Currie ending the scoring spree at 13:46.

This game Vernon skated well and on several occasions the luck of the game wasn't with them as they missed beautiful chances.

Sunday afternoon, leading the series three games to two, Weyburn really put on the pressure and by the end of the first period led 3-0 added four in each of the second and third frames to take the series four games straight on home ice. Only Vernon marker was scored by Bob Mayer when he drove a blistering shot from the point of 8:51 of the second period.

Ice chips . . . To say the Essos were outclassed would be putting it mildly as they failed

to stay with the fast moving Red Wing club particularly in three of the four games played at Weyburn.

Weyburn skating ability really shone through and with very strong defence lines will be hard to beat in any game they play from now on.

If nothing else the experience gained by both the players and Essos management will be of great benefit in the future with many points learned from being this far into the Memorial Cup playdown.

One very big thing the Essos can be proud of this past season was the loyal support the home town fans gave them through the regular schedule and again during the B.C. playoffs.

The average attendance in the four games played in the Saskatchewan centre averaged slightly better than a 1,000 fans not much when one thinks of interprovincial championship at stake.

Getting back to the feelings of the players while at Weyburn, one has to see and be on hand to watch the boys both on and off the ice. The trip to Weyburn left much to be desired for the general condition of the players as they didn't really have a chance to relax on the 18-hour trip which covered nearly a thousand miles of highway. To top it off the weather at Weyburn was very much different than that of the conditions at home.

The complete week spent in Saskatchewan saw cold weather with the temperature never above 20 degrees coupled with a never ending wind. This left the 15-block walk from motel to arena and back a nightmare for those doing it.

Assistance was given however by the Weyburn team directors who loaned two vehicles for the use of the Vernon club during the stay at Weyburn.

Probably the hardest thing the Vernon team had to face and the value never really to be determined was the loss in the final series and for several games previous was having Don Manson and Wayne Dye out of action with injuries.

Their names not being on the roster for each game was a telling blow and one that no one will ever appreciate.

Filling the gap nicely, however, were Neal Murphy and Alex Dick of Vancouver along with goalie Lionel Trudell also of Vancouver and defence man Dwayne Pentland of Penticton.

NORTH

SPORTS

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OKANAGAN



'C' event winners

'C' event winners in the week-end Silver Star Bonspiel was the Shirley Kennedy rink from Kamloops. Pictured above are (from the left) Jen Comazzetto, skip; Ev Stringer, third; Shirley Kennedy, second; and Laurie Scott lead. Betty Pierce rink of Vernon placed second. The event was co-sponsored by the Vernon Ladies' Curling Club and the Business Girls' Curling Club.

