

Start of final period

# Referee stops game when players and fans fight

By DOUG BULWER

Kamloops 7—Vernon 3  
Kamloops 5—Vernon 3  
Vernon Essos have their backs to the wall following a pair of losses suffered at the hands of the Kamloops Rockets in B.C. Junior A hockey semifinal playoffs currently under way.

Rockets opened the best of seven game series Tuesday night on home ice by posting a decisive 7-3 win, then Wednesday night here in Vernon, too, just under 43 minutes of a scheduled 60-minute encounter to pick up a 4-3 victory.

Over-shadowing the hockey action of both games was the cancelling of the second game with 17 minutes and five seconds remaining to be played in the third period here at Vernon on Wednesday.

A sudden outburst of fighting by players followed by fans getting into the act prompted referee Red Bosscha of Penitence to call the game at the 2:55 mark of the final stanza.

While all the facts and reasons for the game cancellation are not officially known at the moment, it is understood Bosscha called the game because the Vernon arena did not provide adequate protection to the players and officials from the fans.

What happens from this point will hinge on a decision the league intends to take on what took place here in Vernon.

One obvious fact is known at this writing and this stems from the point of view as expressed by Essos team manager Vern Dye.

Dye had made immediate contact with league president Dennis Coates at the conclusion of the Tuesday game in Kamloops and requested a referee for the Wednesday game.

Apparently his overtures for a new game official fell on deaf ears because referee Red Bosscha was again on the job in Vernon.

During the second period

intermission, manager Dye expressed himself in no uncertain terms while being interviewed over Vernon radio station CJIB.

"This is a real good game tonight, the boys are skating hard but the only change I would like to see out there in which I'll certainly check into tomorrow is the refereeing."

"I asked for a change after last night's game but I see our president faithfully didn't phone me today as I see he went along with Bosscha and I'm certainly against this."

"It is our prerogative to ask for a change in referees in which I did and he didn't give it to us."

"And, I think this Bosscha is packing a little bit of sword for us, he is kinda sticking it in to us."

Coates informed Vernon

Essos team manager Vern Dye by telephone late Wednesday night of this decision but failed to delve into any more details until a complete review of all reports have been done into concerning the decision by Bosscha to call the game at the 2:55 mark of the final period on Wednesday.

He told the Vernon News early today he did not know who would be the referee of the game but did explain the unfinished period would be finished sharp at 6:45 and at the conclusion, a 20-minute rest period would follow before the fourth game of the scheduled best of seven semifinal series got under way.

I would say a few times, and this is the only thing I am griping about tonight's game," said manager Vern Dye.

As mentioned, this interview took place at the end of the

## Unfinished game to be completed

LAKE FLASH

B.C. Junior A Hockey League president Dennis Coates of Kamloops has proclaimed the remainder of the game cancelled Wednesday night by referee Red Bosscha will be played Sunday night prior to the start of the fourth game which is scheduled here in Vernon.

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Other teams on hand will be the defending champion Williams Lake, Glendene Eagles, Merritt, Westbank, Bonaparte (near Cache Creek), Penitence and Chase.

The two-day show will get under way with five shortened time games on Saturday in the first round of the double knockout series with the finalists going at it on Sunday.

Those first Saturday games will be played on a 15-minute per period time limit because of the extra teams involved this year and the shortage of time to complete the overall tournament by early Sunday night.

The schedule of the Saturday games will see Glendene take on Six Mile at 8 a.m., Merritt playing Westbank at 9 o'clock, Penitence versus Bonaparte at 10 a.m., Head of the Lake meeting Chase at 11 and Westside Langford with Williams Lake at 12 noon.

Daily admission prices for each day are a reasonable \$2 for adults and 75 cents for children.

second period and what followed shortly after seemed to bear fruit of what Dye had been saying.

Coach Odie Lowe apparently had over-expressed himself just prior to sending his team back out on the ice to start the final period and was given a game misconduct.

Out of site of spectators and apparently in the walk-way leading from both the Essos and referees dressing room, Lowe met up with Bosscha and by the time he had finished expressing his opinion of the officiating found himself out of the game.

This seemed to light the fuse of what happened next, because with just five seconds short of three minutes into the third frame, a pair of high sticking penalties were assessed Vernon and Kamloops players, Greg Howe and Neil Lyseng.

While Bosscha was dictating the penalty assessments to the scorekeeper, two more scuffles on the ice broke out and at the same time a spectator got into the act by throwing a punch at Lyseng who had just entered the penalty box. Lyseng in turn fed the attacker off with his stick and then promptly returned to the ice to get away from a mass of people who suddenly jammed the penalty box area.

