Rockets clinch top spot

Kamloops Rockets clinched first place in the Interior Division of the B.C. Junior Hockey League Tuesday night by edging Vernon Essos 6-5. Second-place Penticton Broncos won their game with Kelowna Buckaroos 5-3, but it still left them five points behind Kamloops with just two games to play.

Chris McMasters led the visiting Rockets with three goals. Ken Dodd added a pair and Neil Lyseng scored once.

Tim Sanche, Greg Howe, Ken Price, Dan Kuntz and John Kokotelo replied for Vernon.

Kamloops held a 2-1 first period edge but Vernon tied the score at 4-4 after 40 minutes of play. Vernon outshot Rockets 34-25.

In Penticton, Broncos exploded for five goals in the first 30 minutes — and that was all they needed. Penticton held period leads of 3-0 and 5-2 and was never threatened.

Deryl Fell, Tony Currie, Tim Scruch, Chad Campbell and Grant Mulvey shared the Penticton scoring while Ken Weninger, Ken Loehendorf and Murray Hanson countered for Kelowna.