

## Still on top

# Essos just keep rolling along

Vernon Essos again capped a perfect weekend of Junior hockey in their win book as they successfully edged Richmond Centennials 8-5 Friday then took on the Chilliwack Bruins and mauled them to a 5-2 defeat with both games being played here on home ice.

For the Essos it was their 17th and 18th wins on home ice this season and their 29th victory of the year in the B.C. junior A hockey league action.

Holding a total of 58 points, and leading the league, 13 points ahead of second place Penticton Broncos, Essos have 22 more league games to play and the way it looks will have to lose a lot of games in order to be knocked from the high elevation they now hold in the league standings.

While they have had some low moments of late in finding the opposition goal mouth, they still retain better than five goals a game scoring average and with all three forward lines producing equally well in both the scoring and assist department.

Defensively, Essos seem to be getting better, too and with the addition of Bob Marsh have settled down to a strong back-checking club.

Friday night, Essos jumped into a 3-1 first period lead, added five more in the second frame to visiting Richmond single then literally sat back and allowed the coast boys to come through with three unanswered goals to narrow their lead to only three goals by the final whistle.

Sunday afternoon, Essos allowed Chilliwack to score the only goal of the first period, then came up with three goals of their own, all of them off the stick of right winger Les Salo who literally staged a one-man-show with his quick reflexes around the front of the Bruins goal mouth.

Then in the final period, again outscored the visitors with Jeff Shirley and Ernie Gare coming up with single markers. Chilliwack started the period with their final goal coming at 18 seconds of the frame.

While the Essos came out on top of the Friday game, the way they played the final period didn't sit too well with coach



## BCJHL scoreboard

### BCJHL WEEKEND SCOREBOARD

Friday—  
 Vernon 8, Richmond 5  
 Penticton 5, Chilliwack 3  
 Kelowna 6, Kamloops 1  
 Saturday—  
 Kelowna 6, Richmond 4  
 Kamloops 4, Chilliwack 2  
 Sunday—  
 Vernon 5, Chilliwack 2  
 Penticton 5, Richmond 2

## B.C. junior A standings

To and including Jan. 16, 1972

Team	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Vernon Essos	38	29	9	0	235	127	58
Penticton Broncos	38	21	14	3	168	141	45
Kamloops Rockets	36	16	14	6	149	131	38
Chilliwack Bruins	36	16	18	2	140	146	34
Richmond Cent.	37	11	24	2	131	197	24
Kelowna Buckaroos	35	8	22	5	128	204	21

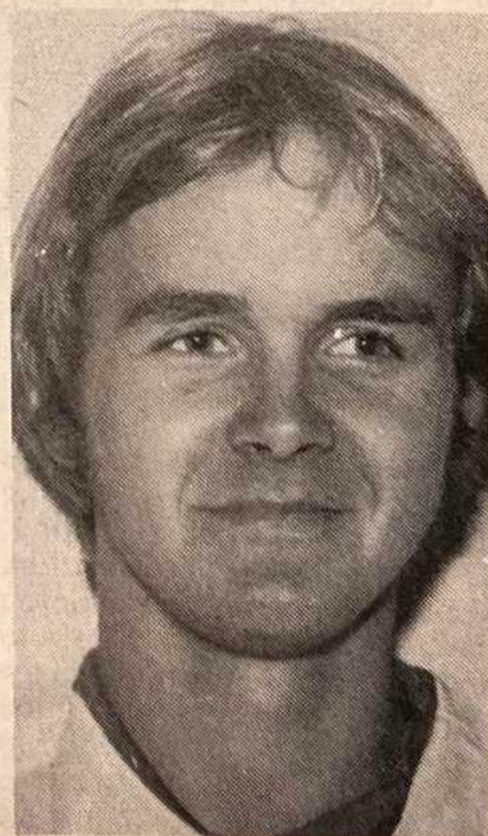
Odie Lowe who watched the encounter from the bleacher area of the arena because of a one game suspension handed down by the league for using strong words against referee Red Boschka of Penticton on Jan. 7 at Penticton.

Apparently Lowe gave Boschka a verbal tongue lashing in the corridor of the arena after the game in the peach city for obviously terrible officiating.

Lowe apparently was quite upset watching his boys from near the rafters and when they allowed Richmond to run all over them in the third period Friday, had them all come back on the ice after the game was over and go through a 15 minute skating drill session.

However, this was all made up after the game Sunday when the team and arena workers such as door men and goal judges got together for a steak dinner at one of the local restaurants.

Essos take to the home ice again tomorrow, Tuesday, when they play host to Kelowna



LES SALO

... scores hat trick

Buckaroos in an 8 p.m. game start.

Kelowna have come on strong of late and are now only three points back of fifth place Richmond.

### Additional

# Sports