

B.C. Junior hockey continues torrid pace

Junior hockey action continued its torrid second half pace over the weekend with nine games going by the boards from Thursday through to Sunday night.

With it all, Vernon Essos seem to be continuing to slip with the tide as again they dropped another encounter to make it three in a row.

Looking through the window of all games played, showed league leading Penticton Broncos strengthening their over-all eight team league lead with a pair of games, one of major consequence as they completed the first shutout recorded this year in the B.C. Junior A Hockey League.

The shutout recorded by Penticton came against none other than Kamloops Rockets the team who has been flying high the past while with 12 straight victories.

It seems unlucky 13 was riding the shoulders of the Rockets as Penticton took good measure over the Hub-city boys with a 2-0 blanking Friday night.

In other Friday games, Vernon dropped their 21st game of the season to visiting Nanaimo Clippers and Kelowna Buckaroos skimmed Vancouver Villas 5-2 at the Coast.

Saturday night, Kamloops got back on the win trail as they fought back from early period deficits to edge Nanaimo 6-4. Kelowna got their lumps from Chilliwack with an over-time loss of 7-6, and cellar-dwelling Bellingham Blazers got on the first of two win rides by wallowing Vancouver 6-1.

Sunday night, two games went through the motions with Kelowna finding the going tough in Bellingham with the Blazers thumping them 10-6 and Penticton finishing off Nanaimo's interior road trip with a 7-6 win.

Looking at each team individually, Penticton gave themselves a five-game winning streak to make their record stand at 28 wins with only five losses so far.

Kamloops were stopped at 12 straight wins but got some measure the next night as they

continued to beat Nanaimo, making it three wins in a row over the Island club this year.

For the Kelowna Buckaroos, they are running hot and cold of late, with only one win in the last five starts and now find themselves fourth in the eight team standing, two points behind Nanaimo and just one ahead of Chilliwack. They have 17 wins in 35 starts for 34 points.

Vernon have been coming out strong in the early stages of their games but are falling badly off the pace as each period progresses. However they still remain in sixth place in the league.

Nanaimo Clippers managed to take Vernon in the first of three games played here in the Interior over the weekend but had their wings clipped by both

Penticton and Kamloops. However they still hold a two-point lead in the Coast standings based on 18 wins in 33 games played.

Chilliwack Bruins are still one point back of the Clippers even with their current three game win streak going for them, two of these coming from games played with Bellingham.

Vancouver Villas seem to be taking over as the Coast loop doormat team as they have found the going tough in their last dozen outings, winning only one of these and holding a six loss streak at the moment.

Still bringing up the back-end of the league are Bellingham Blazers, but in their last two outings have shocked both Vancouver and Kelowna with wide margin victories.

They have only played 24 games to date this season and still have only four wins to smile about but, with the new rink at home now available to them, have begun to show they have more talent than what has been credited to them.

Home ice will definitely give them a much firmer hold on the rung as they climb out of the bottom position of the league.

Friday night at Vernon, nearly 700 fans were treated to a high scoring first period with the Essos coming up with a pair of late stanza goals to take a 5-4 lead going into the middle period.

Actually, the Vernon scoring was to be completed in the opening round with Nanaimo scoring once in the second period and twice more in the final period for a 7-5 victory.

Bright spot for the Essos came in the form of new player Tad Campbell who got off to an excellent start in the uniform of the Essos by scoring a hat trick and assisting on one other goal.

Campbell saw his first action with the Essos after being traded by Kelowna Buckaroos earlier in the week.

In 25 previous games this year Campbell had come through with 16 goals and 20 assists and with his Friday night effort, brought his season total to 19 goals and 21 assists for 40 points and the right to take over second place in the Vernon scoring honors.

Dan Kuntz is the only Essos that has done better than Campbell so far this season and has been the consistent leader of the Essos from the beginning scoring 23 goals and assisting 27 times for a 50 point total.

Six points behind Campbell is defenceman Tim Sanche, who has scored 13 times and assisted on 21 goals for 34 points, and in fourth place at the moment is Greg Howe who has scored 15 times, assisted on 17 others for 32 points.

Leading the Nanaimo attack was Mel Bridgeman who scored a hat trick and assisted on one

other. Other Nanaimo goals came from Lindsay Thomson, Gordie Dumont, Bill Bestwick and Peter Leman.

Two of the Nanaimo goals came on power-play efforts with Tim Sanche and Brian Griese sitting out respective penalties.

