

Four games to one . . .

Vernon wins semi-finals

By DOUG BULWER

Coming as not too much of a surprise to many local junior hockey fans, the Vernon Essos have wrapped up the best of seven BCJHL "A" semi final series over Chilliwack Bruins four games to one.

Essos opened the series on home ice last week by taking 5-4 and 6-3 victories Tuesday and Wednesday then moved into Chilliwack Thursday night and came through with a 5-4 win and take a strangle-hold on the series.

However, a one day rest Friday didn't seem to help them as they dropped a 5-3 score at the hands of the Bruins with that game also being played in Chilliwack.

Returning home for game five Sunday and a 3-1 lead in the series, Essos proved once and for all why they are league champions by coming through with a convincing 7-3 victory and the semi-final title.

Playing before a rather small crowd of fans, estimated at just under 1,000, Essos jumped into a 2-0 first period lead, added another four goals in the middle frame along with two by Chilliwack for a 6-2 margin going into the final 20 minute session when each team managed single goals to round out the scoring.

Wayne Dye paced the Essos in this game with a pair of booming drives from the point with singles coming off the sticks of Glen Walton, John Price, Vic Sloan, Dennis Bergeron and Jim Lawrence to round out the scoring for the Essos. Two of these goals by the way, came when Chilliwack were short handed.

The goal by Bergeron was a solo effort with Essos playing a man short and was his very first goal of the season which prompted him to keep the puck as a souvenir, much to the delight of the partisan crowd. In regular league play he assisted on 16 goals.

Vernon now await the winner of the other junior semi-final series which is tied at two games each.

Penticton took the opener on home ice by a 3-1 score last Tuesday then dropped a 5-2 loss at Kamloops the following night. Then Friday again on their own ice Broncos repeated their opening game score only to see Kamloops come back with a decisive 5-1 win before their home town fans Sunday afternoon.

Fifth game of this series goes back to Penticton Tuesday with game six set for Kamloops Wednesday night. Should a

seventh game be necessary it will be back in Penticton Thursday night with the winner coming to Vernon Friday night for an 8 p.m. start.

The Essos will now take advantage of a five day rest and should be ready for all comers on Good Friday.

Important aspect of the final

series stems from the fact a B.C. winner must be declared by April 10.

ICE CHIPS

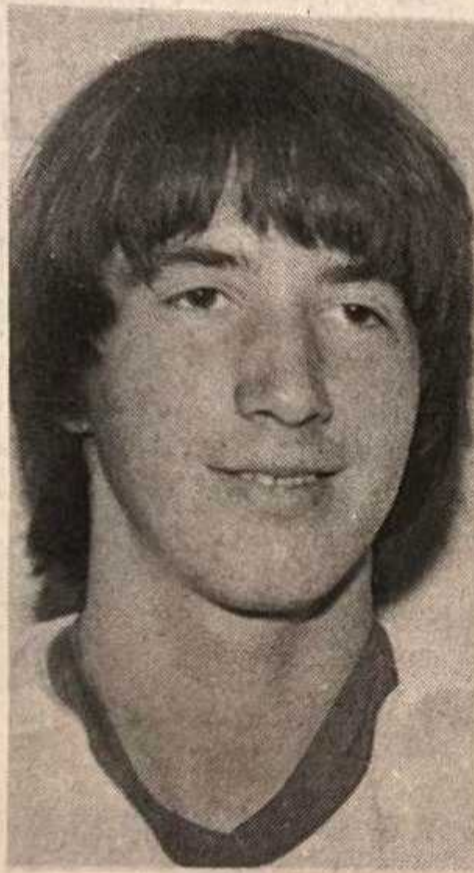
Reports out of Chilliwack indicate the two games played in that centre left much to be desired as far as the Vernon management was concerned.

In the first instance, radio broadcasts of those two games smacked of biased reporting in as much as many comments were heard to indicate Vernon were lucky to win the first game and it was the Chilliwack team who carried most of the play. In the second game, it was similarly reported the better play making came only from the action of the Chilliwack players.

Example of this was often heard: "the Essos were lucky the goal wasn't scored when it bounced off the pipes" and such similar references.

Essos manager Vern Dye voiced strong disapproval of the officiating in the first game when apparently a substitute referee was called in to handle the game when the assigned neutral ref didn't show up.

While much more could be said on this matter, Essos did win the series by virtue of their own great ability.



DENNIS BERGERON
... scores first goal

PIN POINTS



March 5

Sunday Mixed 8-10

Women's high single: Carrull Goodwin 249; high triple: Exie Smith, Sharon Redlick 655; high average: Chris Halverson 190.

Men's high single: Dean Weddeck 305; high triple: Tom Whorton 719; high average: Marcel Gallon 229.

Team high single: Lincoln Lanes 1347; high triple: Ups & Downs 3681.

TEAM STANDINGS

Lane Lions	67
Lincoln Lanes	66
Jaycee-ettes	65
Odd Couple	65

March 6

Monday Mixed 7-9

Women's high single: Lorraine Reilly 280; high triple: Jan Vaneck 635; high average: Jan Vaneck 209.

Men's high single: David Butters 291; high triple: Shig Tabata 705; high average: Shig Tabata 245.

Team high single: Dandy's 1239; high triple: Dandy's 3568.

TEAM STANDINGS

Pepsi	99
Duty Beaters	92
Pin Pickers	90
Seymour's	87

March 6

Monday Mixed 9-11

Women's high single: Eleanor Hahn 265; high triple: Wilma Wendel 720; high average: Wilma Wendel 199.

Men's high single: John Tykalovich 327; men triple: John Tykalovich 748; high average: Val Andretta 236.

Team high single: Macleaod No. 1, 1292; high triple: Macleaods Nol 1, 3816.

TEAM STANDINGS

high average: Irene Walker 200.
Team high single: Pythians 1261; high triple 3546.

TEAM STANDINGS

Pythians	420
Unicorns	378
Trophettes	376
Montreal Expos	372

March 8

Women's high single: S. Thomas 254; high triple: M. Turek 700; high average: N. Kawaguchi 204.

Team high single: Gay Bees 1220; high triple: Gay Bees 3492.

TEAM STANDINGS

Ball Points	63½
Gay Bees	61½
Poor Boys	59½
Travellers	58
Wild Bunch	57

March 8

Outlaw 7-9

Women's high single: Marnie Banner 266; high triple: Marnie Banner 599; high average: Marilyn Weir 203.

Men's high single: Val Andretta 303; high triple: Van Andretta 737; high average: Val Andretta 238.

Team high single: Ogo-pogo's 1282; high triple: Corner Pins 3607.

TEAM STANDINGS

Corner Pins	133½
Odd Balls	120½
Boozers	113
Short Circuits	112

March 8

Wednesday Mixed 9-11

Women's high single: Betty McGee 254; high triple: Lena Herbst 664; high average: Cathy Sakakibara 220.