

Bird flutters on decision

Teams eyeing playoff spots

Going into the final stretch of the regular schedule, members of the B.C. junior "A" hockey league are already eyeing their chance of playoff positions as they jockey for points.

Who will be in on one of the fourth places lies naturally on who can gain the most points from the remaining games.

Penticton's play to date pretty well assures them of the pennant, providing they keep up their present pace.

The next three places will be anyone's guess. According to most officials around the league, Vernon seems to have the edge to gain the most points for the last half of the schedule, as their steady improvement of team strength

is highly regarded by these same officials.

Unknown as yet, is how Victoria will fare. They have been hot and cold all season and if coach Doug Anderson can get some added help, his present roster just might jell into an unbeatable combination.

The two teams that have the biggest row to hoe are New Westminster and Kamloops. They have both been looking over their respective shoulders for most of the season, not only at Vernon, but how Victoria stands.

Bob Fenton knows he is going to have to make some changes in order to get the Royals to come out of their flimsy shells and Ken Stewart has his fingers crossed, hoping he doesn't get too many injuries, particu-

larly to his one man show-boat, Randy Rota.

The Kelowna showing this year has shed no tears on the part of the rest of the league except for their own wet towels.

They are presently firmly entrenched in the bottom spot and it obviously pleases the other three Okanagan teams as they remember well the almost sneering dominance Buckaroos held in past seasons.

The league in general has had its expected first year jitters. The apparent weakness on the part of league president Clem Bird of Penticton to make a decision on the Nov. 1 protest by Vernon over Kamloops for using unsigned players has caused some raised eyebrows around the circuit.

At the general meeting last week, it was agreed by everyone present, that Vernon was right in protesting the game, but it made things look bad for some of the rest of the teams as they too had failed to follow the CAHA rules on having every player signed to cards prior to the league start. However, the league used their option and set Nov. 1 as the deadline for card signing, and Kamloops did not comply.

Bird was to contact the Kamloops manager, Don Brown, to resolve the protest by suggesting the game be played over, with both teams sharing the gate receipts, but a report from Kamloops says Brown has yet to hear from Bird and besides, he would not consider the idea of each team sharing any profits derived from the game.

League standings to Dec. 19:

	GP	W	L	T	P
Penticton	20	18	2	0	36
Kamloops	20	11	9	0	22
New West.	19	9	8	2	20
Vernon	19	8	8	3	19
Victoria	22	5	14	3	13
Kelowna	19	3	14	2	8

Ed Roze of Vernon chosen for ski team

A young Vernon ski enthusiast, presently receiving his education in Eastern Canada has been named to

program is essential to the continued development of Canada's National Ski Team.

Walter Scofield, Ste. Adele, Que.; Blake Lowden, Montreal.

Kamloops here for big game tonight

Vernon Essos will be looking for an important win tonight as they play host to Kamloops Rockets in B.C. junior "A" hockey action at the civic arena.

The Rockets, current holders of second place with 22 points in the league's standings are three points ahead of the Essos who have 21 and two ahead of New Westminster with 20, who did not apparently play their scheduled game against Victoria in the capital city last night.

A win by Essos could move them out of fourth place into third spot, one point behind the Rockets and one point ahead of the Royals.

Game time is set for 8:30 p.m. and should prove entertaining to all hockey fans particularly since both clubs seem to be having a running feud since the Nov. 1 game, when both fans and players took part in an egg throwing and stick swinging episode at Kamloops.

Among the regular attractions of program prizes, five turkeys will be drawn for. The shot on goal jackpot is also proving of more and more interest with the prize money now worth \$150. Lucky program holder gets a chance to shoot from the blueline and if he or she can hit the small hole, dead centre of the wooden backdrop, will take home a nice Christmas present. There are four meals and two theatre passes to be given away, too.

Both programs and tickets go on sale sharp at 7:30 p.m.

Hydro races at Kelowna doubtful

The British Columbia Cup unlimited hydroplane race at Kelowna is in a "somewhat doubtful status at present," says a report from Hydroplanes Unlimited, the publicity agency for the American Power Boat Association's unlimited division.

At least 15 areas are asking to be considered for the 10 races that will likely be staged during the 1968 season, and existing races at Detroit, Seattle, Madison, Ind., Pasco, Wash., San Diego and Sacramento, Calif., have the inside track to stage races during the 1968 season.

Salmon River news

On Saturday evening the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Needoba was the scene of pre-Christmas family gathering when the guests enjoyed a buffet supper, followed by interesting slides shown by Wayne Needoba, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Needoba, who just returned from Australia where he has been employed for over three years. He will spend Christmas with his family before having to return during the first week in January. It is quite a contrast from tropical warmth to the wintry chilliness of Canada.

Near top of league too

Serviss and Wilson lead team for points

Tom Serviss picked up five more points in week- end play to keep pace with the league's scoring lead-

ers and to maintain the Essos leadership. He now has 41 points in 19 games, played this season.

Team-mate Jeff Wilson also took his share of points, picking up a goal and four assists for 35 points so far this year. Wilson has the honor of leading his team with most goals with a total of 18. Serviss leads the assist department for both team and league standings with 32.

The first four positions on the Essos' list remained the same with Serviss, Wilson, Rolston and Quechuk running in that order.

Tom Williamson, following his six game suspension, is quickly making his presence felt in the team scoring fraternity. He picked up three goals and two assists to jump into fifth place, deposing Larry Hackman to sixth spot.

