

Sunday afternoon

# Hockey game to be broadcast

Vernon and North Okanagan hockey fans will be treated to the first live radio broadcast of the season when "Big R" radio at Salmon Arm take to the airways this Sunday.

"Big R" station manager, Bob Hall, told the Vernon News Wednesday he had put the wheels in motion to have the Essos-Bruins game broadcast live and direct from the Chilliwack hockey rink.

Service lines have already

been put in with co-operation from the Chilliwack station with the game being aired in its entirety.

Plans too are now afoot to have several more of the Essos games broadcast during both home and away games.

Vernon Essos officials have gone on record as being in favour of such broadcasts and feel it will help to create more interest in the Essos this season.

## Poorest crowd ever

# Essos win, but . .

By DOUG BULWER  
Vernon 8, Kelowna 2

The meeting Wednesday night between Vernon Essos and Kelowna Buckaroos was not received with much enthusiasm as only slightly more than 150 fans were in attendance to watch a lack-lustre type of hockey played.

It was almost a forgone conclusion that Essos would take the game, based on previous meetings with the hapless Buckaroos. The score ending 8-2 for the Essos.

Essos neatly trimmed Kelowna by a 8-6 league opener back on Oct. 3 here at Vernon, then made two trips in the Regatta city and came away sporting a pair of wins with 5-1 and 6-3 scores.

The last game will be well remembered because it was the Essos 13th of the year and took place on Friday the 13th.

Essos had gone into the fixture sporting a six straight loss record and when it was all over, had tallied their sixth win of the season. Until Wednesday, that win listing had stood with the only change coming last weekend when Essos picked up a single point when they tied Kamloops 2-2.

The win Wednesday gives the Essos an 7-8-2 win, loss, tie record in 17 games played for 16 points, six behind second place Kamloops in the Interior division of B.C. junior A hockey.

Penticton Broncos currently hold the lead with a 12-6-1 record for 25 points, while Kelowna have taken their 15th loss in 18 starts so far this season.

### BOREDOM NOTED

Wednesday, almost from the opening whistle, the game began its slow grind with little excitement to give the fans something to cheer about.

It seemed almost as if Essos had been lulled into an unimaginative trance of the same style the Buckaroos have been playing all season.

With the exception of possibly three or four players, the Vernon squad played without any obvious enthusiasm which caused several spectator comments between periods to say that if it wasn't so cold they would go to sleep sitting in the stands.

Only one highlight of the game could be noted and that was Essos taking advantage of three power-plays, one coming when Kelowna had two men sitting out minor penalties.

Essos took a 3-1 lead in the opening period, added two unanswered goals in the mid-session and then came back with identical first period scoring in the final stanza for the sloppy and one sided victory.

In general, it was a poor exhibition of junior A hockey and was typical of the style of play both teams have carried so far this year.

The crowd, easily the smallest in three seasons in Vernon exemplified the growing dis-interest in this level of hockey and with recent announcements of the financial

problems facing the Essos, it seems that it could be only a matter of time before the team folds.

It could be time now too for the players to start reasoning what the final consequences will be very soon unless they decided to play the kind of hockey fans expect to see and pay for when they enter the Civic arena.

Many comments have come thick and fast of late from fans that they wish the Essos would begin to take the game a little more seriously and show more spunk.

As mentioned before, only three or four are making a good college try at playing good hockey, but it is obvious that these efforts aren't any good unless the whole team pulls together.

Indications of the actions by certain players both on and off the ice is that they are very immature. Little boys with 10 year old minds, wearing young mens uniforms and street clothes.

Fans like to see the game taken seriously, they don't mind when the team losses well and they get very excited when the team wins well, but it is hard for anyone to get worked up over a bunch of lazy types who are in the game for just the ride.

Along with sloppy hockey, people are beginning to ask why the team isn't better groomed, such as having their hair neatly trimmed in line with the way the rest of the league dress and bearing when in the public eye both on and off the ice.

Essos take to the road this weekend, travelling first to New Westminster Friday, to meet the Royals, then take on Victoria Cougars Saturday night in the Island city and then top off the trip by tangling with Chilliwack Bruins at Chilliwack on Sunday afternoon.

Without a doubt, they will have their hands full in meeting at least two of the coast teams, particularly Victoria who handily white washed Essos 13-3 here last week.

One bright spot on the coast tour will be the meeting with the Bruins for the first time this season.

Chilliwack doesn't have a good win record either, having lost 14 of their 19 games played, but they have beaten the leagues better teams and just may do that to the Essos too.

Vernon fans will get a chance to hear the Chilliwack game on radio this Sunday as the Big R radio station of Salmon Arm have made arrangements to broadcast the game in its entirety from the Fraser Valley centre.

Broadcast time has not officially been confirmed but it is expected to start at either 2:30 or 3 p.m.

Getting back to the Kelowna - Vernon game, 16 year old rookie Ed Johnstone paced the Essos with a pair of goals while singles came off the sticks of Dave Neil, Terry Maxwell, Glen Walton, Wayne Dye, John Price and Ernie Gare.

Price led in the assist department with three, with Neil and Dye notching two each. Kelowna goals came from Gordon Merritt and Larry Patenaude.

Vernon outshot Bucks 43-22 with Kelowna picking up nine penalties to Vernons seven handed out by Kamloops referee Dale Castle.



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