

Rockets here Friday

Vernon 6, Kamloops 0

Mike Smithson and Vernon Essos, what a combination . . . Smithson, ace goalie for the Essos, picked up his third shutout of the season, and his second in a row last Tuesday as he and his teammates literally bombed the Kamloops Rockets into a 6-0 submission in B.C. junior A hockey action.

The victory vaulted the Essos into a strangle hold position in the six team league with their 20th victory in 25 starts for a 40 point total, eight more than their nearest rivals the Pen-ticton Broncos.

The Broncos, by the way, were busily being edged by cellar dwelling Kelowna Buckaroos the same night on their own ice to the tune of a 4-3 score.

Getting back to the Essos-

Kamloops game, a five goal outburst in the first period, plus a combination of spectacular goal saves by Smithson several of them of the breadaway variety, launched the Essos into their second shutout in as many games.

Sunday here at Vernon they drubbed Kelowna 15-0 and with the two games had brought their current win streak to five straight and a total of 166 goals scored in their favour as opposed to only having 80 scored against them in the initial 25 outings of the 60 game schedule.

Wayne Dye and Ernie Gare, along with John Price and Glen Walton were the scoring heros plus a fantastic team effort in every respect from the goalie the defencemen in front of him, to the high flying forwards who made no mistake on every

opening allowed them deep inside the Kamloops territory.

Wayne Dye and Ernie Gare led the scoring with two each with the singles by Price and Walton, but possibly the real story of the game stems from the fact Mike Smithson was absolutely fantastic as he pushed aside 34 shots at him, most of which normally would have been well executed goals. To say he was really up for the game would only be putting it mildly as his moves, on at least three breakaway attempts were a wonder to behold and if the way the large crowd reacted is any criteria, then he would, and did put the best of the NHL pros to shame with his manoeuvres with both hands and legs reacting like spring coils of lightning speed.

Friday night the Essos meet the Kamloops boys again here in civic arena and there is no doubt, Kamloops won't be content to sit back and let the Essos repeat the style of game against them on this occasion.

So far, Essos have beaten the Rockets in their first four meetings, scoring a total of 22 goals as against having only nine scored against them.

Game time Friday has been set for a 9 p.m. start so as to facilitate late hour Christmas shoppers.

Sunday afternoon the Essos again host when they take on the ever strong Richmond

Centennials. That game will begin sharp at 2:30 p.m. and promises to be another of the better games Essos will play this first half of the season.

Snow club fun day on Sunday

On Sunday Dec. 18, the Vernon Snowmobile Assn. will be holding a fun day.

Events for this fun day include both regular and obstacle races for children, ladies and men.

There will be trophies and prizes for all events and the day will undoubtedly provide enjoyment for everybody.

Although the events will be limited to club members the general public is invited to attend.

People are asked to bring their own lunches with additional food and refreshments available to buy from a local catering service.

The location is the large field behind Pete's Fruit Stand; to enter the parking area simply turn right off hwy. 6 at Aberdeen Road and follow the signs. Events start at 12:30 Sunday.

Approximately 85 per cent of the total area of Prince Edward Island is suited for cultivation and agriculture.

Big night planned for Joe Tennant

Reports of Kamloops Rockets followers asking for 100 seats for the Friday night game here in Vernon has been confirmed by Essos manager Vern Dye.

Mr. Dye reported early today that 100 seats had been asked for and it is expected those Kamloops fans will be arriving here early to get the best seats in the house.

Mr. Dye also reported he and the Essos were calling the game the "Joe Tennant night" and plans were underway to make a special presentation to him during the game.

A note submitted by local Vernon fan and Essos promoter, Brian Willows, was turned in and should help shed some light on what the Rockets' chief can expect when he gets here.

The note is as follows:

Christmas is just around the corner and a special Christmas treat is in store for Joe Tennant, the irrepressible coach of the Kamloops Rockets this Friday night. The Vernon Essos are planning "Friday as "Joe Tennant night" in Vernon to honor the colorful Tennant.

"Over the years, controversy, feuds and verbal battles have erupted between the two teams. This year is no exception and the rivalry is still intense although the Kamloops squad has not yet been able to gain even one point from the Essos.

"Esso manager Vern Dye who has long endured the antics

of Tennant has never been able to forget the many verbal barrages that the Essos are 'bush-league,' their players cry-babies, their coach Odie Lowe lacking in hockey knowledge, and their management even worse.

"Friday night, the Essos plan on surprising Tennant's crew with some of their own medicine. Fans will witness a special presentation to coach Tennant, who no doubt will be passing on some of his words of wisdom in return. Oh yes, Vern Dye predicts another big win for the Essos - 'just to make Tennant's evening even more enjoyable,' he says."

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