Four games coming up

Essos continue on victory trail

Vernon 7, Chilliwack 2

Vernon Essos lived up to expectations Saturday as they neatly trimmed visiting Chilliwack Bruins 7-2 before 900 local fans.

The Essos came through with a repeat performance of the week before when they downed the same team in the Fraser Valley centre by a score of 5-1.

The Saturday victory now gives the Essos a 21 game record of nine wins, nine losses, and three ties for 21 points and helps keep them in stride with first and second Interior leaders, Penticton Broncos and Kamloops Rockets.

Vernon jumped into a three goal lead in the first period as they effectively blocked the door for the Bruins in the first 20 minutes of play.

The next two periods were nearly a repeat performance as again Essos took the initiative with two goals per frame with the Bruins tallying singles in each stanza.

First string centreman John Price led the Vernon parade with a pair of goals then rounding out a five point night with three big assists.

Remainder of the Essos scoring was on single tries by Jim Lawrence, Ed Johnstone, Ernie Gare, Bob Gassoff and Bob Powell. For Gassoff and Powell it was their first goals in junior A hockey. Both are rookies with the club this season and see all of their duties back in the defensive slot.

Wayne Dye was also well up on the points listing as he was in on three big assists.

Both Johnstone and Gare added two assists each to their single goal tally.

Norm Poole and Dale Berg were the goal scorers for the losers.

The loss for the Bruins kept them well entrenched in the cellar of the Coast loop and was the second loss for them of the weekend. Friday night at Penticton, the host Broncos swept them under with a 10-4 smashing on the score board.

The pair of losses however was made up Sunday for Chilliwack as they came through with a convincing 3-2 win over Kamloops Rockets in the hub city.

Both clubs battled through a 1-1 tie in the first period, added single marker each in the middle period with Bruins Greg Reid coming through with what proved to be the winner in the final period.

The penalty studded game saw Kamloops take the lions share of infractions handed out by Penticton referee Red Boschka. By the eight minute mark of the third period, Rockets had racked up a total of 10 penalties while Bruins came through with only four, a remarkable feat considering the Bruins are well known for getting themselves behind the scoring because of so many penalties in each game played.

One of the highlights of the Bruins victory at Kamloops was the ejection of Rockets coach Joe Tennant, who stormed onto the ice at the 16:25 mark of the second period, protesting a play in front of the Bruins goal mouth.

Apparently Tennant claimed a defenceman had smothered the puck with his body instead of the goalie for which Tennant figured there should be a penalty.

Tennant walked across the width of the ice and wildy protested to the referee who was busy at the time keepers box. Boschka ordered Tennant from the ice but when he finally left, picked up all the spare sticks from the Rockets bench and threw them onto the ice. He was given a game misconduct.

The irate mentor was replaced in the coaching duties by equipment manager Frank Rota. However, Tennant placed himself behind the players box and could be seen handing out orders from this location for the rest of the game.

Getting back to the Essos, they have a strenuous week of hockey ahead of them as they play out a four game series within a space of five days.

Tuesday they travel to Penticton for the third game of the season with the Broncos, who have defeated Vernon by scores of 6-1 and 6-3 in two previous meetings.

Wednesday they will be in Kamloops to take on both the Rockets and Joe Tennant then go into Kelowna Friday night to meet Kelowna in the first of back to back games with the Buckaroos who return to Vernon Saturday night.

Game time at home will be 8:30 p.m. and it is expected the Essos will again be hosting district minor hockey players as special guests.

