

## First Jr. "A" game Sunday

# Essos meet Royals here

The birth of a Province-wide Junior "A" hockey league, started many months ago, will be finally realized this Sunday when the six team league step on the ice to play their opening games of a 40 game schedule running from Oct. 13 through to March 2.

Many months of planning will be realized when teams from Vernon, Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton, New Westminster and Victoria take to the ice to perform in the first major Junior league ever properly organized in B.C.

Big things are expected from the league, particularly from the standpoint of professional leagues, who will look to this new group for future players to fill their own ranks.

The "A" loop, governed by a committee of B.C. minor hockey officials, headed by Clem Bird of Penticton will try and maintain a high standard of hockey for all young men graduating from various minor hockey divisions throughout the province.

For Vernon, the hopes of a winner in this new league will ride high on the efforts of several veteran juniors from the old Okanagan league as well as with imports like Dick Marsh, a defenseman from Quesnel and goalie Jack Gilroy from Burnaby. Along with these tried play-



Jr. "A" hockey action Sunday

The Vernon Essos junior "A" hockey club are bracing themselves for their debut Sunday afternoon in the newly formed B.C. Junior "A" league when they meet defending champion New Westminster Royals here in Vernon Civic Arena. Fruit of many weeks hard training will be determined by the local team when they step on the ice for the first time this season to do battle against a highly rated Coast crew. Pic-

ers, Vernon has an excellent stock of graduating Juveniles and other good

hockey players that have grown up with hockey in this area.

tured above, import goalie Jack Gilroy, 18, who hails from Burnaby, is taking his practice session quite seriously as he would like nothing better to win over the Royals. According to Jack, victory would be quite sweet over a good many of his former team-mates with whom he played during his minor hockey days at the Coast.

Sunday, is the day of the first big test, as the Essos take to the ice against New

Westminster Royals for the opening game of the 1967-68 junior season.