

No suspensions handed players

B.C. Junior A hockey league president, Dennis Coates of Kamloops indicated Tuesday in a telephone conversation to the Vernon News, he will not sit out any player on either the Vernon Essos or Kamloops Rockets lineups in the game between these two clubs that will be played in Kamloops tonight.

Rumors to this effect had been prevalent following a brawl between the two clubs on Vernon ice on Nov. 2 in which

every player on both clubs clashed in a 20 minute series of fisticuffs just seconds before the game ended.

Mr. Coates admitted it was hard to assess the true picture of what happened because of conflicting reports turned into him and because of this and the fact he felt the players themselves could not be entirely blamed for the lack of control that should have come from team officials to start with.

The league president did say

however, he would be meeting with some players on each team prior to the game tonight and assured he would have plenty to say to them, particularly Lyle Brewer of Vernon for his leaving the players box first to join in a fight already in progress on the ice.

Rated as one of the most important games so far this season for the Essos, a win is a must if they wish to keep on top of the league standings.

At the moment they have one game in hand over Penticton Broncos who share first place with the Essos at 16 points each with Vancouver Centennials, now known as Richmond, just one point back of the leaders.

Tomorrow night (Thursday) Penticton take on a tough Chilliwack Bruins crew with the Broncos favored to take the game, mainly because of their ability to show well on their own ice.

Then Friday night, while Vernon meet the Bruins here at civic arena, Penticton go back into their own rink to host Vancouver, again Penticton is favored to take that game.

With the point race so close at this time, it stands to reason the Essos will have to be ready to extend their win record from

the present eight of the 16 games they have played so far.

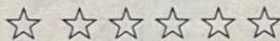
Having already won at least once against each team in the loop, they also must be ready for the likes of Chilliwack, an Vancouver who have joined with Penticton in giving the Essos the short end of the score.

The Essos win record shows them taking three of four games against Penticton, edging Kelowna twice and the other teams, Kamloops, Chilliwack and Vancouver once each.

Game time at Kamloops has been set for 8:30 tonight and reports out of the Hub city indicate one of the largest crowds of the season will be out to see Vernon in the rink for the first time this season.

Friday night on home ice, the game won't get underway until 9 p.m. but the Essos also expect a large crowd after showing some of their best hockey of the season last Saturday when they blanked the Penticton Broncos 4-0 before a medium sized crowd here.

Sunday, Essos host Vancouver in an afternoon game which also promises to be a good style with the Essos out to avenge a 2-0 defeat at the hands of the coast club when they met last in Richmond on Oct. 18.



Free passes to

Enderby-Armstrong minor hockey kids

Free passes will be issued to all minor hockey players in the Enderby-Armstrong area to see the Vernon Essos-Chilliwack Bruins hockey game that takes place this Friday at Vernon Civic Arena.

Vernon team officials have already sent word to these two centres they would be pleased to see as many youngsters who wish to come and watch top

As an added bonus, all children 12 and under accompanied by a parent will also be admitted free of charge.

Along with the free pass guests of the Essos, minor hockey players will be given a chance to win five autographed hockey sticks signed by every member of the Essos roster.

Youngsters from these two centres are asked to report to the west entrance of the arena

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Dear Sir:

I would like to congratulate you on your article in the Vernon News of Nov. 4th with reference to the Vernon-Kamloops Hockey game. The comments made should go a long way to making those concerned aware of the feelings of a great majority of the fans.

It was unfortunate that such an occurrence should take place on a night dedicated to Minor Hockey. However I would like to thank you for your consideration in presenting our Queen, Peggy Kemper, and your involvement generally with our Minor Hockey players.

Yours very truly,
N. R. Pat Duke, Mayor
(Lumby)

Dear Sir:

I would like to comment on the last Kamloops-Vernon Junior Hockey game.

As a Director of the Essos I do not condone fighting nor does the Manager, the Coach or any other director of the team. What

happened however, should be put into proper perspective and in my view this was not done in your write-up of the particular game.

With only seconds remaining, a Kamloops player attacked Wayne Dye from behind with the obvious result that Wayne defended himself. Check the referee's report, don't take my word for it. It was then that the altercation involving all players took place.

It is my firm belief from witnessing this game and other games involving Kamloops that the Kamloops Coach specifically sent one of his mediocre players to start a fight with Wayne Dye so that Wayne would receive a game suspension with the result that he would not be playing the next game between the two teams. This isn't the first time these tactics have been used by Kamloops nor will it be the last.

Yours very truly,
Brian L. Willows