

# Vernon are B.C. champions

By DOUG BULWER

Vernon 4, Penticton 2  
Vernon 3, Penticton 1

Hail the B.C. junior A hockey champions, The Vernon Essos for 1971-72.

Yes, without a doubt, Vernon Essos were truly the champions of champions last week as they came through with a pair of hard fought games to overcome a 3-2 deficit in games of the final series being played out with Penticton Broncos and go on to win the Provincial title for the second time in three years.

Only one major difference in this years edition of the playoffs as compared to that of three seasons ago was the Essos were able to perform their victory run right here in the Okanagan with the final game before Vernon fans of over 3,100 strong.

As most will recall, when Essos last won the title, they had some tough travelling to do with the eventual win being staged against Victoria Cougars in Victoria.

Looking back at the Vernon-Penticton series, both teams played exceptionally well with much credit going to the Broncos for their good style of play.

Broncos opened the series with a convincing 8-5 win here in Vernon April 1, then it was the Essos turn to take the advantage away from the home town club as they moved into Penticton the next day, Sunday, and brought home a two period over-time victory with the score reading 4-3 in their favour.

Monday April 3, it was Vernon



## Jubilant B.C. hockey champs

Jubilation reigned supreme Friday night before a jammed throng of home town fans who watched the Vernon Essos win the B.C. Junior Hockey League championship and the Mowatt cup for the second time in three years. Essos won the seventh and final game of B.C. championship round over Penticton Broncos by a score of 3-1 and the series four games to three. As in the photo, every member of the Essos swarmed onto the ice at games end and lifted coach Odie Lowe on their shoulders and carried him around the ice, wildly waving and cheering to the hundreds of fans who were on hand to see the exciting finish.

on home ice taking the lead in the series based on a big 10-3 score only to have the Broncos

even the series at two games each the next night (Tuesday, April 4) with a wide 8-4

scoreboard reading with that game at Penticton.

The fifth game then moved back to Vernon on the Wednesday night, April 5 with the Broncos taking a hard fought 5-3 win away from the Essos on the Vernon boys ice for the second time in the series. This win also moved the Broncos into the lead and with game six due for the

Broncos own ice surface, things looked bad for the Essos at the time.

However, showing why they were to become the B.C. champs, Essos didn't let the Penticton fans bother them as they came up with their second victory on the Broncos ice this time winning by a 4-2 margin and tying the series at three games each and also forcing the seventh and final game back in Vernon.

As mentioned, both teams were showing Okanagan people some of the best hockey ever witnessed in these parts and in the last game in particular, it could have been anyone's game right up to the dying seconds of the game.

Vernon's John Price opened the scoring at 6:05 of the initial period for the only goal of the stanza, then a tremendous effort by Broncos Grant Mulvey tied the game up at one each late in the second period, 17:40 to be exact, with Essos big and popular defenceman, Bill Vernon coming through with a screened slapshot exactly one minute later to put Essos ahead to stay and win the B.C. title.

As mentioned it was still anyone's game with the Broncos coming quite close several times only to have Essos netman Earl Bowie push aside normally sure goals with his quick sliding saves and glove catches.

Glen Bueckert for the Broncos was also keen in the nets and he too pushed aside many normally assured goals.

Climax of course came with only 27 seconds remaining in the game with Penticton pulling Bueckert from the nets in favour of an extra attacker nearly a minute and a half earlier to try and salvage the game with at least a tie before

regulation time ran out. But a breakaway run by Vernon ace veteran Wayne Dye spoiled all this when he drove in a long shot from the centre ice area to give the Essos the big insurance marker to their slim one goal lead with the final score reading 3-1 for Vernon and the B.C. junior A championship.

Many outstanding highlights of the series comes to mind with probably both coaches, Odie Lowe of the Essos and Broncos Don Slater summing it up best with each man praising the other's efforts and the players under them for a mighty fine series.

If true sportsmanship combined with keen and honest rivalry was ever exhibited before, it was certainly displayed between these two great clubs and both cities can be justifiably proud of their young hockey representatives.

## Mass program started . . .

# Horses to be given

**TV**  
**Mon**

BCTV	CHBC-TV
BEAT THE CLOCK	4:00 FAMILY COURT
THE FLINTSTONES	4:30 DROP IN
GREEN ACRES	5:00 MR. WIZARD
HOGAN'S HEROES	5:30 GET SMART
NEWS HOUR	6:00 DICK VAN DYKE
NEWS HOUR	6:30 EVENING EDIT
DORIS DAY	7:00 ACADEMY AWARDS
MEDICAL CENTER	7:30
NICHOLS	8:30

**For Any  
SHUSWAP LAKE  
PROPERTY**

**Whether Buying  
or Selling —**

**Contact BILL PAYNE**