

League meeting today to decide playoffs

By DOUG BULWER

A win and a loss was the sum total of the Vernon Essos weekend games in the B.C. Junior Hockey League schedule resulting in only a minor change in the over-all picture.

However, the big fight at the moment for the eventual league leadership between Kamloops and Pentiction could evolve around the Vernon Essos with the last few league games due to be played by next weekend.

Both Kamloops and Pentiction went into the last weekend of regular action with five points separating the two, and that is

exactly the way they still sit, with the Kamloops Rockets holding the point bulge at the moment.

Where the Essos come in, stems from the fact they will play Kamloops twice, (tomorrow night here and in Kamloops Wednesday) and a pair of wins on the part of the Essos coupled with the Pentiction boys taking the final three games of their schedule which also includes one with Vernon and one with Kamloops, could mean the Broncos regaining the league leadership they held until just after the Christmas holidays.

While Vernon and Kelowna hold firm their league placings in the point structure (Kelowna third, Vernon fourth) with no hope of any change, it is extremely important to the other two clubs where they finish because of the advantage of home games in the upcoming playoffs.

Looking at the Coast section of the eight team league, no real threat of a change comes in the present standings, although Bellingham could take over third place if they can put together enough wins in their seven remaining games because of the fact they are only nine points back of third place Vancouver who also have a large point structure to gain in their five remaining games.

Probably the most important aspect of all stems from the league meeting now under way at Vancouver in which the playoff schedule is being discussed at the time The Vernon News goes to press today.

It can be a safe bet, the playoffs will be thoroughly talked over with several managers looking for the best combination of who plays whom.

Already rumors indicate the juggling of the playoffs in which all eight teams are involved in the first round, semi-finals that is in each division, is being argued and if some have their way it will be the first and fourth teams and second and third teams meeting in a best-of-seven semi-final.

This is the way the NHL playoffs are run, but they have a lot more than eight teams in the regular schedule so only the best four teams per division get the chance at further action. With the Juniors, it doesn't really matter what the win, loss or point structure is in regular league action, all teams go into the finals anyway.

As mentioned Vernon play tomorrow night, with Kamloops here for an 8 p.m. game, then Vernon travel to Kamloops

Wednesday night, go to Pentiction Friday night then play their last home game here against Kelowna on Saturday night.

The Saturday game will be game 61 of the regular league play which leaves just one game unaccounted for, this being the game Vernon were to play against Bellingham earlier in the season.

At this point, it doesn't look as if this game will be played because Bellingham would have to finance the Vernon club to make the coast trip and it seems they would rather forfeit the two points. But, if the playoffs say team one plays team four and two against three, it may be to the advantage of Bellingham to play Vernon if they feel the points would help them into third place and get them into a better playoffs set-up in the semi-finals.

Whatever happens, the division leaders can expect much opposition from the weaker clubs in the semi-final series and there just could be

some upsets with the two division finalists being none other than the third or fourth place finishers in the regular schedule.

Vernon in particular, are looking good with their 6-5 win at Kelowna last Friday and a good showing here at home on Saturday when they dropped a 6-4 loss to Pentiction.

The Saturday game was in

doubt right up to the last moment and it was only a last minute empty net goal scored by the Broncos that decided the game.

With the playoffs starting as early as a week from Tuesday, the action of the remaining games should prove interesting.

Game time here Tuesday with the Essos hosting Kamloops is 8 p.m.

