

Over Vernon 3-2

Penticton take the lead in B.C. finals

Mon. - Vernon 10, Penticton 3

Tues. - Vernon 4, Penticton 8

Wed. - Vernon 3, Penticton 5

Two of the greatest B.C. junior hockey teams ever to pit their skill against each other, are now in the final throes of wrapping up one of the best played series ever witnessed in these parts.

Vernon Essos and Penticton Broncos, 1971-72 editions, are most assuredly two of the best matched teams in the history of junior hockey in this province and while Penticton hold a 3-2 lead in games of the best of seven finals at the moment, Vernon are most certainly not to be counted out.

Game six which goes before Penticton fans tonight will certainly tell the story as the Essos must win this one and then take on the tough Broncos back here in Vernon Friday night (tomorrow).

Since Sunday, the teams have added three more games to their tally which saw them start out the week tied at one game each with Penticton taking the opening game 8-5 here in Vernon and then Essos coming back with a second over-time period goal at Penticton to tie the series at one each. Score of that second game was 4-3.

Then Monday night back in

Vernon, Essos really went to town scoring five unanswered goals in the first period, matching single goals in the mid period then outscoring the Broncos 4-2 in the final frame for the one-sided 10-3 win.

Tuesday night at Penticton, it took the Broncos over two-periods to prove they were the better team of the night as Essos had them deadlocked in the first period at 2-2, with Broncos finally grabbing two goals late in the second period to lead 6-4 going into the final stanza where they came up with two more unanswered markers for an 8-4 win and bring the Broncos on an even keel with the Essos, with two wins each.

Wednesday night back here in Vernon, it was a game of all games as Penticton quickly jumped into a two goal, first period lead, added another early in the second period before Essos found the mark with two of their own before the middle frame ended.

Then in the third period a power-play goal, the 24th of the series by the way, and off the stick of Ernie Gare brought the house down as Essos put the game on an equal basis to force an over-time period.

At this stage of the game, Penticton were really flying, although Essos too were in there fighting and proved it as they bombed the Broncos net for the first two minutes and at one point looked like they may have scored but the goal was either missed by the referee (as claimed by many partisan fans) or it did not go in at all.

Vernon players said it did, the goal judge was a mighty long time putting on his light but he said it was in, however no goal according to the referee Dale Cassell.

This action around the Penticton net early in the over-time period was all the obviously tired Essos could muster as Broncos then started with the pressure and popped in two goals to wrap up the game 5-3 in their favour.

Penticton now definitely hold the advantage as they move back into their own rink tonight for game number six with a one game advantage and a win will give them the B.C. title.

While the Bronco advantage is there, hardly anyone would argue the Essos can be just as

tough on the other fellow's ice, having proved as much many times this season.

Odds at the moment are even with many fans sure the Essos will wrap up the title on their own ice and in game seven tomorrow night (Friday) while many others feel Broncos have really hit their best stride and

will easily take the Essos tonight and then grab a well earned days rest before meeting the Alberta winner Saturday night in either Red Deer or Calgary.

Game time tonight at Penticton is 8 p.m. and if necessary the game here Friday night will start at 8:30 p.m.

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Canadian Championships immediately following the Western Canada.

Mrs. Riley went on to win the Canadian Closed Singles Championship and Marv Krantz ended up a close third behind Bill Murphy of Edmonton for the men's Canadian title.

Coach Al Swaine of Kamloops and manager Tom Wright of Vernon were very pleased with their teams excellent showing.

Members of the team were as follows: From Kelowna, Jack Murphy, Mets Roger, Bert Griffin, Gerda Perron, Mich Tahara, Shirley Fowler and Carol Koga; from Kamloops, Jim Uren, Gil McCully, Herman Muller, Peter Brkovich, Dolly Bach, Ivy Singer, Vivian Teare; from Salmon Arm, Marv Krantz and from Merritt, Marcia Riley.

In 1946, after . . .