

Join Kamloops

Essos take hold of second place

The rejuvenated Vernon Essos stormed into a second place tie with Kamloops Rockets last weekend and are now looking to catch first-place Penticton Broncos in the Okanagan Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League.

The Essos were all alone in the runner-up spot briefly Friday when they outlasted Kelowna Buckaroos 8-6 in the Orchard City. Kamloops created the traffic jam for second place as a result of 2-2 tie against Penticton Sunday in Kamloops.

The Essos nearly blew the contest with Kelowna when they were outscored 4-1 in the second period and faced a 6-4 deficit going into the final frame. But the locals responded to the challenge and pumped home four unanswered goals to take the hard-earned victory.

Ernie Gare got the Essos started at 11:38 of the third

period and got help from Jim Lawrence, who potted two quick tallies in a minute and 32 seconds. Lawrence's second goal proved to be the winner but Wayne Dye added an insurance marker with 21 seconds left.

Dye and Lawrence led the Essos with two goals apiece while Ed Johnstone, Rod Cox, Glen Walton and Gare gathered singletons.

Ken Weninger and Larry Patenaide managed two goals each for the Buckaroos in a losing cause. Single Buckaroo tallies were scored by Charlie Huck and Ron Andruff.

Vernon goalkeeper Wayne Price made 36 saves including 31 in the first two periods. Kelowna counterpart Ian MacCrimmon stopped 42 Esso shots and was bombarded with 21 drives in the third period.

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