

First tie recorded

Lucky Essos didn't lose ground in race for title

Vernon 3, Kelowna 10
Vernon 5, Penticton 5

Few would argue one point is better than nothing at all, but it is disappointing to say the least. Vernon Essos did not come through with four points in their last two outings.

Big reason of course stems from the 10-3 shellacking handed them at the hands of the B.C. junior hockey league's doormat team, The Kelowna Buckaroos Tuesday night in the Regatta city, then scraping through with a 5-5 tie here at home with second place Penticton Broncos Wednesday night.

The most amazing part of it all, Essos did not lose any ground at all because they went to Kelowna sporting a one game in hand situation over idle Penticton and then shared a single point with the same Broncos on the split game the following night.

Essos still hold just as tight a rein on the league leadership as before with their 15 point bulge over second place Penticton and both teams have only 14 games remaining in the regular league schedule.

Essos now have 69 points, followed by Penticton with 54, Chilliwack with 42, Kamloops with 39, Richmond 31 and Kelowna with 29.

Sad part of it all stems from the fact had Essos picked up the four points instead of the one marker, everyone would have conceded they had wrapped up the Pennant race the B.C. league for the second time in three years.

Actually, Essos may have the Pennant flag ready to hoist as all they have to win is half of their 14 remaining games while Broncos will have to win all of their 14 encounters and still be one point behind.

By winning all remaining games, Broncos could end up with 82 points while Essos would have a total of 83 points by just winning their next seven games.

Tuesday at Kelowna, according to the score sheet, Kelowna jumped into a 3-1 first period lead, added four more in the second period to the Essos two then proceeded to blank Vernon in the final stanza while adding three more of their own to make the whitewash complete.

Team captain Phil Blake had the big night on a four goal splurge for the Bucks while Essos goals were single markers by Jim Lawrence, Glen Walton and John Price.

At home Wednesday, Essos and Broncos spent the evening swapping goals with Vernon taking a 2-1 lead in the first period, allowing Broncos to score a pair of unanswered goals in the middle frame with Essos then coming through with three goals to the Broncos pair in the final period.

While for the most part, the Vernon-Penticton game had to be considered dull, with only one bright spark coming from the league leading pointman John Price who scored two goals and was the main force in keeping Penticton at Bay each time they had power-plays. Of the seven Vernon penalties handed out, only one Penticton goal was scored with a man in the box.

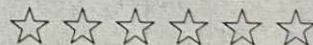
Others doing the honors for the Essos were Glen Walton, Jeff Shirley and Jim Lawrence with single goals.

Penticton scorers were Gerry McMullen with two, and singles by Bob Nicholson, Harry Turk and Dan Ashman.

The tie marked the first time this year Essos have shared points with another team and for the Broncos it was number four this season.

While the game was a regular league fixture, an extra bonus of the game was the presentation of the Winter Carnival trophy which Essos have won four straight times and with the tie, also a first for the trophy award, both teams will share that honor as team captain Jim Lawrence of Vernon and Broncos captain Bruce Affleck were presented with the trophy by Mayor Stuart Fleming during a ceremony at the end of the game.

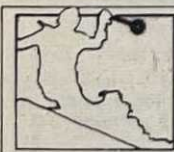
Next home game for the Essos will see Richmond Centennials back in town on Friday, Feb. 18. Meanwhile, Essos next away game will see them in Kelowna once more for a Sunday night fixture with Kelowna Buckaroos this weekend.



B.C. junior A standings

To and including Feb. 9, 1972.

Team	Gp	W	L	T	Gf	Ga	Pts
Vernon	46	34	11	1	280	161	69
Penticton	46	25	17	4	203	167	54
Chilliwack	44	20	22	2	169	173	42
Kamloops	42	16	19	7	164	159	39
Richmond	44	14	27	3	157	230	31
Kelowna	44	12	27	5	169	252	29
					total goals	1142	1142



S'NO Foolin' by JAN

A group of wild men from Edmonton kept things swinging on Silver Star early this week. Among them were Mike Van, chief photographer for the Edmonton Journal and Dave

Their demonstration team also promise us a gelunde and trick skiing exhibition.

Cec Clark helicoptered in the Bugaboos all last week. He reports he got 124,000 vertical