Revenge Is Sweet: Bucks Essos Now Are Wondering

In Kelowna Buckaroos' estimation, turnabout is fair play. And there isn't another team in the league that Bucks would rather get back at than Vernon Essos.

The high-flying Essos, runaway league leaders in the B.C. Junior Hockey League, were riddled 8-2 by Buckaroos Sunday before a crowd of more than 1,300 at the Memorial Arena.

Bucks, who shellacked Essos Tuesday in Kelowna by a 10-3 score, are clamoring for an escape from last place in the six team league and a playoff berth. They have won three of their last four games, tying the other, in their attempt to grab a shot at the playoffs.

Bucks go against Kamloops Rockets in Kamloops Wednesday and have a return engagement with Rockets in the Memorial Arena Friday at 8:30 p.m. Chilliwack Bruins visit the Arena Saturday at 8:30 p.m. Rockets hold the playoff spot that Bucks are after, with Bruins only a few points in front of them in standings.

Tad Campbell led the Buck sharpshooters with two goals, while Archie McKinnon, Murray Hanson, Bruce Gerlach, Ken Selinger and Dale Turner scored singles.

Glen Walton and Jim Lawrence scored for Essos.

Bucks didn't come out of the game unscathed, with a serious injury to forward Ken Weninger that might sideline him the rest of the season. Weninger was taken in along the boards by Essos' Les Salo midway through the third period, and left the ice with a shoulder injury.

It was reported later that Weninger had suffered a separated shoulder. Bucks' Brad Robson suffered a cut to the eye early in the third period, apparently caused by a lineman breaking up the altercation. Ice was taken to the hospital for repairs.

Essos started the game as if they were going to make up for the earlier drubbing they had suffered, and twice led in the first period. Bucks came out of the opening frame with a 3-2 lead and jumped into a 5-2 lead by the end of the second stanza.

Walton opened the scoring with 1:27 gone in the first period as he golfed the puck into the corner of the net, but his lead didn't stand up long as Selinger cooly picked a corner with a wrist shot three minutes later.

The next Esso lead didn't even stand up that long, as the puck bounced off Lawrence's leg into the Buck net at 9:45 and Campbell evened the score 40 seconds later.

McKinnon scored the winning goal late in the period as he dug the puck from under an Esso defenceman and flipped it into the net past a surprised Earl Bowie in the Vernon net.

McKinnon teamed with linemate Murray Hanson for the first goal in the second period, a classy passing play that saw Hanson tip the puck past Bowie.

Gerlach scored as he streaked down the left side and flipped the puck behind Bowie, to give Bucks a commanding lead.

The third period was much the same, only worse for the visiting Essos.

A fight between Essos' Wayne Dye and a Kelowna fan marred the third period, with the fan starting the battle. The fan got in the first punch at Dye, seated on the Esso bench, and Dye retaliated with his stick. The bout was quickly broken up and the fan ejected.

The fight seemed to take whatever spirit Essos had left, and Bucks dominated the play although being outshot 9-7.

Fox made the score 6-2 by flipping in a pass from Selinger and Turner and Campbell put the finishing touches on the rout with goals in the second half of the period.

Bucks' goalie Ron Bourcier was unbeatable after the first two Esso goals, and received a lot of help from his defence and with the forwards' backchecking. He had to make 22 saves in the game, while Bowie was called upon for 31 saves.

Bucks' power play showed up well, but they could only capitalize on one of the Essos' eight minor penalties. Bucks took two minor infractions and two of four majors for fighting.

Packers Win Semi-Final Series Injuries Hit Victorious Squad

Kelowna Packers will advance to the Okanagan Mainline Juvenile Hockey League final against either Kamloops or Penticton after they defeated Vernon 5-2 in two-game total goal semi-finals during the weekend.

Packers scored three third period goals Saturday night in Kelowna for a 4-1 win and tied Vernon 1-1 Sunday to win the series.

Four players were injured in the two-game set, and three of them might be sidelined for the rest of the season. Dave Hanson suffered a broken wrist Saturday.

Sunday Bill Carignan suffered goals each, with Will Granoly replying for Vernon.

Vernon took a 1-0 lead after the first period before Head tied the score in the second. Packers broke open the game in the third period with their scoring spree.

Les Strachan notched Kelowna's goal in the first period Sunday, with Vernon coming back with one in the second by Cy Davidson.

Swim Records Foiled By Girls