

Vernon lose two of three games

With many folks taking advantage of the holidays to sit around and relax, not so in the B.C. junior A hockey league as eight games were featured since last Thursday, Dec. 28, to Jan. 1.

For the beleaguered Vernon Essos, their three game share of the schedule in this period was not too good as they picked up a hard fought 3-2 win on home ice Friday over Chilliwack then dropped their next two encounters while playing away games.

Saturday night Essos travelled to Kamloops and just missed winning there, however, Rockets kept their undefeated streak going with their tenth straight victory based on a 3-2 win over Vernon.

Then Tuesday afternoon, Essos started the new year on a losing note as Penticton Broncos played the nasty hosts by taking Vernon by a 6-3 difference.

In other games played since last Thursday, Penticton Broncos edged Chilliwack 6-3 and Nanaimo Clippers swamped Vancouver Villas 10-2.

On Saturday, while Essos were losing 3-2 to Kamloops, Chilliwack also suffered another loss, their third in as many games in the Interior swing as Kelowna Buckaroos dropped them by a 6-5 difference.

Then on Tuesday, Jan. 1, Kelowna helped Kamloops to their 11th straight win by walloping Bucks 8-1 on

Kamloops ice, Vernon lost to Penticton 6-3 and third game of the day saw Nanaimo come up with a big 9-3 win over hapless Bellingham Blazers. This was the Clippers seventh straight win and their 16th of the season in 29 games played.

Friday night at Civic arena, Essos allowed the Bruins to take a 2-1 first period lead before coming back with single unanswered markers in each of the second and third periods for the 3-2 win.

For the Essos, it marked their first win in the last six games and their second win in five tries with the Fraser Valley Club so far this season.

Lyle Brewer scored the Essos first goal on a power play at 10:57 with a hard slap shot from the right point. With the goal giving the Essos a short lived 1-1 tie.

Bruins jumped into the lead again with only 14 seconds remaining in the opening period on their only power-play goal with Dave Caldwell sitting out a charging penalty.

An early second period goal at 2:31 of the middle frame off the stick of Barry Dye put the game back on an even keel once more and was the only goal of the period.

With just six seconds short of the first minute of play in the third period, it was Cliff Lane who proved to be the hero for the Essos as he broke away from a tangle of Chilliwack players near his own blueline while the Bruins had a power-play going and scooted up the ice unmolested to score the winner.

Also, making his debut in the nets for a full game was Ken Holland of the Vernon Juvenile team who was brought up several times earlier as a spare goalie but who started and was without a doubt the main force in keeping Chilliwack at bay.

Holland was absolutely brilliant throughout as he made save after save which would have been sure goals by most standards.

His glove and stick-work was so outstanding on many occasions, even the usually staid Vernon fans found his work so pleasing they gave him round after round of applause when he came up with his manoeuvres.

While he was playing excellent hockey in the first two periods, the final frame had to be his best as he pushed aside 18 drives that came his way, one in particular was noteworthy as he came out of his net at least 10 feet to block off all angles when a Bruin threatened to score.

Again in Kamloops, Holland did the net minding chores and here he brought raves from fans with his fantastic goal-tending with Kamloops taking the game with a narrow 3-2 difference.

Kamloops led 1-0 at the end of the first period, took a 2-0 lead with just over a minute gone only to see another Vernon Juvenile try-out, Barry Dye come through with a goal at 2:08 and then put the game back on an even keel five minutes later with his second goal and the Essos only markers of the game.

Rick Shinske's second goal at 19:22 of the middle period ending the games scoring and it was mainly due to Holland's great efforts again in the final period to bar the Kamloops scoring door, while at the same time, all the big guns for the Essos also found the door blocked at the other end of the ice.

Moving into Penticton on Monday, Jan. 1, Broncos

opened the first period scoring on a power-play with Greg Howe sitting out a hooking infraction for the only goal of the period.

