



SPORTS



Karchie brilliant

Thrills galore in hockey action

B. C. Junior A hockey action on the ice both Friday and Sunday saw the Essos put on an excellent showing from every point of view.

Travelling to Kelowna for the second game of the season, Essos quickly took control of the game as they outscored the Buckaroos in every period.

Dave Neil and Jim Lawrence teamed on the only goal of the initial period as they swooped in on Bucks net man Ian McCrimmon to score at 13:54 with Neil taking the pass from Lawrence.

The second period action saw them take a 2-0 lead at the 3:18 mark with Wayne Dye scoring his first of the season from Jim Marsh and Ed Johnstone.

Kelowna's only goal in the game centre came at the 5:35 mark of the same period when Dan McCarthy scored with help from Gerry Feist and Greg Fox.

Dave Neil then came back with his second marker in the game four minutes later with Lawrence and Ed Johnstone again in on the play.

The final 20 minute session was strictly all Vernon as the Essos came through with two more unanswered goals to take the game by a handy 5-1 listing.

Playing before well over 1,000 home town fans on Sunday afternoon, Essos spotted the visiting Victoria a pair of first period goals then fought back with two of their own in the second frame to hold the scoring to a 2-2 draw.

In the opening period, Cougars came on strong with several impressive sweeps up the ice which paid off quickly when Lon Miles scored on a low drive from a pass by ex-Vernonite Bob Mayer.

Mayer started the play as he drove one of his famous slap shots from the left point just inside the blueline, the puck bounced off Essos netman Leo Karchie but the rebound got away from him with Miles slipping the puck past him along the ice.

Victoria's second goal of the game and in the first period saw Essos make a couple of mental errors in clearing the puck from their own zone resulting in Ted

Plowe scoring with Chris Riddell and Bruce Cowick getting credit for the assist.

First impressions of the way the game would go was indicated by the size of the Cougars, that they would run over the much smaller Vernon players, but the home town boys kept their heads and held their own as far as the heavy hitting was concerned.

Down by a two goal margin going into the middle period, Essos kept plugging away at every opportunity which finally paid off at the 10:33 mark when Dave Neil, Jim Lawrence and Ernie Gare teamed on a power-play when Victoria's Dale Pennock was sent off on a tripping infraction 40 seconds earlier.

To most onlookers, the first Vernon goal was a smart piece of play making as all three forwards worked the puck back and forth with Neil getting the final honor and slipping it past netminder Daryl Fedorak.

Essos made a new game of it a little better than six minutes later when Ed Johnstone snagged a loose puck from a Victoria attacker near the Vernon blueline, passed it to Dave Neil who was in the open at centre ice and who in turn scooted into Victoria territory on a breakaway.

To the excited spectators, it looked like Neil was going all the way, but he deftly worked to the right of the Victoria net, taking a Cougar defenceman with him then passing to Jim Lawrence who was in the open alone on the left side and who easily scored on the short side.

From this point on it was a

see-saw type of game as neither team could find the right combinations.

However, Victoria did come close on a number of tries with only the brilliant goal tending on the part of Leo Karchie making the difference.

His quick thinking moves outsmarted several Victoria drives that were marked as sure goals. Karchie also got some much improved defensive work from his blueline patrollers as well as good recovery work put on by the forwards.

Up front on the Vernon attack force, Essos were also thwarted on several good tries in the final period as only excellent defence work on the part of the Cougars saved the day for the visitors.

With the tie, Vernon have gone three straight games without a loss and will be looking for an exciting game at home this Wednesday as they play host to Penticton Broncos in a 8:30 p.m. start at Vernon civic arena.

This encounter should also prove interesting as the same Broncos tripped up the much stronger Victoria Cougars in a game played Monday afternoon in the Peach city.

Final score in the game gave the Broncos a 3-2 win over the Island team and leaves them with a .500 average in two starts. They lost their league opener at Kamloops a week ago Friday when the Rockets edged them 5-4.

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Good hockey too

Essos have yet to lose

Vernon: 3 games—2 wins, one tie for 5 points

Friday: Vernon 5, Kelowna 1
Sunday: Vernon 2, Victoria 2

With the B.C. junior A league now well under way with one full week of action behind them, early indications that Vernon Essos will not be anyone's doormat is proving up.

Following a pair of weekend games, the Essos have served notice they are really serious in retaining the B.C. title for another year.

