

## Junior hockey ...

# Loss may cost money

Vernon Essos have only lost two games on home ice this season and tied one for a good record before home town fans in 28 appearances, but the second loss which unfolded last Saturday night may cost them money.

Essos have long since wrapped up the B.C. junior hockey league pennant race with remaining games a mere formality but in the case of their meeting with Chilliwack Bruins last Saturday night where they dropped a 4-3 score, it may cost them a fair amount of travelling money when it comes to the best of seven semi-final series which is due to start the latter part of March.

The situation comes about with the current close race for the fourth and final playoff spot with three teams only one point separating each other in third, fourth and fifth places.

Vernon will take on the fourth place winner and if it happens to be Chilliwack who at the moment are in fourth, the costs

of travelling back and fourth to the Fraser Valley will be much greater than going to either Kelowna or Kamloops.

As of the past weekend, Kamloops hold down third place just one point ahead of Chilliwack. The Rockets have 53 points, while Chilliwack have 52.

Still far from being out of it all is Kelowna Buckaroos who have lost only one game in their last 16 starts. They currently are in fifth with a 51 point tally.

During the weekend, Chilliwack kept themselves in the running with one win, a loss and a tie in their interior three game swing.

They lost to Kamloops 5-3 Friday, won over Vernon 4-3 Saturday and then battled to a 5-5 tie with Kelowna Sunday.

At the same time, Richmond were also in the interior where they dropped all three of their games, by a 11-3 difference at Kelowna Friday, 5-3 Saturday at Kamloops then were edged 4-3 at Penticton Sunday.

With both Kelowna and Chilliwack left with only two games each to play in the regular schedule, both teams will be looking for big wins and here is where Vernon comes in. Essos will host the Kelowna

squad here tomorrow night then Kamloops will take on the Buckaroos Wednesday.

Wins are a must for Kelowna in both games while Chilliwack must lose against Penticton on their home ice when they host

the Broncos for two games next weekend.

Game time here is 8:30 p.m. tomorrow night with a reported several hundred Kelowna fans already booking for seats at Civic arena.

## B.C. junior A standings

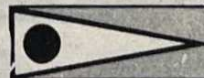
to and including March 12, 1972

Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts
Vernon	57	40	16	1	81
Penticton	56	30	19	7	67
Kamloops	57	22	26	9	53
Chilliwack	58	24	30	4	52
Kelowna	58	21	28	9	51
Richmond	58	17	37	4	38



K. A. (KEN) GANDEN, Manager

G. M. (GARY) CORNER, Dispenser



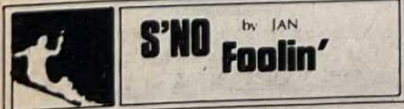
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