

33 goals against and . . .

# Five straight losses recorded by Juniors

Kamloops 8, Vernon 3  
Kelowna 8, Vernon 5

Unhappy times are currently riding the drooped shoulders of the Vernon Essos hockey club as there was little to cheer about over the first portion of the Xmas holidays.

Essos failed to take advantage of home ice scheduling last Friday and again on Boxing Day as both visiting Kamloops Rockets and Kelowna Buckaroos made short work of the slumping Essos by respective scores of 8-3 and 8-5.

Adding to their woes as far as the Interior section is concerned where they sit firmly entrenched in fourth place, Essos now find themselves in sixth place with the Chilliwack Bruins fifth in the eight team loop, one point ahead.

Speaking of the Bruins, they travel to Vernon this Friday for a 9 p.m. encounter and with the Essos sporting a five game losing streak at this point of the 62 game schedule, plus the fact Bruins have beaten the Vernon boys in three out of four previous meetings, there is no doubt the locals will have a giant sized job on their hands to come through with a win. Amazingly enough they are due, and it wouldn't be much of a surprise from this quarter if they did win.

Speaking of Essos current five straight losses in recent outings, team directors are stymied to figure out where the problem is.

They admit however, goal-tending is not what it should be and do agree far too many goals are being scored by the opponents.

The last five games are a good example of this with a total goals for and against adding up to 33 being pushed into the Vernon nets while the best the Essos attackers came up with was 18.

As can be seen, the Essos goals against average in those five games stands at 6.6 game with their over-all average in 30 games working out to better than four and three quarter goals scored against per game.

Last Friday with Kamloops Rockets in town, Essos found themselves on the short end of a 5-1 first period score with Mike Smithson taking the brunt of the attack while doing the Essos netminding chores in the first 20 minutes pushing aside 13 drives.

## Midgets win opener at tournament

Vernon Midget Reps defeated South Caribou by a score of 13-5.

Second period action saw the Essos make a goalie change and with Ken Holland up from local juvenile ranks trying his best, Essos managed to hold their own allowing only one goal in the middle stanza but failing themselves to narrow the five goal margin already against them.

Third period saw the visitors come on quickly with their final two goals of the game, one at the 30 second mark and the other with just a minute and five seconds showing on the clock.

A somewhat belated try with man advantages each time, saw the Essos score twice with a space of one minute near the midpoint of the stanza to wrap up the game scoring.

Leading the Rocket attack was Don Hay who came through with a four goal effort with singles being credited to Rick LaLonde, Rick Schinski, Butch Owchar and Neil Lysing.

For the Essos it was single goals by Fred Perepolkin, Dennis Bergeron and Dave Caldwell.

For Kamloops it was their ninth consecutive win, their 19th of 29 starts and their third straight against Vernon in five meetings.

Speaking of the Vernon-Kamloops games, while Rockets do have the best win loss record at this point, interestingly enough they have only scored one more goal than the Vernon club. The record shows Kamloops scoring 26 goals against Vernon while the Essos have returned 25.

### Boxing Day

As was the case Friday, Essos again played the perfect role of host on Boxing Day as they literally gifted the visiting Kelowna Buckaroos with a 8-5 final score.

Kelowna drew the first goal scoring chance early in the opening period with their leading scorer, Gordon Neilson, coming up with the only goal of the period.

Second period action saw Vernon come quickly to life as Cliff Lane drove a sizzling shot from the point to tie the game with only 17 seconds showing.

Then at 2:08 Dan Kuntz put the Vernon boys ahead only to see the score tied at 2-2 when Archie McKinnon went in alone from his own zone to beat goalie Smithson quite handily with no one even remotely close to him four minutes later.

Enter juvenile tryout Barry Dye just seven seconds later to put the Essos out in front once more at the 5:57 mark on a power-play.

It was Dye again with some fancy skating and stick work to put the Essos up by a two goal

margin with his second effort coming just 15 seconds after his number one goal.

Enter Kelowna defenceman Ken Loehndorf at this point of the game with the first of his three goal performance coming at 9:09 and again at 12:38 when he had brought the score back to a respectable 5-4 difference in favour of Vernon.

Grant Sidnick's quick wrist shot exactly two minutes earlier was a perfect example of never giving up as he managed to get his shot away while being well covered and off balance about the time the puck left his stick. Sidnick is another of the many local boys the Essos have been giving tryouts to. He and Martin Stein from Midget ranks gave one hundred per cent in the Tuesday game.

Kelowna brought the game back to an even keel at 14:05 on a power-play with Dale Turner taking advantage of John Kokotelo sitting out a holding penalty at the time.

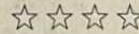
With the 5-5 tie to start the final period, the three quick Kelowna goals by the first five minutes spelled out the game tallies with Brad Owens scoring what proved to be the winner at 1:51, Loehndorf his third goal at

3:51 and the Bucks seventh of the game followed by Owens once more at exactly five minutes to salt the game away.

Both Kelowna and Vernon have now evened their six games played to date with each club on the winners side three times, another interesting aspect of the game shows both teams with an exact goals for and against at 31 each.

With the New Year fast approaching and the Essos just two games away from reaching their first half of the schedule, both management and the players themselves are casting worried looks at the standings with Essos now solidly entrenched in the bottom of the four team interior section, and barely holding their own in sixth place with Chilliwack Bruins a single point ahead of them and Vancouver just two points back in number seven spot.

Essos have quite a chore ahead of them this coming weekend as they host Chilliwack Friday night at 9 p.m., then take to the road Saturday night for a game with Kamloops followed by another road trip to Pentiction on New Years Day to meet the front running Broncos.



## B.C. junior A standings


to and including Dec. 26, 1972

Interior Div.	Gp	W	L	T	Gf	Ga	Pts.
Pentiction	28	23	5	0	160	97	46
Kamloops	29	19	9	1	167	127	39
Kelowna	29	15	14	0	173	127	30
Vernon	30	12	18	0	150	145	24
Coast Div.							
Chilliwack	29	12	16	0	161	121	24
Nanaimo	27	14	13	0	152	147	28
Vancouver	28	11	17	0	111	145	22
Bellingham	18	2	16	0	65	135	4

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vs  
**Vernon Essos**

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## Player standings

Vernon Essos individual scoring statistics for 30 games to and including Dec. 26:

PLAYER	G	A	Pts.
Dan Kuntz	23	24	47
Greg Howe	14	16	30
Tim Sanche	12	17	29
Don Murdoch	17	11	28
Bob Marsh	10	15	25
Dennis Bergeron	10	14	24
Ken Price	6	15	21
Bob Burgoyne	6	15	21
Dave Caldwell	10	8	18
Dave Dorriss	5	8	13
Dallas Chappal	5	7	12
Cliff Lane	1	11	12
Doug Davies	3	7	10
Brian Wortley	7	2	9
Ken King	4	4	8
Cal Bassard	3	3	6
Ken Reid	2	3	5
Lyle Brewer	2	3	5
Barry Dye	3	1	4
Bill Danshen	1	3	4
Fred Perepolkin	3	0	3
Grant Sidnick	2	0	2
Lorne Plonfikoff	1	1	2
John Kokotelo	0	2	2
Gord Lidstone	1	0	1
Martin Stein	0	1	1
Bob Bachynski	0	1	1
Joe Raymond	0	1	1

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