Second period saw Essos tie the game on a goal by Bob Burgoyne followed by Tim Sanche with Broncos coming up with two of their own to lead 3-2 at the start of the final 20 minute session.

With only 57 seconds showing on the arena time clock, Lyle Brewer tied the game for the Essos with Penticton coming up with three more of their own and unanswered to take the game by a wide 6-3 margin.

In the Penticton game, regular Vernon goalie Mike Smithson was back in the nets and pushed aside 10, 16 and 12 shots respectively over the three periods and while playing good hockey in the first two periods was said to have faltered noticeably in the final session.

Next game for the Essos will be here at home this Friday when they take on Nanaimo Clippers in a 9 p.m. game. Clippers have 3-2 win-loss edge over the Essos in their previous five games played.

One-sided games in Bantam house

Lop-sided games were the order of the day as the Bantam House League resumed action last Saturday morning.

On the early shift, league-leading NOCA took full advantage of a shorthanded OK Tire crew by waxing them 8-1 and set the tone for the morning with a one-sided victory in a raggedly played game.

Kelly Kaneda led the dairy boys with four goals backed up by singles from Alex Black, Terry Nichol, Joey Alain and Jim Harding. Lone tally for OK Tire was notched by Eric Leary.

Goodwin-Burniston Realty who seem to have found themselves of late, caught fire early in the second encounter as they romped away from the Vernon News to the tune of 8-2.

Grant Fish led the realty squad with a hat-trick, with Peter Steiner adding a pair and Wayne Popilchak, Mike Mahood and Tom Gallicano scoring singles. David Thorlakson and Gary Edwards replied for the Vernon News.

The third game saw Ernie's Esso overpower the Pee Wee Reps by a 7-1 count as Ted Sophonow scored a hat-trick and maintained his slim lead in the individual scoring race, Dwayne Benson added a pair with singletons coming from Hugh Shaw and Keith Kashuba. Replying for a plucky Pee Wee Rep team was Jay Mondin.

In other league games played over the Christmas holiday, Goodwin-Burniston Realty held on to defeat Ernie's Esso 7-5. OK Tire blanked the Vernon News 4-0 with Craig Holland posting his first shut-out, and NOCA tripped the Pee Wee Reps 6-2.

Pin Points	
Thurs. Morn. Coffee Party	
High single:	Lil Jamieson, 266;
high triple:	Lil Jamieson, 679; high average: Lil Jamieson, 201.
Team high single:	Wishful Thinkers, 1243; high triple: Mission Impossible, 3521.
Team Standings	
Mission Impossible	281
Pin Ups	261
Ding Bats	254
Pin Pals	246

Brand puts his mark on Bruins

A 5-2 win by Canadians over Village Green and a 3-3 tie by Super Shoe and Empire Meats was the feature play in junior Pup hockey action last Thursday.

A three goal effort by Mark Czerwonka with the remaining two goals coming off the stick of Tom Day gave the Canucks the margin of victory. Richard Horner scored the only two goals by the Village lads with Jim Heggs assisting on each.

Single goal efforts highlighted the second game with Craig Lortie, Jim Healey and Vince Greensill scoring for Empire while singles came from Mich Sofiac, Darin Louis and Ronnie Sparks.

Assists for the Empire Meats came from Bob Morin with two and the single from Lance Marcoux. Assisting for the Shoe boys were Stewart Bonneau and Mich Sofiac.

In senior Pup play, first game saw a 3-0 shutout featuring Athens Pizza blanking Bruins with Joey Brand earning the shutout while in the nets.

Gordon Simpson scored the hat trick for the winners with a single assist coming from Pierre Wilson.

Second game saw a 5-1 difference as Standard Oil took a big measure over Bear Alignment.

Steven Dedish scored three goals for the winners with Scott Siemens and Mitch Howard scoring the singles. Steve Hesketh assisted on three goals with Dwayne Greensill working on two and Steven Dedish and Jim Gallagher assisting once each.

The single goal for Bear Alignment came from Dean Fisher with Ken Johnstone assisting.