It was at this juncture Bosscha used his authority as the chief official of the game and immediately awarded the game to Kamloops Rockets.

Reason he is said to have given, was he felt there was not enough adequate protection from fans for the players and officials of the game.

One report said even the scorekeeper was stepped on by

the mass of pushing and shoving fans who were venting their rage at the officials, in particular Bosscha.

Next game of the series is due

to return to Kamloops Friday night with game four set for back here in Vernon on Sunday evening with this game set for a 7 p.m. start.

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## Sr. bowlers host tournament

One of the nicest signs of our times comes with the news our Vernon senior citizens are regaining much needed recognition with their sport and recreation activity.

Two particular sporting endeavors have come to light of late, what with the news a senior men's curling foursome from Vernon won the C event of the annual B.C. Senior Association bonspiel held in Kelowna last weekend and senior bowlers from this area joining forces with other Valley centres in association playdowns.

Senior age bowlers of Vernon will host a Valley-wide bowling playoff series on April 1 which will include a wind-up banquet

at one of the popular local Chinese restaurants.

The Vernon based senior bowlers will have 60 years of age to qualify for membership in the Okanagan-Mainline Inter-City League which, by the way, goes under the heading "Golden Age Bowling Association." Vernon will be the host of the championship rounds for the first time.

Senior bowlers here in Vernon bowl every Friday afternoon and are one of the most active groups of its size in Vernon sporting circles.

The big tournament, as mentioned, will take place here in Vernon at Lincoln Lanes on April 1 with the first games due to start sharp at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to be on hand to watch the bowling action of these seniors and for those who wish to attend the banquet, tickets can be obtained at Lincoln Lanes at a reasonable cost.

## Sr. curlers win C event

Senior Curlers Association of B.C., Interior annual bonspiel held in Kelowna March 8, 9 and 10 saw 48 rinks entered, five from Vernon. "C" event was won by Vernon rink skippered by H.L. Coursier, E. Ganezveid, Leath, Woolam, second, and R. Nelson, third.

Before California was settled, coast redwoods covered about two million acres.

## Bowlers of the week



## Soccer exhibition game Sunday

Senior soccer exhibition action resumes here in Vernon Sunday as the Vernon Herdberg Rangers play host to the Kelowna Kickers.

With regular league schedule play just around the corner, the Vernon based club are looking to get themselves in shape to defend the league title won last year.

Also with the exhibition games, coach Kurt Wenzlaf is getting a chance to look over several good prospects, particularly several younger fellows who have moved up from juvenile ranks.

Game time at MacDonald park has been set for 2 p.m. and local fans are sure to see some excellent action as all the players are hoping to make the team roster.

## Players suspended

# NOHL playoff series narrows

The fast pace of the North Okanagan Hockey League semifinal series has seen two games in both the 'A' and 'B' sections go by the boards.

Head of the Lake Stampede now hold a two-game lead over the Armstrong Cougars following their 4-3 win Sunday night in the 'A' section and Vernon Merchants also have taken a two game stranglehold over the Winfield Raiders with their 3-2 victory, also played last Sunday night.

While the next game of the best of five series has not been scheduled at the moment, it is definitely known the NOHL will not play this Sunday night because of the B.C. Junior A playoff game scheduled for Civic Arena.

Armsstrong and Winfield have their backs to the wall and must come through with a victory in their next outings or face elimination from further play.

In other league activity, the commissioners of the league handed down decisions Wednesday night concerning match penalties handed out by referee Glen Swanson after two players, Wally Bevan and Pat Mick, both from the Vernon Merchant lineup, were assessed the match penalties following two separate altercations when it was alleged the players had struck the above mentioned referee.

was ordered not to dress for any of the remaining games of the semifinal series.

In the case of Mick, the commissioners ruled he would be suspended from further NOHL play until further notice.

Bevan was given the match penalty call in the opening game of the Merchant-Winfield series when he apparently became incensed at a call made by Swanson and is alleged to have made body contact with the referee during a heated argument.

In the case of Pat Mick, he had been initially given a game misconduct when he argued too strenuously with the same referee in the second game of the series and subsequently given a game misconduct for continuing the verbal exchange.

As Mick was about to leave the ice surface at the players entrance at the south end of the arena, he came into contact with referee Swanson, knocking him to the ice where Swanson fell back striking his head against the boards.

Bevan was given a light penalty assessment when he