

From the Sports Desk

by WES RUSSELL

While talking with arena manager John Bruce and Assistant Recreation Supervisor Gerry Goudge the other day, I found that both men are constantly answering phone inquiries as to the "whens, whys and howcums" of public skating and public swimming.

In passing along the message from them, all I can do is say, "Sorry gang. You're going to have to wait until CUPE and city hall get their collective heads together and settle the strike situation.

The life-guards at the Community Centre pool are all union members and so must also do their stint at walking the picket line.

As for public skating, it's virtually impossible for the few who are manning the arena to arrange such a

from Pumphandle, Sask., and Crowbar, Alta. Many of the members felt that a winter derby does not lead to serious competition as enjoyed by the local organization in the Sunny Okanagan. However, it is hoped that a combination group from Enderby-Armstrong will accept the challenge issued last week.

With the Junior Hockey Season well upon us, it is hoped that several of the local fans who might be able to take a carload of players to one of the other Valley points for even one league game during the year, will get in touch with Ernie Kowal at Ernie's Esso Service. He's making a list and checking it twice.

Additional

SPORT

Essos 3, Rockets 3

Vernon draws with Kamloops

Bolstered by the return of Bob Blanchette, and the addition of red hot newcomer Pat Berottie, the Vernon Essos played to a 3-3 tie with the Kamloops Rockets in Kamloops Wednesday night.

After a scoreless first period which saw a total of nine penalties handed out, the teams returned to the ice to score one goal each in the second stanza.

Kamloops opened the scoring at 6.11 of the second period when Rockets' captain Marv Ferg slipped through the Vernon lines to beat Jack Gilroy unassisted.

Less than a minute and a half later, Wayne Dye finalized a play set up by Lawrence Quechuck and Bobby Craig to put the Essos on the board and tie the score at 1-1. Four more penalties were handed out during the second period with each team getting a pair.

The Essos jumped into an early lead in the third period when Gerry Vachon scored on a pass from Bill Tarnow at 1:39. At 1:46, Vachon came back for a repeat performance, this time unassisted. The Essos by this time had jumped ahead to a 3-1 score.

However, two penalties assessed to the Essos in the third period proved to be very costly.

At 5:55 Don Stanley scored for the Rockets, closing the gap to 3-2. Then at 7:03 Essos defenceman Dawson Waite was assessed a two-minute penalty for interference.

The Rockets, with a one-man advantage put on added pressure and kept the Essos well in their own end. Then, at 11:43, Bob Craig went to the sin-bin on a two-minute high-sticking charge. With the one-man advantage once again, the Rockets made no mistake as Don Stewart scored on a power play.

Neither team was able to get a good foothold after that and the game ended in a 3-3 tie.

Jack Gilroy, in goal for Vernon, and Loren Hudson of Kamloops, each blocked 38 shots during the game.

Nine of the 14 penalties

handed out during the game came to the Essos.

Manager Vern Dye is high in his praise of newcomer Pat Berottie, who arrived in town two days ago from Moose Jaw. "He looks like the fellow we've needed all along," he said. "He skates well, shoots well, and generally looks good on the ice."

This weekend, the Essos travel to Victoria and New Westminster.

Harwood boy second in B.C. finals

Ralph Johnson, the 10-year old Harwood elementary school student who represented the Okanagan-Kootenay Zone in the Little Leo punt, pass and kick contest held recently in Vancouver, received confirmation the other day that he had placed second in his age bracket.

Ralph's combined total for the punt, pass and kick measured out to 198 feet. This figure was in fact 36 feet short of the mark which decided his eligibility to become the Zone Rep.

The winner in the 10 year old bracket was Kelly McCabe of South Fort George Elementary in Prince George, with a total of 219 feet.

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