



On the door step

Vernon Essos resume their hockey wars again this weekend as they travel to Kelowna Friday night to meet Kelowna Buckaroos and then take on New Westminster Royals on home ice Sunday afternoon. Essos have been on the doorstep to winning several times of late but lack of last minute drive has failed to give them much needed

goals. They go into the two games with a sad seven loss, four win and one tie record and must begin to get back on the win trail. In the above photo, Vernon's Dave Gurniak (dropped from the roster Wednesday) was on the door step to scoring against Kamloops last Saturday but was thwarted by a diving save by Rockets goalie Sam Clegg.

Royals coming

Essos anticipate a good weekend

B.C. junior hockey continues its torrid pace this weekend with Vernon Essos taking on Kelowna Buckaroos Friday night in Kelowna and then returning home for a big game against New Westminster Royals Sunday afternoon.

Vernon are looking for important wins in both fixtures as they try to leave behind them a six straight loss record compiled in the last two weeks.

Essos now trail both Penticton and Kamloops in the Interior four team loop, with the Broncos leading with an eight win, five loss record for 16 points and Kamloops close behind with 15 points on seven wins, five losses and a tie.

Vernon go into the weekend series with a four win, seven loss, one tie record for only nine points in their 12 games played to date.

While the local squad feel confident they can take Kelowna, second thoughts may be stewing in their minds over how they can meet the sudden strength now being exhibited by the Royals.

New Westminster, using four of Vernons over-age players from last years roster, have suddenly come to life, thanks mainly to Gerry Vachon.

Vachon, a Vernon hockey bred boy, has scored 10 goals in

two recent games and has been termed by coast reports as a terror around opposition nets of late.

He led his teammates to a 9-6 drubbing of the Chilliwack Bruins with six of the goals coming off his own stick. Later the Royals went on to edge Vancouver Centennials by a 9-5 difference with Vachon again taking the initiative with four markers, to bring his total in games played to 16 goals so far.

Other Vernonites now wearing the Royals colors are Barry Bleakley, Dale Craig and Lawrence Quechuk.

Vernon netminders, Leo Karchie and Wayne Price both feel that who ever goes into the Vernon nets Sunday, will be able to stop Vachon and company very effectively and are determined to do just that to prove Vachon is not as good as the coast reports make out.

Meanwhile, the Vernon management continue to look for better things from the club as they begin to trim the roster to fighting condition.

Following last weekend games, Essos dropped last year veteran Gordon Merritt and rookie Dave Gurniak from the present roster and may sit aside one or two others soon as they try to fit the roster into its final list of players for the season.

Both Wayne Dye and Bob Craig are still out and will be as far as the weekend is concerned. Dye will be eligible to play after midnight Sunday when his suspension ends and Craig will rejoin the club in a week or two following his recovery from appendicitis.

The Friday fixture at Kelowna begins at 8:30 p.m. and several car loads of Vernon fans are expected to be on hand to watch the two clubs in action.

The Sunday game takes to the ice at 2:30 p.m. and already there is indications a packed house will be on hand to watch the Royals try and continue where they left off when they pounded the Essos 7-3 at Haney two weeks ago.

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