

Kelowna here Wednesday

Essos manage single point in two trys

Vernon 3, Victoria 13
Vernon 2, Kamloops 2,

Vernon Essos picked up one of a possible four points over the weekend and they were lucky to get that much.

Saturday night, they were drubbed handily by a much better hockey club, the Victoria Cougars by a one sided 13-3 score, then Sunday night fought back from a 2-0 deficit to salvage a 2-2 tie with the Kamloops Rockets.

Essos have had trouble in the early stages of the B.C. junior A hockey league (they have played 16 games so far) in getting themselves into a smooth operating club. In some instances they have looked and played well, while at other times have come through with some terrible games.

Saturday night before a small crowd of nearly 600 fans, Essos put forth with one of their worst games to date, with absolutely no resemblance of what they have shown in previous games.

It was almost ironic in the way they lost with a 10 goal difference in the final tally. Earlier in the season they had scoffed at teams such as Chilliwack for being bombed by such one sided scores but Saturday night they were obviously no better.

Both clubs skated hard in the first period with the Essos nearly capitalizing on several good plays, however Cougars missed their chances too as a result, the period ended in a scoreless tie.

The second frame proved different however, as Cougars took advantage of at least four direct gifts to score four times before the eight minute mark was showing on the big time clock, then picked up three more goals in the period to lead going into the final 20 minute session by a five goal spread of 7-2.

Changing goalies in the third period did little for the Essos cause as again Cougars forced the play throughout, and easily manhandled their way for another six goals while the best the Essos could do was a single marker.

For the Cougars it was the height of a perfect weekend as they came through with a 5-4 win over Kamloops Friday night and then edged Kelowna Buckaroos 7-2 Sunday afternoon to bring their season record to 13 wins, four losses and a tie in 18 games played for a league leading 27 points, four better than second place Penticton.

Four Cougars led the way in the scoring with a pair of goals each with Lon Miles, Chris Riddell, Jim Lautenslager and Ted Plowe doing the honors. Singles came from Tom Keep, Bob Mayer, Randy Bock, Rob Little, and Scott Munro.

Vernon scorers were Jim Marsh, Wayne Dye and Terry Maxwell. Terry by the way, is the son of Victoria coach Ron Maxwell. He had played a few games for the Cougars but rumor has it had been dropped from the club on orders by general manager Eric Bishop with no real explanation ever given.

Moving back into their own rink Sunday evening, before a much smaller crowd of less than 500 people, Essos came through with a much better show as they allowed Kamloops to move two goals up in the first period then coming back with goals of their own in the first and third frames to salvage a 2-2 tie.

One of the outstanding differences in the second game of the weekend was the way the Essos played defensively. Their back checking tactics was vastly improved and was the



B.C. Jr. hockey standings

Interior Division							
	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
Penticton	18	11	6	1	84	55	23
Kamloops	19	10	7	2	81	61	22
Vernon	16	6	8	2	61	79	14
Kelowna	17	3	14	0	56	118	6
Coast Division							
Victoria	18	13	4	1	111	47	27
Vancouver	17	10	5	2	88	65	22
New West	20	9	8	3	105	94	21
Chilliwack	19	4	14	1	69	136	9

probable key to managing the tie.

Rockets, always a strong skating club, kept the pressure on in all three periods but Essos were not to be denied as they too worked hard for the single point.

Scorers for the Rockets were Wayne Biachin and Kelly Pratt while Vernon marksmen were Ed Johnstone and Ernie Gare in that order.

Wednesday night Essos again play host to a visiting club with Kelowna Buckaroos due here for an 8:30 game.

Essos will be looking for a win here as they prepare to head towards the Coast for three games, meeting Victoria, New Westminster and Chilliwack.

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