

Must win . . .

Three crucial games on tap for Essos

Vernon Essos hit the hockey trail this weekend with three big games due to be played in the B.C. Junior A hockey league.

While the Essos do hold the league lead, they still must remain on the win trail as second place Penticton Broncos are not that far off the pace, as a matter of fact, by just a mere two points.

Penticton have played one more game than the Essos and by the time Vernon get into the weekend swing, will be two games behind the Broncos as they will take on Chilliwack Bruins tonight (Thursday) and a win in the Fraser Valley centre would put the Broncos even with the Essos, hence each game played by these two clubs (Essos and Broncos) over the weekend will be important to either club and of course any combination of wins by one and losses by the other could be disastrous to the loser.

Essos have by far the best record in their 21 games played, having won 16 of these as against only five losses being recorded with no tie games yet listed for a grand total of 32 points.

Penticton, while only two points back, have played 22 games, won 14, lost six and have recorded two tie games so far for a total of 30 points.

With the Broncos taking in a three game stint at the Coast, playing Chilliwack twice and Richmond Centennials once, Essos move into Kelowna Friday night, then make their

way to Kamloops Saturday night and then top off what could be their biggest weekend of the season by hosting Kelowna Buckaroos Sunday night at civic arena with game time 7:30 p.m.

Added attraction of the Sunday game will see every member of the Vernon minor hockey association (over 400 boys) on hand as special guests of the Essos and a feature entertainment just prior and between the first and second

periods will see a Pee Wee house team take on a girls team.

The boys ages are from 10-12 years while some of the girls expected to don uniforms will be 16-19 years of age. This will be well worth watching.

First part of the exhibition game will start at 7 p.m. sharp for a short duration match before the junior A teams warm up, followed by another short session immediately after the final first period whistle goes.

Bantams wallop Penticton

Coach Garnet Howard had reason to smile last weekend when his Bantam rep team returned home from a successful trip to Penticton last Friday.

Howard's squad came through with one of their bigger wins of the season by banging in a 8-1 victory in the Okanagan.

Coupled with the big win, the Vernon Bantams have also put into the books an impressive 43-9 goals for and against record.

Leading the scoring parade for Vernon was Bill Vachon and Bruce Green with two goals each and singles coming from Terry Lowe, Jim Sparrow, Scott Wenger and Dean Solheim.

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Sunday night

VMHA boys to be guests of Essos

Youngsters of the Vernon minor hockey association will be the special guests of the Vernon Essos hockey club this Sunday night.

The league leading Essos of the B.C. Junior A league will open the doors to the arena to well over 400 young hockey players for the Essos-Kelowna Buckaroo game that starts at 7:30 p.m.

Along with special door prizes to be given away to several lucky boys, added entertainment will see a representative Pee Wee house league team take on a group of junior age girls in an exhibition hockey match with the first of two sessions of this match taking to the ice at 7 p.m. prior to the warmup of the Juniors, then, right at the end of the first period, the exhibition match will resume with the promise the game will be entertaining to say the least.

Selected to represent the boys group will be the Archie Fleming team with Gerald Creelman at the coaching helm. These boys range in age from 10-11 years and will weigh in from between 60 to 70 lbs. whereas their opponents will be much older and in most cases bigger and heavier with most of the girls in junior and senior high school.

This will be the third time so far this season the Essos have

given free passes to youngsters in the North Okanagan. Earlier they had as their special guests children from the Lumby and Enderby-Armstrong minor hockey associations.

Results of badminton tournament

Doug Sharpe, Nick Bidulka and Lorraine Hardy will be participating in Victoria at the Festival of Sports Badminton Tournament on Dec. 10, 11 and 12.

Results of the regional badminton tournament held in Vernon last weekend. (Dec. 5).

Men's singles: won by Doug Sharpe by scores of 15-7 and 15-8. Runner up: Jack Humphreys.

Women's singles: Winner was Mary Williamson, 11-8 and 11-0 over Lorraine Hardy.

Men's doubles: Winners Doug Sharpe and Jack Humphreys, 15-8 and 15-11. Runners up: Duane Thomson and Bill Cunning.

Women's doubles: Winners were Mary Williamson and Sherrie Humphreys 15-8 and 15-6 over Pat Haigh and Mae Yakura.

Mixed doubles: Winners were Doug Sharpe and Mary Williamson, 8-15, 15-11, 15-6 over Jack and Sherrie Humphreys.