

Rockets here Friday

Vernon takes third straight loss here

Penticton 7, Vernon 5
Nanaimo 8, Bellingham 7 O-T
Vernon Essos played good hockey only in spots Tuesday night against Penticton Broncos and the final score showed why as the league leading Broncos came up with their 22 win in 26 starts, dumping the hapless Vernon squad 7-5 before another sparse crowd of local fans.

Essos made it tough for themselves almost from the start as they found they were on the short end of a 3-0 score by the 10 minute mark of the initial period, but a sudden burst of energy with help of a power-play saw them wipe out the deficit within a space of only 54 seconds to end the first period scoring by the 13:26 mark.

With the 3-3 tie to start things off in the middle period, Broncos again went to work and when the session was com-

pleted, had taken a 6-3 lead which proved to be good enough as best Essos could do in the final frame was a pair of markers to the visitors single.

As mentioned, the action for the Essos was spotty with the big highlight coming in the first period when Dave Caldwell opened the scoring for the home town boys at the 12:30 mark with Broncos team captain Bob Nicholson sitting out a tripping penalty received just 15 seconds prior.

Then 38 seconds later, Dave Dorriss scooped in goal number two for Vernon followed by Dennis Bergeron unassisted 18 seconds later to complete the period scoring.

Order of scoring for the visitors in the first period saw Doug Laughton score the first of his two goal performance at 3:08 with Grant Mulvey coming

through at 5:48 and Henry Taylor at 10:18.

In the second period, Chad Campbell wasted little time in putting the Broncos out in front once more as he scored at 1:46 on a power-play with Taylor coming up with his second goal at 12:10 and Laughton with his second marker coming at 13:36 for the three goal edge going into the final period.

With only 21 seconds showing on the big arena clock, in the third period Penticton added their final goal of the night with Bob Nicholson scoring on another power-play while Dave Caldwell was sitting out a charging infraction.

Essos did come back at 4:43 and 18:49 on Caldows and Dan Kuntz's unassisted efforts but time ran out with the home town boys still short a pair of goals.

With the loss no changes were made in the league standings until Wednesday night when Nanaimo Clippers came through with an over-time 8-7 win against hapless cellar dwelling Bellingham Blazers to place them two points ahead of the Essos and equal them with Kelowna Buckaroos for a share of third place in the eight team league.

The Tuesday loss gave Essos three straight while Penticton hit the win column for the third straight time in most recent games.

The loss to Essos also made it the more frustrating for the Vernon lads as it added to the fact they are quickly losing the advantage of catching up to Kelowna who have sat idle since last Saturday and who have lost five in a row themselves of late.

Essos have a big chore ahead of them here at home this Friday night as they take on second place Kamloops Rockets who have an eight game winning streak going for them which includes two games with Vernon.

Interesting aspect of the Vernon-Kamloops games, which totals four so far this season, is the fact Essos won the initial two games by identical 5-2 scores only to drop the latter two games by identical 7-6 margins.

With this knowledge on their minds, Essos will be out in force to do three major things; stop the Rocket win streak at eight, stop their recent losses at three and once more take the lead in games played against Kamloops.

It is a tough chore, but coach Odie Lowe figures they have the ability providing they can get fired up.

"We have a very young team this year, with average ages running at 16 and you know what kids can be like at times, fired up riding high one minute and turn around the next and be so low, no one can bring them out of it.

This has got to be one of the toughest years yet for me as coach because they (Essos) are so unpredictable at times," said the veteran mentor Wednesday night.

One thing fans can look forward to this Friday will be a lineup shuffle with the dropping of goalies Darcy Koch and Mike Dorriss and going with local talent Mike Smithson and Kenny Holland to name but a couple of changes. Use of Vernon Juveniles can also be expected in an effort to try out some new combination of lines.

Game time Friday is 9 p.m. and fans can also expect to get in on some extra door prizes with five Xmas turkeys to be given away.

Local Jr. scene

Goalies sent home... other changes made

Vernon Essos of the B.C. Junior Hockey League have announced they will begin revamping their team roster.

Team manager Vern Dye said today the Essos have cut goalies Darcy Koch and Mike Dorriss from their roster and have also sent home Dallas Chappell and Dave Dorriss in an initial move to try and streamline the team who are in a slump at the moment with three straight losses since last weekend.

The defending champion Essos have dropped 16 of 28 games played so far this season and with a financial problem now beginning to drop a shadow over the team operation, Esso directors are now looking for better player combinations and

the hope fans will begin to give them more support at home games.

Koch of Prince George and the two Dorriss brothers of Cranbrook, along with Chappell from Williams Lake, will be replaced by Vernon goalies Mike Smithson and Ken Holland with added tryouts coming up from local juvenile ranks.

"At the moment we will do a little experimenting with different combinations of forward lines and if the idea clicks you can be sure we will get back on the win trail," said Manager Dye Wednesday morning.

Manager Dye also reported to The News early today the Essos will open the arena doors this Friday during the Essos-Rocket game to all minor hockey players in the North Okanagan including Vernon, Lumby, Armstrong, Enderby and Salmon Arm and the rural areas surrounding these communities.

Each minor hockey association has already received passes to hand out to their players with extras available at the southwest main entrance as the players enter the arena.

"We want to hear a real cheering section going for the Essos and we hope all these young boys will give that much needed voice to the Essos cause.

Adult fans will also get in on some extra draw prizes as five big turkeys will be given out on program number draws along with the regular prizes," concluded Dye.

Swim tickets and passes available

An ideal gift for family and friends is a Vernon Community Centre Swimming Pool and Sauna Season Pass or a Swim Strip Ticket.

Present your loved ones with a year of enjoyable, healthy activity.

Stuff their stockings with a strip ticket or hang a season pass on the tree.

Reasonable rates for all members of your family and your special friends.

Tickets and passes are available at the Vernon Community Centre pool office. For further information please phone 545-0571.

Arena holiday schedule

December 22

Figure Skating, 6:30 to 8 a.m.; Ice Maintenance, 8 a.m. to 12:30 noon; Seaton School, 12:45 to 3:15 p.m.; Figure Skating, 3:30 to 6 p.m.; Minor Hockey, 6 to 8 p.m.; Junior A Hockey, 9 p.m.

December 23

Minor Hockey, 6 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.; Public Skating, 2 to 4 p.m.; Minor Hockey, 4:15 to 12 midnight.

December 24

Recreational Hockey, 6 yo 8 a.m.; Minor Hockey, 8 to 1:45 p.m.; Public Skating, 2 to 4 p.m.; Arena Closed, 4 p.m. on.

December 25

Christmas Day — Arena closed all day.

December 26

Minor Hockey, 6 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Junior A Hockey game, 2:30 p.m. After Jr. A. game, arena closed for rest of the day.

December 27

Minor Hockey, 6 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.; Public Skating, 2 to 4 p.m.; Minor Hockey, 4:15 to 9 p.m.; Jr. A practice, 9:15 to 10:15 p.m.; Recreational Hockey, 11 p.m. to 12 midnight.

December 28

Girls' Hockey, 6 to 8 a.m.; Minor Hockey, 8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Jr. A practice, 9:45 to 10:45 p.m.; Head of Lake practice, 11 p.m. to 12 midnight.

December 29

Minor Hockey, 6 to 8 a.m.; Ice Maintenance, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Minor Hockey, 3:30 to 8 p.m.; Jr. A Game, 9 p.m.

December 30