



Jack Gilroy

Vernon goalie Jack Gilroy prepares to block a shot during an Essos' workout at the Civic Arena. The Essos are preparing for the first league encounter Saturday night, when they will host the Kamloops juniors. Both teams are still smarting from 11-4 and 7-2 shellackings handed out by the touring Red Deer Rustlers last weekend, and will be looking to set things straight with a season opening win. Game time is 8:30 at the Vernon Civic Arena.

NORTH

SPORTS

OKANAGAN

League opener

Essos at home for Saturday

The Vernon Junior Essos will play their first game on home ice regardless of the current CUPE strike. A general meeting of the Junior Hockey Steering Committee has decided.

The Essos will take on the Kamloops juniors Saturday at 8:30 p.m. in the first official action of the season.

After last Sunday's exhibition dumping by the Red Deer Rustlers, acting coach Gord Nuyens has been giving the Essos stiff workouts to sharpen up the passing and defense aspects of the team.

Team manager Vern Dye announced that Bob Blanquette will be returning to the Essos shortly and is expected to see action sometime next week.

During the course of the league action in the 1968-69 season, the Essos will play 39 games of which 20 will be home encounters.

A spokesman for the Junior Essos Steering Committee said that regular league rates will prevail at Saturday's opener in the Civic Arena.

OMBL to meet Sunday

Vernon Civic Arena manager John Bruce informed The Vernon News of the Okanagan Mainline Hockey Association meeting which will be held Sunday, Oct. 6 at the Allison Hotel.

Mr. Bruce who is also first vice-president of the association has extended an invitation to all interested parties to attend and take in the proceedings.

The OMHA is the governing body that establishes all rulings concerned

From the Sports Desk

by WES RUSSELL

The other day, my "everluvin" and I spent an afternoon traversing hill and dale in search of the easy prey that are hereabouts known as grouse.

Preparatory to convincing "everluvin" that she should accompany me on this trek into the wilderness, I had assured her that the local grouse were certainly a close relative to the now extinct Dodo bird, and could in many instances be knocked out of their miserable existence with a short stick applied gently-but-firmly to the cranial area.

"Everluvin," who did not have the good fortune to spend her growing years hereabouts was completely enthralled at the prospect of running down a feathered dinner with so little effort.

Consequently we journeyed forth, suitably dressed for the occasion, to search for the feathered morsels who wait with bowed heads for the hunter.

Among our entourage on this particular Safari was "dog" (you'd laugh at his real name) who is noted for his particular skill of drawing game out into the open in the direction of his master...namely charging moose, enraged bears etc.

Having reached the particular spot which I remembered from my younger days as being "Grouse Country," we set forth on foot.

"Everluvin," who is known in other parts of the province as "the terror of the turkey shoot," carried the gun, while I joined the dog in snuffing around the underbrush.

Things have changed since I dropped the role of "great white hunter" some years back. Dog and I sniffed and snuffed over the under deadfalls, through hawthorne bushes, across muskegs and mudholes, but nary a thing did we find that would cause us to raise a collective ear in interest.

We did run across several rabbits later on in the day, but dog has been trained to leave such quarry alone, and looked at me with great disdain as I set off yelping and yipping after the cotton-tail set.

Finally after several hours of coursing (and cursing) through the underbrush dog and I responded to Everluvin's whistle and dragged ourselves wearily back to the car to lick our thorn-filled paws.

There was no way in which I could convince Everluvin that the mythical grouse do exist. The whole day turned out to be a misery and the grand finale came at the supper table. Dog who became the object of her sympathy was treated to TWO cans of dog-food. But alas, for my valiant efforts...me, the noted huntsman turned underbrush snuffer...a plate of beans. Howl...

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The Vernon Junior Essos Hockey Club reports the signing of three more club members to this year's roster. The three include Jerry Vachon, Bob Mayor, and 15-year-old Wayne Dye.

Dye, who joined the Essos last season at the age of 14, is known throughout the area as one of the most promising young hockey players on the local scene. And this season, Wayne is still the youngest member of the club.

Dye is noted for his desire to succeed in anything he attempts. He's an aggressive hockey player who can corecheck, backcheck, and stick-handle with a good deal of ability for one his age.

Hockey fans take note: We'll be seeing a great deal of this capable young man in the years to come.

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And finally from our trivia scrapbook this note: Only one per cent of the registered boxer dogs actually wear boxer shorts.

Additional

SPORT

Lack of schooling

Essos manager feeling pinch

Vernon Junior Essos team manager Vern Dye has expressed deep concern over the fact that no news had been received on whether four of the team's imports have been accepted for classes at two Okanagan Senior Secondary schools.

Dye told The Vernon News that if word was not received in the immediate future the four lads in question would pack up and go home.

The boys — Dick Marsh, Jack Marsh, Lawrence Quichuck and Dawson Waite — were originally refused admission to the Vernon school system on the grounds they were not residents of the area.

F. L. Irwin, district superintendent of School District 22, said today that the case of Dawson Waite is still under consideration for the Vernon school.

In a phone conversation with the Armstrong School Board office, The Vernon News was told that a let-

ter had been sent to the Essos president, but no details were released.

Essos manager Vern Dye said, "If these boys have to leave because of inadequate school facilities in the area it will tear the whole backbone out of the team."

Team president Dave MacKay stated that he had received no word to confirm or reject the applications of the lads to the Armstrong school system.

Bowlers meet Friday

Local league bowlers are advised of the general meeting of the Five-Pin Bowling Association which will be held at 9 p.m. Friday in the Coldstream Motor Hotel.

All bowlers are asked to be in attendance for this meeting which will feature the annual election of officers.