

Seconds remaining

Essos take thriller here

Vernon 4
Kamloops 3

Vernon Essos have moved into first place in the Interior division of the B.C. junior A hockey league and at the same time kept pace with coast leaders, Victoria Cougars, following the Essos 4-3 victory over the Kamloops Rockets Wednesday night.



JIM LAWRENCE
... hat trick

Scraggy centreman Jim Lawrence proved to be the hero of the night as he scored the winner with only three seconds remaining in the game.

For Lawrence it was his third goal of the match and moved him out in front of the 10 top scorers in the eight team league with a 17 point total on five goals and 12 assists.

For the Essos it was their fourth win in six starts and puts them into the drivers seat going into next weekend play when they host Vancouver Centennials Saturday night here in Vernon.

At the moment, Essos have a game in hand over Kamloops and by next Saturday will be one game back of Vancouver and three games in hand over Victoria.

Coupled with the fantastic finish which had the 700 fans on their feet and roaring with approval, the Essos had to fight back from a 3-1 deficit at one point in the second period then come on to score two unanswered goals in the final period.

Other highlights of the game saw a total of 26 penalties handed out by referee Alex Kashuba with 10 of them five minute majors, three 10 misconducts and two game misconducts.

The penalties came fast and furious as the game progressed with the final act seeing forward Kelly Pratt of the Rockets throw his stick like a spear into the crowd. His un-called for gesture promptly gave him a misconduct penalty in which he will sit out the next game the Rockets play.

Another Kamloops player found himself marked with a game misconduct after he picked up his second major penalty of the game with this infraction coming with less than 10 minutes remaining in the game, which according to the rules will give him an automatic game sit out.

Lawrence put Vernon on the score board first as he and Doug Wiffen and Merv See team to work the puck deep into the Rocket zone, with the goal coming at 11:02 of the opening period.

Kamloops then put the game back on even keel five minutes later when Gerry Howat scored unassisted after the Vernon defence failed to clear the puck quickly enough and the puck slipped between goalie Wayne Prices skate and the goal post.

This goal was the first of all three Kamloops power-play goals with Bob Gassoff sitting out a high sticking infraction, Jim Marsh for elbow, and Lawrence for slashing.

Going into the second frame, Kamloops again took advantage of the power play as Lyle Harp banged in a hard shot with Jerry Holland and Marty Kissel assisting.

Four minutes later Kamloops jumped in to 3-1 lead as Kissel took his turn in finding the mark with Wayne Biachin and Jerry Holland coming to his aid.

At the 15 minute mark of the second, Vernon finally found their scoring combination as Jack Fleming scooped in a loose puck from a scramble after he had made two tries seconds before with goalie Sam Clegg warding him off. Gordon Merritt and Rob Taylor were

given assists on this one.

Third period action saw Vernon quickly take up the slack as they scored the equalizer with 3:40 gone in the period. Jim Lawrence was the right man in the right spot once more with a pair of defencemen Jim Marsh and Bob Gassoff working the puck up to the Rocket territory with Lawrence doing the final touch.

From this moment on the game picked up momentum hence the heavy checking and penalties being assessed.

With only a minute and a half remaining, the Rockets made the final blunder of the action as Marty Kissel suddenly found himself sitting in the penalty box for interfering.

Vernon took advantage of the extra man, and kept the puck bottled up in the Rocket zone and with only three seconds to go in the game, Lawrence came through with a looping shot from the left side to score the winner.

Lawrence had picked up a pass from Jim Marsh who in turn had received it from Ernie Gare with Lawrence trying to go through the middle, but swerving to the left at the last moment and almost being over-



JACK FLEMING
... scores one

run by a Rocket defenceman but with a dead reckoning try, caught the short side when the puck lazily lifted then dropped past a startled Clegg.

Essos now gear themselves for a tough Vancouver team who will enter Vernon civic arena this coming Saturday for a 8:30 p.m. game with the Essos.

Bob Craig joins club

Vernon Essos junior A club are still suffering from a long list of injuries with five players still sidelined but the picture is brightening.

Fans who saw the Vernon-Kamloops game Wednesday night had the chance to observe a familiar face back in the line up and wearing his old sweater number of last year of big number 4.

Yes, Bob Craig is back and ready to do his turn on the blueline and both players and spectators let him know he was more than welcome.

Craig had been looking for a change of pace by remaining at home in Surrey and maybe playing for one of the two nearby coast teams (Vancouver and New Westminster) but

found through several close looks that Vernon was the place he wanted to play hockey this year.

Also in the lineup Wednesday was an Estevan Saskatchewan prospect by the name of Glen Walton who is currently being looked over by coach Odie Lowe.

Both manager Vern Dye and Lowe have been scratching their heads of late trying to round out a good and well balanced team with at least one wing man and another defenceman needed to give the team the reserve strength always needed in case of injuries.

Dye expects the doctor will release John Price to play Saturday and feels with added fan support, Essos will do well against Vancouver.

BCJHL statistics

BCJHL STATISTICS TO OCT. 20, 1970

STANDINGS

	Coastal Division					Pts
	W	L	T	F	A	
Victoria Cougars	6	2	1	47	21	13
Vanc. Centennials	4	2	0	34	21	8
Chilliwack Bruins	1	4	1	19	44	3
New West Royals	1	5	1	30	42	3
Interior Division						
Kamloops Rockets	4	3	0	32	26	8
Vernon Essos	4	1	1	27	23	9
Penticton Broncos	3	4	0	28	28	6
Kelowna Buckaroos	2	4	0	21	36	4

Scoring Leaders

	G	A	Pts.	PM
Harry Turk, Pen	10	5	15	6
Jim Lawrence, Ver	5	12	17	4
Neil Murphy, Van	6	4	10	21
Chris Riddell, Vic	5	5	10	2
Dave Niel, Ver	4	6	10	6
Jerry Holland, Kam	3	7	10	2
Vic Mercredi, Pen	2	8	10	16
Jim Dalzell, NW	6	3	9	2
Ed Johnstone, Ver	4	5	9	4
Ron Forster, Kam	4	5	9	29
Gerry Bond, Vic	2	7	9	6

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