For Vernon one power-play goal was scored by Tad Campbell with Wade Smith sitting in the penalty box at the time.

Newly acquired netminder Charlie Briskham played an average game for the Essos and could have used more help from the defensive corps.

The loss keeps Vernon well down in the Interior league

standings with their record now showing in 34 games played, 13 wins and 21 losses for 26 points.

The Friday night game was their 15th loss in the last 20 outings with only one win recorded in the last nine games played. They are now working on their third straight loss.

Their record with Nanaimo now shows them losing four of the six games played.

Next games for the Essos has them travel to Kelowna Friday night and then take on Bellingham Blazers the following night (Saturday, Jan. 13), when they play host to Bellingham Blazers.



B.C. Junior hockey standings

To and including Jan. 7, 1973

INTERIOR	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Penticton	33	28	5	0	185	112	56
Kamloops	34	23	10	1	189	139	47
Kelowna	35	17	18	0	200	164	34
Vernon	34	13	21	0	163	163	26
COAST							
Nanaimo	33	18	15	0	195	172	36
Chilliwack	35	16	18	1	148	175	33
Vancouver	32	11	21	0	118	173	22
Bellingham	24	4	20	0	95	166	8

WEEKEND SCOREBOARD

Thursday—Chilliwack 6, Bellingham 5.
 Friday—Nanaimo 7, Vernon 5; Penticton 2, Kamloops 0;
 Kelowna 5, Vancouver 2.
 Saturday—Kamloops 6, Nanaimo 4; Chilliwack 7, Kelowna 6 o-t; Bellingham 6, Vancouver 1.
 Sunday—Bellingham 10, Kelowna 6; Penticton 7, Nanaimo 6.

No Federal help

Water Polo said to be minor league

VICTORIA — The president of the B.C. Water Polo Association, Dennis Caldwell of Vancouver, says his sport is considered "minor league" in this country by the people whose job it is to evaluate such things.

"Water polo is regarded as a "B" sport nationally," said Caldwell, "and as a result we don't receive much help federally.

But, we've got a plan to help solve that situation, at least, in B.C. And part of that plan begins with the second British Columbia Festival of Winter Sports, Jan. 18 to Feb. 5."

The B.C. Junior Boy's Provincial Water Polo Championships will be staged, January 27 at Victoria's Crystal Pool as part of the Festival of Winter Sports.

"It will be the first time such a tournament has been staged in British Columbia," said Caldwell. We'll have seven teams entered, coming from the Lower Mainland, Victoria, Dawson Creek and Cranbrook."

feels the time is close at hand when that B rating will become an A.

Competition in the Provincial Junior Boy's Tournament will begin at 9 a.m. Meanwhile, the countdown has begun on the British Columbia Festival of Winter Sports.

It will see close to 25,000 athletes competing in more than 120 events in B.C.

Pee Wees play poorly, lose 9-3

Vernon Pee Wee Reps travelled to Kelowna Sunday and without a doubt played their poorest game of the season.

Had it not been for the work of Rex Slizak in goal for Vernon the score would have been much worse than 9-3 for Kelowna.

Richard Gerlack, Russ Naito and Carmen Nyuli scored two goals for the winners with Alan Knutson, Kim Lansdowne and Bruce Cullen adding one each.

Tim Sanche joins All-Star selection

Big news for Vernon Junior hockey fans today is the word defenceman Tim Sanche was named to the first team of the mid-season all-star selection.

Sanche, a rugged blueline patroller currently holds down third spot in the Essos roster point race with 13 goals and 21 assists even though a recent leg injury kept him sidelined for a few games.

He was the only Vernon player named to either the first or second team but several Vernon players received honorable mention and will get a chance to play in the All-Star versus Penticton Bronco game Feb. 1 at Penticton.



TIM SANCHE
... first All-Star

Those from Vernon who will dress are as follows; Lyle Brewer, Dan Kuntz, Greg Howe and Tad Campbell.

The following are the all-star list in order of the first team followed by the second team list.

Named as coach is Joe Tennant of Kamloops. In goal is Glen Bueckert of Penticton, on defence is Tim Sanche of Vernon and Rick Hodgson of Kamloops.

Playing at centre-ice will be Lindsay Thomson of Nanaimo with left wing taken by Chad Campbell of Penticton and Chris McMaisters of Kamloops on right wing.

The second all-star team will see Garth Malarchuk of Kamloops in the nets, with Ed Dempsey of Penticton and Bob McNeice of Chilliwack on defence.

