

For league flag

Essos need just one more

Vernon 5—Penticton 4

Vernon 2—Kamloops 3

Vernon Essos have eight games to play in the regular schedule of the B.C. junior hockey league and it will take just one more victory to wrap up the pennant race for the second time in three years.

Essos have now put together 38 wins in 52 games played, losing 13 and tying one for a league leading 77 points, 17 more than second place Penticton Broncos.

Actually, had the Essos won their second game of the past weekend over Kamloops, they would now be waving the above mentioned flag, as it was they dropped a squeaker by a 3-2 difference.

Essos started out Friday night by picking up what proved to be a four point night over Penticton when they edged the host club 5-4 but fell back on the loss to Kamloops Saturday night.

Had the Essos taken the Rockets, they would have helped Kelowna Buckaroos join the Rockets for the fourth spot in the league standings.

As it was, Kelowna took a trip to the lower mainland over the weekend and are home today with an excellent three games played to their credit.

Friday night at Richmond they came up with a 3-1 victory, Saturday at Chilliwack dropped the Bruins by a 3-2 score, then Sunday afternoon, managed a 4-4 tie with Richmond for a five point weekend which finds them just two points back of Kamloops and three points behind third place Chilliwack.

For the Essos against Penticton, it was a scoreless first period with both teams battling out a 2-2 second period with Broncos jumping into an early third period 4-2 lead only to have Essos come back with three unanswered goals to take

the win.

Down by the 4-2 difference with less than three minutes to go, Essos Wayne Dye started his club on the come back trail with a goal at 17:03 with Les Salo finding the tying marker 43 seconds later to set the stage for Jim Lawrence's winning goal with just 26 seconds remaining in the game.

At Kamloops Saturday night, both the Essos and Rockets matched single goals in the first period with Vernon taking the only goal of the middle period for a slim 2-1 lead going into the final 20 minutes of the action.

Word has it, both Rocket goals in the final period were unearned as a defensive lapse allowed Rockets Ken Gassoff to

go all the way in without anyone to hold him back.

The Rockets winner also came on what was termed a soft goal, as netman Mike Smithson let up for a fraction of a second on a long drive from outside the blueline to let the winning goal dribble past him.

Ernie Gare did the only scoring for the Essos at Kamloops while Ken Gassoff proved to be the best for the Rockets as he pushed in a pair of markers with Don Ashby scoring the winner.

Essos now sit back another several days before their next game, which will be at the Coast for three games next weekend, two with Richmond and a single with Chilliwack.

B.C. JUNIOR HOCKEY STANDINGS

Too and including Feb. 27, 1972

TEAM	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Vernon	52	38	13	1	77
Penticton	51	27	18	6	60
Chilliwack	53	22	28	3	47
Kamloops	51	19	24	8	46
Kelowna	53	18	27	8	44
Richmond	52	16	32	4	36

WEEKEND SCOREBOARD