

Essos are generous, gift Kamloops twice

Vernon 4, Kamloops 4
Vernon 1, Kamloops 3

Vernon Essos ushered in the new year on a generous note over the weekend as they gifted Kamloops Rockets with three of a possible four points in B.C. junior A hockey action.

To put it mildly, Essos missed at least six good goals in the New years day fixture and then repeated the act Saturday.

Friday they outplayed the Rockets in the first stages of the game although the Rockets did take an early two goal lead before the Essos could get untracked.

Big feature of this game was four power - play goals, three of them coming off the sticks of Essos players.

Both clubs battled to a 2-2 deadlock in the first period, then repeated the act in the second frame to round out the game scoring.

Wayne Dye was the big gun for the Essos as he came through with two markers, both when Kamloops were sitting men in the penalty box.

Jim Lawrence also scored when the Kamloops squad were short men on the ice.

The other power - play came at the halfway mark of the first period when Kamloops took advantage of John Price sitting out at charging penalty.

Kamloops opened the scoring at 2:33 and 10:10 of the first on goals by Larry Simon and Oliver Steward then Jim Lawrence came through with Vernons first marker seven minutes later with Dye rounding out the first period exactly one minute after that. These goals were timed at 17:27 and 18:27.

Vernon took a short lived lead at 1:26 of the second period when Ernie Gare swooped in with John Price and Jim Marsh assisting, Kamloops however, evened things off quickly as Marty Kissell lit up the score board at 3:42 then at 12:27 Rockets once more were in the drivers seat as Carson Baldwin drove a screen shot from the right point.

Wayne Dye finished off the game scoring at 19:37 of the mid-period when he and Jim

Lawrence and Jim Marsh again teamed to go in on Sam Clegg in the nets for the Rockets, with Kamloops short a man after Clegg got a two minute slashing penalty.

Saturday night at Kamloops, both teams played it close with Rockets taking a single goal lead in the first period which stood until the final 20 minute session when Vernon tied it up for their only goal in the game.

Jim Lawrence got this one

with help from Dye and Bob Gassoff at the 1:50 mark.

Kamloops proved the better team in the third period however and they proved it as they came back with the winner at the 4:33 mark with Kelly Pratt doing the honors.

Five minutes later, Larry Simon scored the insurance goal to give the Rockets the 3-1 victory.

The second game of the weekend, unlike that of the

night before saw only eight minor penalties handed out while the game of the day before, 20 infractions were dealt with, 13 of them going to Kamloops.

Tomorrow, Essos resume their regular action as they take off to Penticton for a game with the Broncos. In the last two meetings with the peach city boys, Essos managed to score two convincing wins and expect to repeat the act Tuesday.

Essos dilemma

Being average may hurt soon

Vernon Essos have begun their second half of the 60 game B.C. junior A schedule riding a crest of being so average it may hurt them in the next few weeks.

In 31 games played todate, they have 31 points on 13 wins, 13 losses and five ties and have scored 125 goals while allowing 124 to be scored against them.

In most instances a .500 average is good by any standard, but in the meantime they are being headed by other teams such as Penticton Broncos and Kamloops Rockets.

Penticton for example have played 30 games and have 43 points on 20 wins, 7 losses and three ties, and lead Vernon by 12 points.

The Kamloops record is also better at the halfway mark with 31 games played for 38 points on 17 wins, 10 losses and four ties.

With the schedule now on the down hill ride, Essos must come through more often in the next 29 games than what they have shown in the first half of the season.

Coach Odie Lowe is generally pleased with the team showing but is the first to point out, they must pick up on the win column

over the next few weeks, particularly when tangling with Penticton and Kamloops.

Every game the Essos play against these two teams from now on means the difference, virtually, of four points to the winning side.

Essos have played a total of eight games with the Rockets todate and the best they have done is a pair of wins plus two ties. Rockets on the other hand have four wins over the Essos plus the two points salvaged on the two ties in games played in the Vernon rink.

In five meetings with the Broncos, Essos dropped the

first three games then came on strong latterly to win two decisive victories.

The important factor now is to win the four games remaining with Kamloops and take the majority, if not all of the seven games left to play with Penticton.

First of the big tests begins tomorrow when the Essos meet the Broncos in Penticton with game time set for 8 p.m. They will also see action with the peach city crew twice more this month, one of them a make-up game brought forward from Oct. 12 when the Penticton ice was out.



SPORTS



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Youth bowlers in action again

Youth bowlers of Vernon have swung back into activity after the holidays and last Saturday

TEAM STANDINGS
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