

Essos win again

Now face tough coast weekend

Vernon 8, Kelowna 3

Vernon Essos almost teasingly allowed Kelowna Buckaroos to open the game scoring then proceeded to humiliate their visitors Wednesday night as they calmly racked up an 8-3 win before slightly better than 300 B.C. junior A hockey league fans at the civic ice arena.

For the Essos, it was their fifth straight victory and brought them within three points of Kamloops Rockets who currently hold second place in the Interior division of the junior loop.

Playing their 41st game of the year, Essos have now won 21 times, tied five and lost 15 fixtures to give them 47 points and 19 more games to go.

Big guns in a winning cause was the first string line of Jim Lawrence, Wayne Dye and Ed Johnstone who combined for five goals and eight assists for 13 points with Dye leading the parade with his second consecutive hat trick against the hapless Kelowna club.

Lawrence picked up a pair of markers and added three assists, while Dye helped his point total with two assists. Third man on the line, Ed Johnstone, was there with three big assists.

Others on the Essos point parade was Glen Walton, Jim Marsh and Ernie Gare with single goals while Bob Craig assisted twice and John Price and Rod Cox picking up single assists.

For Kelowna it was their 36th loss of the season in 43 times on the ice. Their overall record shows they have only won five times and picked up two ties, one of these to Vernon, to give them a lowly 12 points.

Scoring for the Bucks was Larry Patenaude in the first period, Ken Selinger in the second period, and Abe Apisis in the final session.

While Kelowna could only find the mark once in each period, Essos tallied with two in the first frame, and added three more in each of the next two periods.

Essos also took a wide margin in the play as indicated by the number of shots they fired at game netman, Ian MacCrimmon, who managed to push aside 57 drives while letting eight others get past him for a grand total of 65 shots on the Kelowna net.

At the other end of the rink, Wayne Price had it comparatively easy as he was called upon to stop 18 shots while allowing three to go across the goal line.

Without MacCrimmon's great effort, Vernon may have pushed the score sky high while Price in turn came through with a fair share of excellent goal saves. MacCrimmon by-the-way,

Vernon Essos team standings to Feb. 3, 1971

Jim Lawrence	27	53	80
Ed Johnstone	26	30	56
Wayne Dye	27	27	54
John Price	10	26	36
Ernie Gare	17	18	35
Jim Marsh	9	24	33
Dave Neil	10	15	25
Bob Craig	7	17	24
Rod Cox	5	16	21
Glen Walton	7	8	15
Bob Gassoff	2	12	14
Doug Wiffen	6	7	13
Bryan Smeland	1	2	3
Jim Inglis	0	3	3
Bob Powell	1	1	2
Wayne Price	0	1	1

was picked as the third star of the game, while Wayne Dye came in for the second star and Jim Lawrence the first.

The record between the two clubs now stands at nine games played with Vernon winning eight times and tying the remaining fixture. Vernon have scored 59 goals in the games while Kelowna have come through with less than half of that total, which stands at 26.

Essos now face a somewhat grim weekend as they travel to the Coast, meeting Vancouver Centennials this Friday, Feb. 5 moving into Victoria for a Saturday night game with the Cougars then back to Chilliwack for a Sunday afternoon fixture with the Bruins.

Wins in each of these games are of course very important if they wish to catch up with Kamloops and Penticton.

Two factors may make the odds a little more tougher however, as they will be without the guidance of coach Odie Lowe who cannot make the trip because of work commitments, and in the case of Vancouver Centennials, this club will be looking for sweet revenge over the loss they took here in Vernon last weekend.

Centennials will also be looking to catch up on the Victoria Cougars who are having internal problems, the scars of which may cause the Cougars to either forfeit the game Saturday, or lose it through lack of initiative to win under the new coaching staff.

Next home game for the Essos will see them meet head on with Kamloops Rockets Wednesday of next week in an 8:30 p.m. start time.

This game is billed as one of the Winter Carnival highlights

and should prove interesting as there will be a Carnival trophy to go to the winner of the game.

This trophy is awarded annually and last year Vernon retained for the second time in a row, winning against Kelowna.

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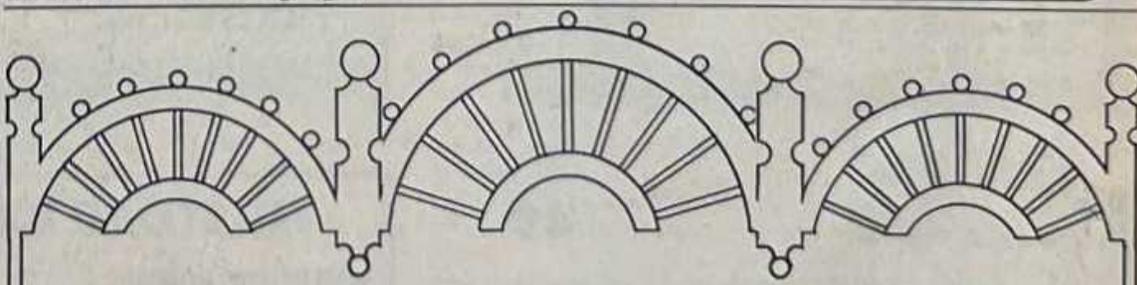
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