

# Three goals a game not enough for Essos

Saturday

Vernon 3, Kamloops 4

Sunday

Vernon 3, Penticton 6

Vernon Essos are one of the most consistent hockey clubs in the B.C. junior A loop these days as they continue to give very entertaining hockey to spectators and at the same time keep losing.

The Essos entertain with a good style of hockey for most parts of every game and have loyal fans on the edge of their seats as they give all opposition a real run for their money.

The big stickler of course, is the fact the Essos have lost six straight games and in each one of them, they have only managed to score three goals per session.

Now 12 games into the 60 game schedule of the eight team B.C. league, Essos have rung up a disappointing four win, seven loss and one tie record for a mere nine points and are sitting third from last in the standings.

At the moment only Kelowna and New Westminster are below them in the point standings.

Big question in the minds of both coach Odie Lowe and general manager Vern Dye, is how to bring out the best in each of the players. Individual talent runs high on the roster but the perplexing question of the moment is how to fuse the players into a solid team effort.

Until the past weekend two game series, spirit was running high on the roster and each man seemed ready to give with everything he had, and in most instances indicated they were doing just that, only the goals weren't coming, particularly when the opportunity was open to them.

Until last weekend, Essos played well for two periods then fell back to let their opponents outplay and outscore them in the final period of each game.

Against Kamloops Saturday and again Sunday night with Penticton, Essos fell behind in the first and second periods then scrambled to try and come through with much needed goals in the final 20 minute period, only to have the door effectively barred as far as goal scoring was concerned.

Following Sunday nights 6-3 loss to Penticton before nearly 1,000 home town fans, coach Odie Lowe expressed his concern on his players performances.

"Let's be honest, the Essos are losing hockey games on the defensive side of things and of course they aren't scoring goals either," said the Essos mentor.

Stressing the word defensive, Lowe went on to explain the whole team was at fault. "When the opposition score goals using only three men while in your territory and you have four of your own to stop them, then some one isn't doing his job.

"Without naming names at the moment, there are far too many Vernon players not pulling their weight and are literally standing back while only a few are trying their best."

"The moment of reckoning is nearing for at least three players in the Vernon lineup, Wayne Dye will be returning as of Nov. 15 and Bob Craig will be back soon, also we have another player ready to dress and I can assure everyone, his style of play is much better than what certain players already on the roster have been showing," concluded coach Lowe.

At Kamloops, the Rockets scored twice in each of the first and second periods to take the narrow 4-3 win, with the Essos coming up with two in the mid frame and the single in the last period.

Actually the Essos won the game if two disallowed goals could be counted. The big action coming in the final period when Essos pulled goalie Wayne Price with less than 60 seconds remaining.

They literally swarmed around the Kamloops net and scored with only seconds remaining but referee Dale Castle calling the goal back because he claimed he lost sight of the puck before it went into the net.

The other scoring incident occurred in the second period when a double fight broke out, resulting in Vernons Bob Buchanan and the Rockets Wayne Biachin being sent out of the game because the referee claimed they had joined into a fight.

Rule book wise, Castle may have been right, but everyone felt the two culprits should have been given only 10 minute misconducts at the very worst.

Bob Powell and rockets Gord Girrard started to mix it seconds before, when the other fight started.

This second fight had nothing to do with the first, as a result the thinking of Castle has to be questioned when he claimed they had joined in the fight.

Castle said later there could be well founded doubts about the calls.

Actually Vernon lost a, third goal when immediately after the game ejection of the two players, Kamloops coach Joe Tenannt had his players deliberately stand still on the face-off with Vernon quickly taking the puck deep into Rocket territory and making the play on the net.

As the play proceeded, Kamloops goalie Sam Clegg cross-checked a Vernon player near the goal crease and at the same time Vernon scored.

Again Castle disallowed the goal claiming the whistle blew on the penalty, yet if the call had been served right should have only raised his hand on a

delayed penalty until Kamloops had taken possession of the puck.

Tim Peck led the Kamloops scoring with a pair of markers with singles coming from Gerry Holland and Carson Baldwin.

For Vernon it was Jim Marsh, Jack Fleming and John Price in that order. The Price goal again proved interesting to spectators as he drove a very hard shot from 10 feet on the right side of Clegg which skimmed along the ice, bouncing very hard off the centre post and coming almost straight back. Clegg immediately went into near hysterics, excitedly waving his stick and jumping up and down.

Sunday night at home, Essos found themselves behind quickly in the game as Broncos came through with their opening goal with less than two minutes showing on the clock, then at the halfway point of the period scored goal number two to lead 2-0 going into the mid frame.

Jim Lawrence brought Vernon back into contention near the five minute mark of the second period when he scored from a play set up by Bob Buchanan and Ernie Gare.

This goal was quickly nullified however, as Broncos came back with goal three then topped off the period with a fourth marker to lead 4-1 at the periods end.

The second Penticton goal was of the unusual variety as Essos goalie Wayne Price allowed himself to become too relaxed with the play in the centre ice area, as a result, let a soft shot from centre slip under his stick.

With only 34 seconds gone in the third period, Jack Fleming gave Vernon fans some measure of hope as he scored from a rebound off the back boards after Glen Walton drove a hard shot past the goal from outside the blueline.

Penticton once more got busy and by 1:10 of the period, again nullified Vernons effort.

Vernon finally got back on the scoring at 12:56 of the period

when John Price did some fancy leg work and worked the puck deep into Bronco territory with Eddie Johnstone coming through with the goal after a goal mouth scramble.

Penticton then salted the game away handily with another insurance marker at the 15 minute mark to end the game scoring.

Vernon outshot the Broncos in the game as they came through with a total of 36 drives while Broncos were only able to bear down on 34, six of them counting of course.

Vernon used both Wayne Price and Leo Karchie in the nets with Karchie doing stellar duty in the final two periods.

Next home game for the Essos takes place Sunday afternoon when they host New Westminster Royals.

Prior to this game, Essos travel to Kelowna for a Friday night encounter.



October 29

Men's - 9-11 p.m.

High single - Val Andretta 380; high triple - Ray Isobe 860; high average - Marv Zworych 245.

Team high single - Shig's TV 1418; team high triple - Shig's TV 3845.

"300 Club" - Glen Fey 306, Roy Isobe 306, Stan Baron 303, Val Andretta 380, Shig Tabata 375, Tom Wright 312.

Team Standings:  
Labatts ..... 119  
Big "5" ..... 111  
Coldstream ..... 96  
Optics ..... 95

October 29

Ladies Matinee

High single - E. Dalziel 221; high triple - R. Stoliker 534; high average - M. Humphreys 174.

Team high single - Groaners 819.

Team Standings:  
Twisters ..... 16  
Oopiks ..... 15  
Alley Belles ..... 15  
Go-Getters ..... 14

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