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Tremendous weekend for Junior A club

Saturday Vernon 5-New West 4
Sunday Vernon 7, Penticton 5

Coach Odie Lowe's quiet query Sunday afternoon has revealed a startling fact . . . The Vernon Junior Essos have not lost a home game since Nov. 21.

Their 17 wins and two ties since that time on home ice is without a doubt a record for any team in the B.C. Junior A hockey league.

Climax of this unusual turn of events came last weekend when they took New Westminster Royals 5-4 Saturday night, then came back stronger than ever Sunday afternoon to down Penticton Broncos 7-5.

While the Essos were busy stopping these two clubs, second place Kamloops Rockets of the Interior division found themselves on the short end of a 2-1 score dished out by the touring Royals.

The combination pair of wins and the Kamloops loss has vaulted Vernon into a second place tie with the Rockets at 61 points apiece.

STARTED SLOW

Saturday night, both the Essos and Royals played it 'kitty-by-the-door' style in the early minutes of their game.

Actually the first two periods were not a particularly good brand of hockey, but amazingly, it was when all the scoring took place.

Royals took a 2-0 lead on a pair of back to back goals at 7:17 and 9:47 of the first period with Essos coming back with a single less than a minute later

on a near perfect effort by John Price and Ernie Gare.

Gare took the puck on the face-off in the Royals territory, slipped it back to Price who drove the rubber home at 10:08.

Wayne Dye then took his turn and tied the game when he drove a hard slap shot from the centre slot from about five feet inside the blueline. Jim Lawrence and Bob Craig carried the action on this goal with Lawrence passing back to Dye who drove it shoulder high into the right corner of the net.

This goal came at 14:30 and 13 seconds later, Essos moved ahead to stay when John Price picked up his second marker of the night on an identical play by himself and Gare, who has to be one of the better face-off men in the league.

Exactly one minute after Dye's tying marker, Ernie Gare boosted the Essos to a 4-2 lead when he broke in on the Royals with John Price and Don Dirk assisting.

These three goals came exactly within the minute mark and proved to be the winning factor in the game.

Second period action saw the Essos take advantage of the only five minute major penalty of the game when Grant Williams went off for butt-ending at 4:16. By 7:58 Essos had wrapped it up on John Prices' hat trick. This time he scored on a quick shot from the right of the Royals net. This again was a sudden quick shot that was screened all the way.

New West picked up some good steam at the 12 minute mark and then came back with another at 15:27 to put the pressure really on the host team.

ESSOS DUMP LEADERS

Sunday afternoon, Essos spotted the Broncos an early goal by 4:21 when Vic Mercredit scored his first two markers in the game.

Ernie Gare then came through with fine style playing up to his usual high standard of play and tied the score at 1-1 going into the next frame. Gassoff and John Price assisted on this one.

Second period action saw Penticton tie the game on Vic Mercredit's second goal of the game, coming at 6:08, after John Price had moved the Essos out in front at the 3:08 mark.

Ed Johnstone then moved the Essos out in front once more when he drove a hard screen shot past Bronco goalie, Dave McClellan with the goal coming at 17:07, and assisted by Jim Lawrence.

Ernie Gares second goal of the night came with just 24 seconds left in the period with Glen Walton and John Price assisting.

In the final period both teams came through with three goals each with Ernie Gare picking up a hat trick of the night and singles coming from Rod Cox and Bryan Smeland.

For Penticton it was Dan Ashman, Garry Donaldson and Dale Turner.

Essos now look for an important win over Penticton once more when they travel to the Peach city Tuesday, then take on Kamloops Rockets here Friday night in a 9 p.m. game then windup the weekend by playing host to Chilliwack Bruins Saturday night at 8:30 p.m.

Sport SOUNDRING Board

Sir:

Now that the Snowmobile Races are satisfactorily over, let us face the fact that the Tillicum race-track is the biggest source of noise pollution in the entire Interior, and that this is entirely unnecessary.

Racing provides fun and excitement for the onlookers, and a test of skill for the driver and maintenance crew. None of these would be affected by a major noise abatement — they might even be increased. The technical justification for racing is that it produces and tests out mechanical improvements, and here the case against noise is clearer still — to produce maximum power with minimum noise is a very positively desirable technical challenge.

So let us keep everything about racing except the mechanical noise, and then we might even be able to hear the normal and pleasant noise of spectator excitement. Tillicum can set a steeply rising handicap penalty against rising noise on a pre-race test, plus a strong additional one for exceeding this level during racing. Racing loses nothing, the neighbourhood gains greatly, and a premium is placed on research on silencing. Outboard motors are soon to be forced to face the problem, so let the newer sport of snowmobiling solve it voluntarily. Tillicum track can practice a solution during its Summer auto-racing season, so it too can act ahead of the compulsion which will come eventually — noise control in towns is on the way, and control outside them will not lag far behind.

Yours truly,
Edwin M. Meade

Sophomore club

Winfield Raiders take NOHL flag

Winfield 3, Armstrong 2

Head of Lake 6, Grandview 4

Although only a two year club in the North Okanagan hockey league, the Winfield Raiders have won the coveted league pennant race for the 70-71 season.

Raiders humbly acted as the leagues door-mat last year but came on strong this year to lead the league with top points.

They cinched the title Sunday night by moving three points

Winfield grabbed a 2-0 first period lead, matched single goals in the second period then allowed Armstrong to score the single marker in the final period to wrap up the league title for the first time.

In the second game of the night, Head of the Lake Stampeders helped the Raiders to the crown by stopping Grandview Warriors to the tune of 6-4.

This victory was particularly

Many people said later they thought he should have been penalized more heavily and one coach was overheard to say he would not put his team out on the ice if Allen were playing next week.

Next Sunday Head of the Lake meets Winfield in the first game at 7:15 p.m. and Armstrong are due to meet Grandview in the wrap-up game of the season.

Lumby Royals capture first place