

# Juniors back on the win trail

Vernon 7, Kelowna 5  
Nanaimo 7, Chilliwack 3  
Danny Kuntz may not have been aware of it, but he was chosen first star of the Essos-Buckaroo junior A hockey game Tuesday evening and from most quarters, the choice couldn't have been better.

Kuntz not only scored the game winning goal in the final period but he contributed a goal and an important assist earlier in the game as he and his team came through with a deserving 7-5 win over the Kelowna boys before a sparse Vernon crowd of less than 300 spectators.

There was no doubt Kuntz and company were hungry for the victory and were fully aware of the consequences of losing the encounter.

A loss would have meant a four point difference between the two clubs rather than the three way point tie they find themselves for second place in the interior section of the league.

Vernon, Kelowna and Kamloops have identical eight points each which is also what Chilliwack Bruins have in the coast standings. This means a four-way tie for third place in the eight team league.

Nanaimo Clippers took over a second place share with Vancouver Villas when they neatly

clipped Chilliwack Bruins 7-3 on home ice Wednesday night. Pentiction still lead the league with an 18 point total on an undefeated games record.

Getting back to the game played Tuesday night, Tim Sanche got the ball rolling for the Essos at 7:16 of the first period when he made a superb solo effort as he worked from centre ice around four Kelowna players and shot from a sharp angle past the stick side of netman Dan Peter.

Kelowna came back just over a minute later with what proved to be the first of two equalizers they would score in the game. Murray Hanson took advantage of a close in series of action at the Vernon goal mouth to score at 8:54.

Vernon's Bob Bergoyne then set the fans buzzing as he stole a puck from near the Kelowna blueline and went in to score with the clock showing 14:03, then he did it again just six seconds later again picking up a loose puck from centre ice and going in alone to give the home town boys a 3-1 lead.

Kelowna came back with the final goal of the first period when Gordon Neilson was in the right spot to the left of Vernon netman Smithson as he snagged a puck given him on a sloppy pass by Bob Marsh from behind

the net with this goal coming at 15:53.

Dan Kuntz started the second period scoring at 6:24 when he bounced a puck off the pads of goalie Dan Peter had dribbled into the corner of the net. Actually Kuntz had clear sailing as he outskated everyone to the puck at centre and winged his way in almost unmolesated.

Kelowna came within a single goal once more at the 7:31 mark when Ken Loehndorf drove a hard shot off the arm of Mike Smithson who had allowed himself to back too far in his goal mouth area with the puck tipping into the net instead of to the side of the net.

Greg Howe celebrated his return to the Essos lineup after being out for six games with a bad ankle, when he scored on a second try after Kuntz had made the initial try.

Howe made the goal look really good when he made netman Peters make the first move and then calmly lifted the puck over the sprawling goalie. This goal came at 8:49.

Kelowna's Ken Weninger ended the second period scoring when he scored from 10 feet out with the Vernon margin now whittled to a single goal.

It took only 51 seconds of the final period for the Buckaroos to come up with a 5-5 tie when Brad Owens scored after the Essos had threatened to score from the face-off to start the period action.

The Owens goal was to be the last of the night for the visitors as Dan Kuntz came up with the winners at 11:35 when Murdock moved the puck into the front of the Bucks net where Kuntz slapped it home.

Tim Sanche then scored the important insurance marker at 18:19 to end the scoring with Chappal and Marsh setting the play up.

Essos now take to the road Friday to again meet the Buckaroos, then Saturday host Nanaimo here on Vernon ice for the first time this year.

Game times for both weekend encounters has been set for 8 p.m. with seats here still selling on a reserved basis.



Screened goal coming up

Defenceman Ken Loehndorf of the Kelowna Buckaroos is about to scoop a screen shot past Vernon goalie Mike Smithson in B.C. Junior A hockey action last Tuesday. Smithson never had much of a chance on this one as can be noted by the maze of players blocking his

view of the puck about to leave the Kelowna stick. Essos however managed to maintain their own pressure and take the game 7-5 and join both Kelowna and Kamloops in a three-way tie for second place in the interior section of the standings.  
—Photo by Doug Bulwer, Jr.

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