

Home ice their forte

Essos extend their league leadership

Vernon 3, Kamloops 7
Vernon 9, Nor Wes Caps 8
Vernon 7, Chilliwack 4

Vernon Essos rounded out their first half of the 60 game B.C. junior A hockey schedule on a winning note Tuesday night with their 24th win of the season as against only six losses so far.

The 7-4 victory over Chilliwack Bruins was also their 14th win on home ice as against only one loss and vaulted them 9 points ahead of second place Penticton Broncos who had a time of it in coming through on a 3-3 tie with Kelowna Buckaroos in a game played also Tuesday evening.

The league leaders while picking up the win, didn't really have that good a weekend as Sunday they dropped a 7-3 game to fourth place Kamloops Rockets, then just barely edged a junior B club from North

Vancouver, the Nor Wes Caps by a large 9-8 score board reading Monday night.

The Sunday and Monday games must of helped wash the Christmas spirits and turkey dinners out of their systems however as Tuesday night they put on one of their better performances of the season by coming through with their fourth straight win over the Chilliwack club and their fifth in six games played against the Fraser Valley team so far this season.

Wayne Dye led his teammates to victory with a tremendous three goals while his buddies, Ernie Gare, Glen Walton, Jim Lawrence and John Price added singles.

Essos led 2-1 at the end of the first period, repeated the same scoring in the middle frame to take a 4-2 lead going into the final 20 minute session.

B.C. JUNIOR A HOCKEY STANDINGS To and including Dec. 28, 1971

	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Vernon Essos	30	24	6	0	48
Penticton Broncos	31	18	10	3	39
Chilliwack Bruins	29	13	14	2	28
Kamloops Rockets	27	9	12	6	24
Richmond Centennials	30	10	18	2	22
Kelowna Buckaroos	29	5	19	5	15

The third period saw another five goals scored as Essos again took the edge with three more to rack up the 7-4 victory.

Bruins' Vern Quaroni started the games scoring with Essos coming up with two of their own off the sticks of hard working Ernie Gare and Glen Walton.

At the halfway point of the second period, Bruins tied the game on a power play with John Price off for a tripping call but Wayne Dye came through with the first of his three goal night, two minutes later then added another one minute and one second to go.

Essos made it 5-2 with just 49 seconds gone in the final period when Jim Lawrence banged in a goal mouth pass from Ed Johnstone.

A pair of quick goals at 3:59 and another power-play goal at 4:28 brought the Bruins within a single marker of the front running Essos but a slick goal by John Price on the short side and to the right of Bruins goalie Tom George at the 15:31 mark and Wayne Dye's hard slap shot from dead centre at 16:27 and just inside the blue line put the game in wraps for the Essos.

While Wayne Dye and John Price were given first and second star rating on the game another of the harder workers on the team Ed Johnstone, had a big night as he came through with four big assists. Another of the workhorse members of the team Ernie Gare, also came in for plaudits, as on more than one occasion he brought fans to their feet as he worked his way

up the ice with some fantastic stick handling ability.

Actually, the whole team were at their best and gave fans something to cheer about.

While it may seem an excuse, the game at Kamloops on Boxing Day where the Essos took it on the chin in a lacklustre performance may have stemmed from the fact they were short several of their better players such as John Price, Ernie Gare, Les Salo, Dave Neil and George Fargher to name but a few.

However be as it may, Rockets had to fight back from a 2-1 first period deficit and go into the third period with the game tied 3-3 before coming through with four unanswered markers to salt the game away at 7-3 in their favour.

Ken Gassoff led the Kamloops Attack with three goals to play one of his best games of the season. He is the younger brother of former Essos defenceman Bob Gassoff.

Bill Vernon, Ed Johnstone and Wayne Dye did the scoring honors for the Essos in that game, which by the way, was the first victory registered by Kamloops over Vernon this season in six meetings.

Next big game for the Essos is right here on home ice as they take on a steadily improving Kelowna Buckaroo team who have beaten and tied second place Penticton in their last two outings.

The game is this Thursday, Dec. 30 and starts sharp at 8 p.m.

at safety . . . nt in hunting

firearms. The total number of deaths while hunting in 1971 is about the same as the previous three years, but the number caused by firearms has increased to 11 as compared to five in 1970, eight in 1969, and eight in 1968. The other deaths were caused by such accidents as falls and drownings.

One thing the statistics show, deflating some arguments, is that young hunters cannot be collectively blamed for hunting accidents. The average age of hunters in British Columbia who have inflicted injury or death on themselves or others is

their habitats; care of firearms and gun handling, sportsman responsibilities, caring for game meat; safety, first aid and survival. "The Ten Commandments of Safety" are considered essential knowledge for all persons heading outdoors with a gun.

"The more we understand the outdoors and practice the rules of safety, the better off we'll be," explains Presidente. "And it might prevent that terrible realization that you have fired upon and injured or killed another person."