

Major juniors a bit better

New West. 8, Vernon 3
Medicine Hat 10, Vernon 4

While Vernon Essos didn't fare too well on the score board in their first two outings in the current exhibition series before the regular schedule gets underway next week, their baptism under fire has been a lesson well learned.

To lose a pair of back to back games to teams in the major junior league, the Western Canada hockey loop, is really nothing to lower their collective heads over as, without a doubt, the size and experience of the older players was a major factor.

As mentioned, experience is what the Essos were looking for and by the time the final whistle blew Wednesday night, many of the Vernon roster had picked up the swing of what is to be expected of them come regular league play starting a week Saturday.

Tuesday night against the Westminster Bruins, Essos stepped onto the ice fresh from a strenuous two-week training camp and going against the more experienced Bruins who had already racked up a four win, four loss and one tie record in nine exhibition matches, was enough to tie the best of the Essos in tight knots of nervousness.

However, the locals came out skating and but for a bad second half mid-period, more than held their own.

One factor too was five power-play goals the Bruins managed to slip into the net while the Essos were playing a man short which didn't help matters.

Essos actually held the lead on two occasions, getting pay dirt first to start the game scoring, then jumping into a short lived lead in the second period.

Wayne Dye and Bob Powell started things off at the 13:58 mark of the first stanza when Dye let drive a low sizzler from the point after Powell had set him up.

Former Esso blueline patroller, Bob Craig, but now a regular with the Bruins helped the cause somewhat when he

was sent off a minute earlier for a hooking infraction.

However, Bruins evened things up two minutes later when they took advantage of the first of the five power-plays with John Price off for holding. This goal came from Bruins defenceman Bob Stumpf who also skipped in a low drive unassisted.

Then with only seven seconds remaining in the opening period, NHL protege, Lorne Hennig moved the Bruins out in front to end the period scoring.

Two quick goals at the 4:06 and 6:31 marks of the middle period tied then put the Essos out in front for nearly four minutes.

Ed Johnstone, fifth in the junior A scoring last season with 45 goals and 49 assists went in unassisted to tie the game, then Glen Walton tipped in a slap shot by Clay Anderson who had been fed by Dave Neil two minutes later to put the Essos out in front.

Then at the 11:18 mark, Ken Ireland scored his first of three goals to tie the game once more followed by three more unanswered Bruin goals, each of them on power-plays before the period came to an end for a 7-3 lead going into the final session.

Third period action saw only one goal cross the crease, again it was off a Bruin stick with the Essos sitting a man in the penalty box. This goal came at the 2:51 mark to end the game scoring.

In all, 20 penalties were called, 10 going to each club with Bob Craig taking the lions share for the Bruins with three two minute minors and a 10 minute misconduct.

Wednesday action

Second game of the series saw Medicine Hat Tigers in town with the visitors the complete masters throughout the 60-minute encounter.

Led by a hat trick off the stick of left winger Jeff Ablett, the Tigers ran up a 5-1 lead in the first period, outscored the Essos four goals to two in the middle frame then split the third period scoring at one each in the final session for a 10-4 victory.

While Ablett did the major scoring, others on the Tiger roster came through with big point tallies as Tom Lysiak scored a brace and assisted four times, Randy Andreachuck scored two with three assists and Derek Knutz scored another pair and added a two assist tally.

Single goal came from Bill Christie who also picked up two assists. Also, another good bet for future NHL action, Stan Weir, came through with three assists to show his value.

For Vernon it was Jim Lawrence scoring two unassisted markers, as he managed to steal the puck from a defender to beat another former player, netminder Leo Karchie on both occasions.

Single goals came from Les Salo and Gordon Neilson, who like Lawrence and Karchie hail from the Vancouver area.

While the Essos may have been short on goal scoring, the offensive drives gave fans several good moments to cheer the effort they were showing and on the tally sheet, they outshot the Tigers 32-24 and had only four of the 11 penalties handed out by the referee.

Essos go at it again tonight as they host the Kelowna Buckaroos in an 8 p.m. start at civic arena.

Friday night they travel to Kelowna and then host Calgary Centennials here Saturday night and then meet Victoria Cougars in a Monday night match.

Jr. hockey

Kelowna Bucks in town tonight

Vernon Essos will be out tonight to answer a big question on their minds at the moment. "How do they compare to other B.C. junior A teams this year?"

They take on the Kelowna Buckaroos here in civic arena then move into Kelowna tomorrow night in a pair of back to back exhibition fixtures designed to help set themselves a pattern for the upcoming 60 game schedule that starts here on Oct. 9.

Fresh from a pair of matches

Soccer

A twin bill senior soccer series is planned for MacDonald park this Sunday afternoon with Vernon Kings taking on the powerful Kelowna German Canadians and the Revelstoke new entry meeting with the Penticton Molsons. Game times 2:30 p.m.

All-Star Hockey

The North Okanagan hockey league will taste its first bit of season action this Sunday night at Civic arena when last year champions, Winfield Raiders meet with an all-star selection from the rosters of the other teams in the annual All-Star game.

Game time has been set for 7:30 p.m. and league officials are looking for a good turnout of fans for this big opener.

First games of the regular schedule are due to begin Oct. 17 with all four teams featured.

YBC Bowling

Youth bowlers take to the lanes Saturday morning with a slight change in format over last years action.

Rental fees increased

ENDERBY — Rental fees for the Enderby Arena will not be increased this year.

The Enderby and District Recreational Society decided Sept. 21 to hold down on any increase to help minor hockey and the figure skaters to fight rising costs.

But director Vic Feser warned that "It may be necessary to increase costs next year, "after a cost review and comparison has been made at the end of the season.

The Society agreed to open the Arena from Oct. 3-11 for open skating, before area curlers get their turn between Oct. 12 and Oct. 17.

The season's busy schedule will open on Oct. 18.

Arena concession stand will again be operated by the women's auxiliary to the local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, but auxiliary representative Mrs. Rhoda Gardner suggested that other organizations in the area think of leasing the concession next year.

It was pointed out that an operating licence can only be granted to a properly constituted body.

In the election of officers for the coming year Pete Gilowski was re-elected chairman and Nels Pada of North Enderby re-elected vice-chairman.

Alan Schulte of Grindrod was re-elected as a one-year director, while Eric Blurton of Enderby agreed to finish the second year of his two-year directorship as a one-year director.

Mrs. Joyce Case of Ashton Creek was elected as the third one-year director.

Vic Feser of Grindrod was elected to the two-year director's post.

Mrs. Joan Bond was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

In Wolverhampton, England, a youth who had been balancing a fork on his nose was startled by a noise, opened his mouth and swallowed the fork.

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