

Late recovery . . .

Their style was lousy but Essos win two games

By DOUG BULWER
Vernon 8, Richmond 6
Vernon 7, Chilliwack 5

Vernon Essos maintained their 14 point league lead over the five other B.C. junior A hockey clubs following a pair of weekend games but their method of winning these games left many home town fans wondering.

Friday night Essos had to literally scramble from a 6-1 deficit after two periods of play to score seven unanswered goals in the final 20 minutes of the action to win by an 8-6 margin over visiting Richmond Centennials.

Sunday afternoon, again playing before home town fans, they had to break a 3-3 tie going into the final session to edge Chilliwack Bruins by a 7-5 difference.



JOHN PRICE
... puts up dukes

Essos had taken a 2-0 first period lead but allowed the Bruins to come back with three goals to their one in the middle period before getting untracked to outscore the visitors 4-2 in the last frame.

As mentioned, Essos won both games but in all truthfulness didn't look like the best team in the BCJHL.

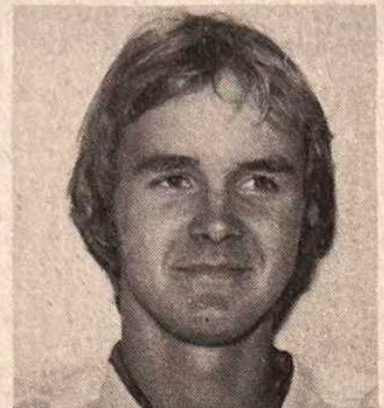
Actually Essos have not played their best style of hockey in at least seven games and if it weren't for the big bulge of points over second place Penticton could be in trouble at this moment as to how they will finish in the pennant race.

With 10 games remaining, they have assured themselves of a playoff spot but not necessarily the league pennant.

Problem seems to be the Essos may have thought themselves just too good, yet to put the fault on anyone's shoulders would be quite unfair because each player gives the impression he is trying hard to do his best . . . maybe that's it, they are each trying but not as a team.

Classic example came Friday night when they found themselves down 5-0 before John Price put the Essos on the scoreboard but it took nearly 40 minutes of hockey to come through with a goal.

It seemed the game would have continued on the same theme had not a fight started



LES SALO
... big hat trick

with less than three minutes played showing on the third period time.

Here again it was Price who provided the so-called spark when he tangled with Richmond's Don Jamieson and when the smoke had cleared, Price's teammates Ernie Gare, Cliff Lane and Lyle Brewer joined him in the shower room along with Richmond's Jamieson, Dave Haluk, Don Harrison and Jim Nedelak.

All eight players were given game misconducts plus an additional five minutes each to Price and Jamieson for starting it.

From that point on, the remainder of the Essos woke up and started playing hockey much to the delight of the partisan crowd.

Jim Lawrence, always one of the hardest workers, started the goal scoring spree just over the four minute mark, followed by Les Salo's first of three goal efforts, at 5:36.

Lawrence came through with his second marker a minute and a half later with Salo scoring his second goal nearly two minutes later to bring the Essos within one goal of the visitors.

Salo and Lawrence's four goals within the space of four and a half minutes got the fans and team up with excitement and 33 seconds later the rafters were really ringing with cheering as Wayne Dye executed one of his remarkable bits of manoeuvring after taking a pass from goalie Earl Bowie who replaced starter Mike Smithson at the end of the

second period, with Dye skating alone up the ice and neatly tucking the puck into the net with a pair of Richmond defenders draped over his shoulders.

The goal by Dye, his 48th of the season tied the game, then two minutes later Les Salo, along with Dye and Glen Walton took advantage of a Richmond penalty and again surged into Richmond territory with Salo scoring what was to prove to be the winner, however rookie Jeff Shirley added another goal later to insure the Essos victory.

Sunday afternoon, Essos again found themselves the masters of the game at least for the first 20 minutes then fell back defensively to allow Chilliwack Bruins to match single goals then add two more to tie the game going into the final period.



EARL BOWIE
... gains assist

Essos however came back with four more of their own to look as strong as ever before once more letting up to let Chilliwack push two soft goals past Earl Bowie with both goals coming with less than a minute remaining in the game.

In this game, Jim Lawrence again provided the spark with a pair of markers with singles coming off the sticks of John Price, Les Salo, Bob Marsh, Glen Walton and Jeff Shirley.

Meanwhile in other BCJHL games, Kelowna Buckaroos have taken over fifth place on a pair of weekend victories as they edged Kamloops Rockets 2-1 and Chilliwack Bruins 6-2 on home ice.

Buckaroos, the perennial league doormat team for the past two seasons, let it be known they want a playoff spot as they have not put together six victories and one tie in their last seven games and are only six points back of fourth place Kamloops Rockets.

Penticton, in a pair of games had little trouble with Chilliwack Friday night as they washed the Bruins with a 6-1 victory and then edged Richmond 3-1 Sunday afternoon.

Both coast clubs have found the going rough in their visits to the Interior of late, with Chilliwack for example, taking both of their last two trips on the complete losing side with three losses recorded per trip.

Next game on tap for the Essos will see them take on Kamloops Rockets here in Vernon Tuesday night (tomorrow) with doors opening at 7 p.m. and the game set for an 8 o'clock start.

Junior standings may see changes

While Vernon Essos and Penticton Broncos have virtually clinched a playoff spot in B.C. junior 'A' hockey, a fight looms for third and fourth places of the six team league.

Currently holding a slim one point lead for third place, Chilliwack Bruins are back home today nursing a three game losing streak handed them on their Interior swing over the weekend.

Holding down fourth place is the Kamloops Rockets but are beginning to look over their shoulders as perennial cellar-dwelling Kelowna Buckaroos have come to life in their last seven games to win six of these and tie the other and now move ahead of Richmond Centennials who were also stymied in their three game stint in the Okanagan over the weekend.

With the exception of Chilliwack, the other five teams

have only 11 games remaining in their schedules of regular league play (Chilliwack has nine) and the fight for fourth and last playoff spot could produce some strange results, namely, see last year's champions, the Kamloops Rockets hang up their gear early this year.

Essos hold a 14 point bulge over Penticton followed by Chilliwack who are in turn 14 points back of the Broncos, then following closely on the heels of the Chilliwack crew, comes fourth place Rockets who are only a single point away from tying the Fraser Valley team.

As mentioned, Kelowna have come to life of late and hold fifth place, just six points behind Kamloops.

Now in the cellar as of the weekend, Richmond Centennials are three points behind Kelowna.

B.C. Junior Hockey Standings
to and including Feb. 20, 1972

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts.
Vernon Essos	49	36	12	1	73
Penticton Broncos	49	27	17	5	59
Chilliwack Bruins	51	21	27	3	45
Kamloops Rockets	49	18	23	8	44
Kelowna Buckaroos	49	16	27	6	38
Richmond Centennials	49	16	30	3	35

Skiing is big business

Canada's 900,000 skiers last winter spent close to \$287 million pursuing their favorite hobby, according to a special report released in December by the Canadian Ski Association.

Prepared by the management consultant firm of P. S. Ross and Partners, the report says that a total of almost \$182 million was spent in ski areas on lift tickets (\$39 million), on-site accommodation and other area revenue (\$57.2 million) and off-

Secondary expenditures — so-called "multiplier effect" that occurs when money is recirculated — would bring the total amount of expenditure generated by the skiing industry in 1970-71 to an estimated \$572 million.

Growth figures suggest that if the number of skier-visits in Canada continues to grow at a 12 per cent compound growth rate, the number will have doubled by 1977.

The current figure of 900,000 active skiers in Canada would