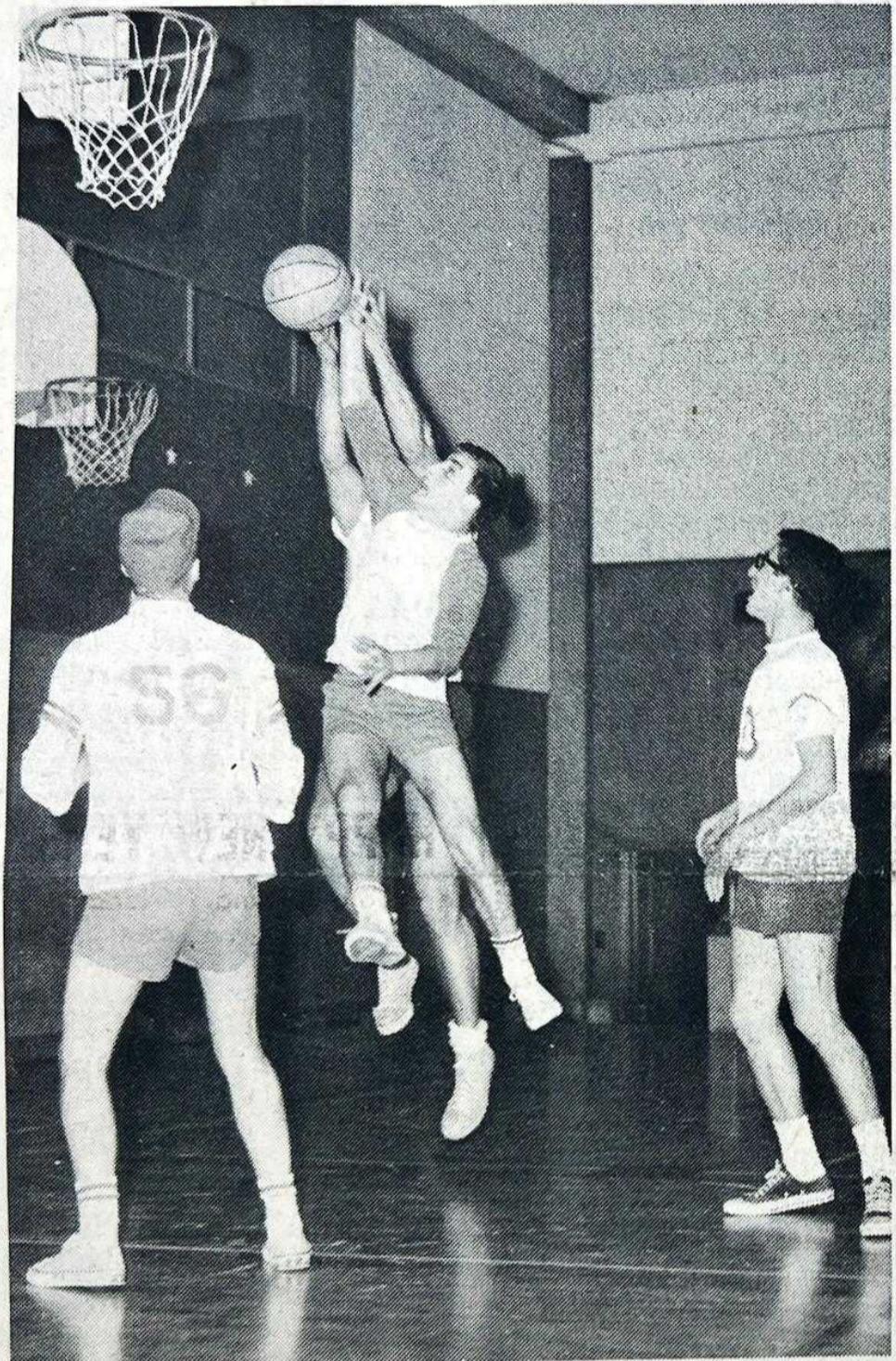
Jerry Vachon and Bob Mayer also made moves up the ladder as they both jumped ahead of Mike Perepolkin who didn't score a point over the weekend. Vachon scored twice and assisted on one other to take over number eight position.

Wayne Dye also had a good weekend, scoring one and assisting on one other to share tenth spot with Dick Marsh.

There were no other changes on the point chart. Blanchette, Elliott and Reilly hold the bottom positions with none of them managing any points in the two games played.

Essos scoring leaders to Dec. 17:

	G	A	P	PIM
Serviss	9	32	41	36
Wilson	18	17	35	9
Rolston	14	17	31	10
Quechuk	11	14	25	39
Williamson	9	6	15	40
Hackman	5	8	13	8
Vachon	5	7	12	10
Mayer	7	4	11	6
Perepolkin	3	7	10	6
Dye	3	3	6	19
Marsh	2	4	6	36
Blanchette	2	2	4	0
Elliott	1	1	2	12
Reilly	0	1	1	2



A promise of exciting action

A promise of exciting basketball action between Christmas and New Year's will be one of the highlights of the holidays for both visiting Vernonites and present high school students. The annual homecoming basketball match between former graduates and this year's edition of the Panther high school boys' team should prove popular as ever with the arrival of several well known faces home for the holidays and to do battle on the floor of the senior high gymnasium. Game time is set for 8:30 p.m. a week Friday, Dec. 29, and will feature former Panther cheer leaders, a preliminary game and an informal dance after the main game. Seats will be at a premium, so come early.

On national ski team

Rod Hebron listed for European tour

Canada's national ski