

On the playoff trail . . .

Vernon take two game lead in series

Vernon 5, Chilliwack 4
Vernon 6, Chilliwack 3

Vernon Essos have taken a firm hold on the best of seven semi-final playoff series with Chilliwack Bruins in B.C. junior A hockey action.

Essos came through with a pair of back to back victories over the Bruins on home ice in the opening rounds of the series and if they can continue their winning ways again tonight and Saturday at Chilliwack will earn a well deserved rest while the other semi-final series unwinds itself.

That series by the way features Penticton Broncos and Kamloops Rockets with each team picking up one win each.

The 'A' series with Vernon and Chilliwack saw Vernon take

a close 5-4 win Tuesday night and then come back with a convincing 6-3 marking Wednesday night here at Vernon.

Displaying both hot and cold action, the Vernon-Chilliwack series in the main has not proven quite as exciting playoff hockey as many local fans would like to see.

This was particularly noticeable Wednesday night as Vernon never were in any trouble throughout the encounter, although the Bruins did put the pressure on several times in the second and third periods.

In this game Vernon really told the story in the first period by taking a 3-0 lead on a pair of sharp goals by Ernie Gare and a slick tip-in by John Price. Gares' second marker was the first of five power-play goals both teams scored in the nine

they shared.

As mentioned, Essos were never in any serious trouble, for example by the 13 minute mark of the middle period led by a wide 5-1 margin and 5-2 to start the third stanza.

Along with Gares' pair of goals, Wayne Dye also contributed to a pair of slick goals, one when he stole the puck at the Bruins blueline and the other a sizzler from the right point and 30 feet out, that never left the ice surface.

Single Vernon goals came off the sticks of John Price and Jim Lawrence. For the Bruins, their best effort came from rookie Greg Reid who slapped in a couple of goal mouth scramble plays with the single by defenceman Bob Hess.

In the opening game of the series, Essos slammed in two quick goals, 39 seconds apart at

the mid-point of the first period, then tallied another at the 46 second mark of the second period before Chilliwack took advantage of a power-play goal which also came early in the middle frame.

It was Wayne Dye and Jim Lawrence in that order of the first frame scoring and Dye again for the third Essos goal.

Ron Popadenetz scored the Bruins first goal of the series on the above mentioned power-play then came back late in the third period for his second goal of the night.

Ken Widemyer added Chilliwack's second goal of the second period to bring the Bruins within a single goal margin of the Essos to start the final period.

Ernie Gare put the Essos ahead by two goals late in the third only to have the Bruins answer that one and then tie the game with only three and a half minutes remaining in the regulation time.

While many thought the game would go into over-time, the league leading pointman, John Price, had other plans as he topped the goal scoring off with a slick piece of maneuvering with just over a minute remaining to score the Essos' winning goal.

Meanwhile in the 'B' playoff series, Penticton took the opening game on home ice Tuesday night by a 3-1 difference only to have the Kamloops Rockets come back with a big 5-2 victory on their home ice Wednesday to split that series at one game apiece.

They also continue with back to back games this weekend with both series due for an early finish so as to begin the finals with that series must be concluded by April 10.

At Coast April 5

Worlds best skaters to stage big show

Canadian ice dance champions Louise and Barry Soper have been added to the list of the world's greatest figure skaters who will be at the Pacific Coliseum April 5 for one performance only when the Tour of Champions comes to Vancouver.

They join such outstanding skaters as world champion Trixi Schuba of Austria; silver medalist Karen Magnussen of North Vancouver; bronze medalist Janet Lynn of the United States.

World men's champion Ondrej Nepela of Czechoslovakia; silver medalist Sergei Chetverukin of Russia; Canadian champion T. L.

Val Bezic.

In all, 25 skaters from eight nations will participate in the dazzling two-hour exhibition of free skating.

Most of the net proceeds from the show go into the skating bursary fund, which has helped a number of Canadian skaters over the years.

The Sopers, a husband-and-wife team from Vancouver — she is the former Louise Lind — have been Canadian ice dance champions the past two years. They finished ninth at the recent World Championships at Calgary.

Other skaters appearing at the Coliseum are Sonja

Large sum pledged

Apparently some \$8,000.00 was pledged at the giant Vernon joint service club's skatathon held last Sunday, March 19 in the Vernon Civic Arena.

The turnout of both adults and youngsters was excellent with tremendous enthusiasm shown by all. Now of course is the big task of collecting all the monies pledged to the various skaters.

Al Atwood, chairman of the skatathon project reports the Vernon Minor Hockey players turned out in large numbers to assist in the worthwhile fund raising project.

All money raised will go towards the completion of the ice skating rink and tennis courts at the Vernon Community Centre.

Alderman Lyall Hansen, who hasn't been on skates for