Centreman will be Rick Shinski of Kamloops with Dave Robinson of Bellingham on left wing and Grant Mulvey of Penticton on right wing.

Those who will also dress for the All-star game are as follows; Goalie Ron Bourcier of Nanaimo, Lyle Brewer of Vernon, Ken Loehndorfer of Kelowna, Jim McAloney of Vancouver, Gordon Neilson of Kelowna, Brian Shymr of Chilliwack, Dan Kuntz of Vernon, Dave Sharples of Chilliwack, Greg Gove of Vernon, Tad Campbell of Vernon (ex-Kelowna) and Ken Weninger of Kelowna.

Bantams improve house action

Bantam House League action resumed Saturday morning with a complete reversal of the one-sided games of a week ago, all games were closely contested and the loose play of the holiday week disappeared.

In the early encounter, a valiant Pee Wee Rep squad were only narrowly defeated by the Vernon News 3-2.

This was a fast skating, free wheeling game with the News boys hard pressed to hold on to

Unique dilemma

Many clubs but no speed skaters

DAWSON CREEK — Speed skating in British Columbia is faced with a unique dilemma. It is gaining clubs but losing skaters.

"The problem, really, is lack of publicity," says Millie Bodnar of Dawson Creek, speed skating event chairman for the British Columbia Festival of Winter Sports.

February 17-18. Moreover, it will help determine the team that will represent B.C. at the national finals.

"Anyone from our five clubs is eligible to go," says Mrs. Bodnar, "but the Dawson Creek event will let everyone know how they stand provincially." Mrs. Bodnar explained that

Juveniles salvage tie with Penticton

Vernon 4—Penticton 4

Vernon and Penticton Juvenile Reps clashed head on at Civic Arena Saturday night and when it was all over, both teams found themselves even on the scoreboard with a 4-4 tie.

With no scoring in the first period, Vernon came on strong quickly in the early moments of the middle frame, 11 seconds to be exact, and by the 12:34 marker had wrung up a 3-0 lead with Penticton coming back in the latter stages of the same period with a pair of their own to end the period scoring with Vernon holding a slim 3-2 lead.

Near the six minute mark of the final period, Penticton brought the game back into contention with their first of two tying goals only to allow Vernon to take the lead again a minute and 15 seconds later but, with just 2½ minutes remaining, the Penticton boys tied the tally for the last scoring of the game with each team satisfied to take home a single point each.

One of the standouts in the game was Vernon goalie Ken Holland who played the part of the robber as far as Penticton sharpshooters were concerned as he came through with many key saves, most of them earmarked as sure goals.

Another stellar performance came from Tony Sparrow of the Vernon forward crops as he seemed to be everywhere when his turn came on the ice. His forchecking was brilliant at times and while he was one of the smaller players on the ice, was by far the only Vernon player to use his weight to advantage. To top it all off, Sparrow lead Vernon with a pair of goals.

Others scoring for Vernon were John Kokotelo, and Guy Davison. Kokotelo went in almost from the faceoff at the start of the middle frame to score with just 11 seconds having been played with Barry Dye and Fred Perepolkin assisting.

Then at 5:51, Guy Davison was just as quick with his sweeping backhand as he and his line took just four seconds to score on a power play after Milo Kaskak had gone off at 5:47 for interference.

Tony Sparrow scored the first

of his two goals at 12:34 with Penticton markers coming at 14:17 and 16:21 with Milo Kaskak and Lorne Lyster doing the honors.

At 5:48 of the third, it was Penticton again with Vic Cumming scoring on a rebound with Sparrow putting Vernon out in front again with Rob Slater scoring the final equalizer for Penticton at 17:25.

Only a brief mention is worthy of the second period penalty handed out Penticton coach Tom Madden. He was given a game misconduct for throwing a stick across the ice at referee Chuck Reilly when he objected to a call being given one of his players.

Along with this incident, Penticton picked up one more game misconduct plus two 10-minute major penalties to go along with three two-minute minors while Vernon were assessed four minors.

The tie leaves Vernon in fourth place in the league with 13 points while Penticton hold down third with 15 points, four back of Kelowna and five back of league leading Salmon Arm.

Curling schedule

Thursday, Jan. 19

- 8—Henry—Weir
- 1—Dunn—Komarnicki
- 2—Marsland—Fisher
- 3—Denham—Price
- 4—Oliver—Skobalski
- 5—High School—McCulloch
- 6—Mackiewich—Wills
- 7—Henschke—Hunter
- Bye—Watson

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