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B.C. Jr. hockey standings

To and including Sunday, March 4, 1973

	Gp	Interior			Gf	Ga	Pts
		W	L	T			
Kamloops	58	43	14	1	328	212	87
Pentiction	59	40	17	2	294	310	82
Kelowna	59	33	25	1	335	268	67
Vernon	57	25	31	1	270	270	51
Coast							
Nanaimo	59	30	28	1	340	325	61
Chilliwack	58	26	31	1	252	278	53
Vancouver	57	17	39	1	330	319	35
Bellingham	55	12	41	2	223	347	26

Weekend Scoreboard

Friday — Ver. 6, Kel 5
 Nan. 8, Van. 8 (Tie)
 Saturday — Kam. 6, Kel. 5
 Pen. 6, Ver. 4
 Chwk. 5, Bell. 4
 Sunday — Kel. 4, Pen. 3
 Chwk. 3, Bell. 2
 Van. 9, Nan. 0

National lifeguard course

The Vernon Department of Parks and Recreation will sponsor a National Lifeguard Certification Course and a Special National Lifeguard Instructors' course this spring.

The certification course will be held at the Recreation Centre Swimming Pool during the week of May 24 to June 1 on a daily basis.

Persons interested in obtaining their Instructor rating will attend a two day clinic in Kamloops in April followed by instruction of the above mentioned certification course in conjunction with a course conductor.

Persons wishing further information regarding the above courses should contact the Recreation Centre Swimming Pool Office at 545-0571.

Role of Cdn. Sports Federation explained

By BOB FERGUSON

OTTAWA — Urgency, anticipation and enthusiasm all are labels which could be affixed to the atmosphere engulfing sports in Canada today.

Never was it more evident than during the recent Canadian Amateur Sports Federation (that's the umbrella organization which includes in its ranks representatives from almost every sports governing body in this nation) meeting in Ottawa.

Delegates from all sectors of the country recognized the urgent need for action — "it's time to cut the conversation and get on with the job." The air of anticipation of seeing that job — a positive approach to the continued growth of sports and

bring insurance for all athletes within the reach of all sports, big and small, at nominal cost.

Accepted too as projects were a records management plan and an encyclopaedia of sports with which I have the pleasure of being involved.

A sports lottery, based on the successful Manitoba Sportoto program, to be conducted on a national basis once legal ramifications are studied and necessary steps taken, was also unanimously approved.

"Sports and recreation in Canada can't always remain in the shadow of the federal government waiting like expectant fathers for word of a new arrival of funds. The sooner outside financing for many projects can be obtained the

Kokanee swimmers compete Nationally

The Vernon Kokanee swim club takes part in "Operation Olympics".

The Canadian Amateur Swimming Association holds nation-wide age group swimming championships each year. The meet is named "Operation Olympics" and subtitled "National Age Group Championships."

The purpose of operation olympics is to attain mass participation in competitive swimming on a national scale in the hope future international swimmers may be encouraged and/or discovered.

Over 70 swim meets are being held across Canada with each center swimming the same program and order of events. Each center forwards results to Calgary for final collation by computer. It is expected that all 10 Canadian provinces will participate involving some 5,000 swimmers from 175 swim clubs. The program must be held

between February 24 and March 5.

The local swim club have completed their 1973 program and results were considered fair. Twenty-five girls and 15 boys will soon receive results on where they rank in Canadian age group swimming.

Top three swimmers for Kokanees in each age group were:

10 and under girls: Karin Barber, Tracy Baird, Patty Forsyth.

10 and under boys: Rod Ferris, Rod Koenig, Chris Ross & Dean VanOverbeek (Tie).

11 and 12 girls: Pam Banser, Heidi Steiner, Diane Baird.

11 and 12 boys: Chris Miller, Bruce Berger, Troy Allum.

13 and 14 girls: Dawn Banser, Cindy Altwasser, Norma VanOverbeek.

13 and 14 boys: Mike Hr-ditschka, Stephen Briggeman, Jordy Koenig.

Kokanee Swim Club finished 73rd out of 159 participating clubs last year.

It is hoped the club would do equally as well this year.

The individuals expected to score points for the local club are: Karin Barber, Tracy Baird, and Chris Miller, although others may do well nationally.

Next competition for the Kokanees is expected to be

Riding club presents life memberships

The Vernon and District riding club have re-elected Mrs. Irene Nahm of Coldstream to her second term as club

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