



Sports

By DOUG BULWER, Sports Editor



Junior hockey playoffs ahead

Vernon Essos may not have won their last two outings, but their style of play indicates when they take to the playoff trail next week they just may show everyone why they are defending B.C. champs.

Following a close and exciting 6-5 loss to Kamloops here on Tuesday night, which, by the way, gave the Kamloops Rockets the interior league pennant title for the 1972-73 season, Essos travelled back to the Hub City last night (Wednesday) and again gave the Rockets a rough time of it before succumbing to a narrow 4-3 loss.

In both games, Essos made all the moves that would normally give them a win, and as far as everyone is concerned will do just that when they meet the same Rockets early next week in the Interior's semi-final series.

Nanaimo of the Coast section also can say they are the pennant champs but in the Lower Mainland Coast playoff can expect some tough games all along the semi-final trail.

The following is a league press release giving dates and deadlines of the playoffs:

Penticton Broncos netminder Glen Bueckert — with a 3.70 goals against average — has been named the most valuable player in the B.C. Junior Hockey League for the '72-73 season.

Bueckert is generally credited with being the man responsible for leading the Broncos to their current second place standing in the league's interior division.

Bueckert beat out forward Rick Shinske of the Kamloops Rockets in the balloting.

Defenceman Tim Sanche of the Vernon Essos was chosen rookie of the year for the league. Sanche, like Bueckert was named recently to the league's all-star team.

The most sportsmanlike player award was granted to Duane Monteith of the Bellingham Blazers. Monteith, currently 11th in the scoring race, was judged by league officials to have combined the best combination of scoring ability and sportsmanlike play.

The league also announced their playoff structure at a meeting Monday.

The initial playoff series will start Tuesday, March 13. In series A, the first place team in the Interior plays the last place Interior team, while the second and third place teams tangle in series B. Series C and D will see similar playoffs at the Coast. The two winners in each division will meet starting March 23 to determine a division champion, and the two division winners will meet in the championship series starting March 31.

Ski race finals at Baldy

Mary Anne Day, south zone coordinator, has announced that finals for the zone Nancy Greene racers will be held at the Osoyoos Mount Baldy hill this coming Sunday.

Top teams from Big White, Last, Apex and Baldy will compete for top spot in the zone.

Along with the finals, second teams from each area have been invited to participate in a consolation round of races. This will be a day of combined finals and rally day.

Over a hundred youngsters from the South Okanagan are expected to take part.

Baldy has also been chosen as the site of the West Kootenay Inter High Dual Slalom to be held Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18.

Jr. HOCKEY



Saturday, March 10th
Kelowna Buckaroos
vs
Vernon Essos

FACE-OFF 8 P.M. SHARP
Support Junior Hockey
With Your Attendance.