

Vernon will remain on bottom rung

Vancouver 5, Vernon 4

The loss by the Vernon Essos to Vancouver Villas on Saturday and the Kelowna Buckaroo win over the same Coast club on Sunday has virtually assured the Bucks a third place finish in Interior loop of the BCJHL.

For Vernon they will have to be satisfied with their fourth place position and now must look to taking on the second place finishers (possibly Pentiction) in the semi-final series due to start sometime in mid-March.

With each team to play seven games apiece to round out their 62 game schedule, Vernon cannot catch up to the Kelowna team as the Bucks now hold a 16 point bulge over the defending champion Essos.

Saturday night, Essos hosted the Villas before nearly 600 fans and it was obviously the better team who came out ahead on the scoreboard.

Vancouver led 2-1 after one period of play, allowed the Essos to catch up for a 3-3 tie at the end of two periods, then came back with two more markers to the Essos single for a 5-4 win, their 16th in 53 starts.

Brian McCloskey paced the Villas with a pair of markers with Sandy Bain, Rod Dyck, and Dale Costanzo coming up with singles.

For Vernon it was Greg Howe with his 22nd and 23rd goals of the season for a well earned two goal night with the singles coming from Ken Price (his 15th) and Bob Burgoyne (his 13th).

Taking a look at the rest of the league, Kamloops Rockets could have trouble in maintaining their Interior loop lead over Pentiction Broncos as the Broncos have one game in hand over the Hub city boys and are only five points back of the leaders.

Kamloops dropped a 5-2 loss to Bellingham Blazers on Sunday after winning by a wide 11-1 margin over Nanaimo the night before and with Pentiction sitting idle the Rockets missed a

chance to move another two points ahead of the South Okanagan team.

Key to both teams finishing on top lies with the two remaining games they have with each other plus a win from another club would be enough to salt away the Interior title.

While league officials are not saying anything until their March 5th meeting at the coast when they announce the playoff schedule, it looks like the first and third place clubs and the second and fourth team will meet in the semi-final series with all eight teams in the league getting a chance at the B.C. junior A title.

The playoff picture looks like this; Kamloops and Kelowna will meet in series 'A' and Pentiction and Vernon in series 'B' in the Interior, while at the Coast, Nanaimo, now 11 points ahead of Chilliwack in the coast leadership race will take on Vancouver who are in third place, 10 points ahead of cellar-dwelling Bellingham Blazers.

Changes could still come about at the Coast as both Nanaimo and Chilliwack have seven games each to play and with only 11 points separating them, a combination of more wins by Chilliwack and several losses by Nanaimo could change their positions and Bellingham and Vancouver could also see their positions change as Bellingham have come on strong of late and with three games in hand over Vancouver, and only 10 points back of the Villas, could really upset the apple-cart at the Coast.

Getting back to the Essos remaining games in regular action. They have four more away games to play and will take on visitors three more times here at home.

Next Friday, March 2, Essos travel to Kelowna then return home the following night for a big game with Pentiction.

The following Tuesday they play host to Kamloops Rockets and then go right back to Kamloops the next night (Wed.,

March 7).

Then on Friday, March 9, Vernon travel to Pentiction and then play their final home game the next night when they host Kelowna.

The single remaining game at this juncture will be a make up

game with Bellingham Blazers which was to have been played earlier in the season at Bellingham but due to the Bellingham arena not being completed until after the new year, the game was postponed. It is understood there is some

doubt the game will be played because Bellingham would have to pay the major portion of the travel expenses imposed by Vernon and if the game means nothing as far as the standings are concerned, the Blazers may give Vernon the two points.

GOOD YEAR GO CENTRES

Shocks 788

each
THIS WEEK ONLY
(installation extra)

Get driving comfort and safety with famous name shock absorbers

- Maximum steering control and comfort on bumpy roads
- Renewed stability—greater safety
- Cushioned ride at low speeds on city pavements
- Guaranteed for 24 months or 24,000 miles

It must be right or we make it right!

Our car service policy assures you of complete satisfaction.

GOOD YEAR GO CENTRES

A DIVISION OF THE GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED

545-5361

3315 31st Avenue
VERNON

OPEN
8:30 a.m.
to
5:30 p.m.

NO CASH NEEDED
USE YOUR GOODYEAR CREDIT PLAN OR "CHARGE"

B.C. Jr. hockey standings

Up to and including Sunday, Feb. 25, 1973.

INTERIOR

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
Kamloops	56	41	14	1	318	204	83
Pentiction	55	38	15	2	285	198	78
Kelowna	55	32	22	1	321	253	65
Vernon	55	24	30	1	260	259	49

COAST

Nanaimo	55	29	26	1	316	292	58
Chilliwack	55	23	31	1	232	271	47
Vancouver	54	16	38	0	312	301	32
Bellingham	51	11	38	2	201	326	24

☆☆☆

WEEKEND GAMES

Feb. 22	Nan. 6, Chwk. 2
Feb. 23	Kam. 8, Bell. 3
	Pen. 6, Van. 4
Feb. 24	Van. 5, Ver. 4
	Kam. 11, Nan. 1
Feb. 25	Bell. 5, Kam. 2
	Kel. 3, Van. 2

NOW OPEN

Kelowna wins all

Juveniles — Pee Wees lose playoff series

Two of four Vernon minor hockey teams have fallen by the side in zone championship rounds.

Last weekend saw the Vernon Pee Wee Reps drop their second game in a row to their Kelowna counter-parts as did the Vernon Juvenile squad to the same city.

Saturday afternoon, the Pee Wees went into the second game of their best of three game series with a one game deficit after losing the Sunday before by a narrow 5-4 score at Kelowna.

The second game proved no better for the home town boys as they found themselves behind a 2-1 count after one

period of play, then 4-2 at the end of the second period and then let Kelowna outscore them in the final session three goals to one for the one-sided 7-3 difference.

Kelowna took home the Elks Trophy for the first time in five years after Vernon had won for the past two seasons and Penticton the two years before this.

The Kelowna boys now go on to meet the winners of the North zone or Mainline finalists for the right to represent the zone in the B.C. finals.

Sunday afternoon at Vernon Civic arena, the home town Juveniles also found themselves

out of further action after Kelowna Packers came on strong to take the locals by the same score of 7-3.

Earlier in the week, Thursday to be exact, Vernon had taken a 9-6 loss to Kelowna in the Regatta city and then Sunday before home town fans could not get untracked the visitors took a 4-1 first period lead, then bounced through the penalty ridden second period to lead 6-3 to start the final stanza in which they added their seventh and the games final tally.

Big leader in the Kelowna roster on Saturday was the hat trick performance staged by Gene Weninger with singles by Perry Head, Randy Naito, Darrel LaBoucan and Darrell Rambold.

For Vernon it was singles by Ross Herzog, Clay Anderson and John Kokotelo.

On hand to make the trophy presentations was Okanagan minor hockey president Art Fisher of Kelowna who presented the Packers with the John McCulloch memorial trophy.

Two remaining Vernon teams still trying for championship honors are the Vernon Midgets who lost their first game to Kamloops by a 6-4 difference Saturday night at Kamloops and the Vernon Bantam Reps who take on Revelstoke next weekend here at home.

Both of these series are best of three games and the Midgets hope to get back on the win trail this Friday when they host Kamloops in a 7:15 p.m. game.

Bantams take to the ice here on Saturday with game time set for 4:15 p.m.