Friday night in Kelowna, Essos took strong measures over the hapless Buckaroos by a 5-1 score then Sunday afternoon, took on Victoria Cougars here in Vernon with the game ending in a 2-2 tie.

Vernon's record in three starts give them an undefeated listing of two wins and a tie, for five points only one point behind Vancouver Centennials who have also played three times so far with three wins to their credit.

Current leader in the league is Victoria who have six games under their belts and recorded three wins, lost two and tied once for seven points.

Fourth place at present is being held by Kamloops Rockets who have played four games and have a two win, two loss record. They dropped two of three games at the Coast this past weekend. Friday they lost to New Westminster 7-5, won over Chilliwack 6-4, then lost to Vancouver 6-2 on Sunday. A week ago Friday they took their opener with Penticton 5-4.

New Westminster are showing better than they did last year at this time as they register three games played, losing two and picking up two points on one win.

Penticton follow with two points in two games on a win and a loss.

The two remaining teams in the league, Kelowna Buckaroos and Chilliwack Bruins have yet to reach the win column.

Both Kelowna and Chilliwack have played three games while Penticton have played two initial encounters.

For Vernon, their showing so far has to be somewhat phenomenal as they have been forced to go with an entirely new team in their first three games. Only Wayne Dye, Jim Marsh and Gordon Merritt from last years championship team have been in the lineups. For Dye it was just a single game while Merritt and Marsh have dressed each time. The other carry over, John Price, is out with an ankle injury.

Early predictions on what the team would do indicated they would have a hard time in keeping pace with the much stronger Coast teams, particularly with Vancouver and Victoria.

Reasoning on the local front stemmed from so many new players taking the place of stalwarts, Bob Mayer, Don Manson, Bob Craig and Jackie Marsh to name but a few.

Another big factor to be considered stems from Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria using four over age players on each lineup.

These teams are playing outside the CAHA and BCAHA ruling on junior players ages

being limited to 19 as of Dec. 31 of the current playing year.

For these teams to be able to do this, they had to get the blessing of the league who so far have gone along with this system, but are almost assured to find themselves in a bind with both parent bodies in the near future.

If by chance anyone of the three teams takes the B.C. title using the older players, they would then have to drop the older boys when they meet other provincial winners.

At any rate, Vernon Essos have given proof already they will not be sitting back to any team in the league this year, particularly when they get back to full strength with John Price and Wayne Dye taking their turns regularly.

In the three games Essos have played, they have chalked up 14 goals while eight have been scored against them. Essos have also looked good in the assist column with 27 to their credit so far.

In the penalty department, they have also been consistent, be it good or bad, which ever way one wants to look at it.

Their total stands at 22 assessments against them for a grand total of 45 minutes. In the three games their penalty minutes have varied only by a single minute. For example, in the first game they totalled 15 minutes, the second it was 14 and in the third game 16 minutes.

On the other hand their opponents have tallied 55 minutes, 41 of which has gone to Kelowna and the remaining 14 minutes to Victoria.

Essos leader in penalties is defenceman Bob Gassoff with 10 minutes while Merv See and Ernie Gare share a total of six Pim's. Others include Rod Cox with five Pim's, Ed Johnstone has four, as does Jack Fleming, while Dave Neil, Jim Lawrence, Gord Merritt, Jim Marsh and Mike Roach have two minutes marked on their records.

The following is the Essos scoring statistics in the three games played:

	G	A	Pts.
Jim Lawrence	1	8	9
Dave Neil	3	5	8
Ed Johnstone	3	3	6
J. Fleming	2	1	3
Jim Marsh	1	2	3

Ernie Gare	1	2	3
Doug Wiffen	1	1	2
Rob Taylor	1	0	1
Gord Merritt	1	0	1
Wayne Dye	1	0	1
Rod Cox	0	1	1
Bob Gassoff	0	1	1
Merv See	0	1	1
Mike Roach	0	1	1

Tiny Tot hockey

Thursdays between 1 and 2 p.m. at the Vernon Civic Arena is a busy time as Instructor Ken Mickey ably assisted by members of the Fire Department on their days off conduct Tiny Tot Hockey.

This sport was started in January and proved very popular.

It allows the three, four and five year olds an opportunity to learn the basics of hockey and also improve on their skating.

Registrations for this course can be made at the Vernon Community Centre.

For further information phone 545-0571.

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