

# Juniors defeat Kamloops Rockets

More than 800 fans filed into the Vernon Arena Friday night to watch the Vernon Essos play host to the Kamloops Rockets. For the first two periods they sat wondering why they had ever wasted the money to attend.

The Essos were down by a score of 4-0 as they skated on the ice to begin the third period. Then, the Miracle Workers did it again. A third period rally for six unanswered goals

gave the Essos a victory that minutes before had seemed a certainty for the visitors.

The Rockets, playing better than they had ever stacked up against the Essos before, scored two goals in the first period off the sticks of Grant Williams and Gordon Redding.

Had it not been for the fantastic performance of John Bade in the Kamloops nets, the game would have been over for the Rockets in the first period. Bade blocked a total of 23 shots during the first frame and held back every Vernon attack. By the time the game was completed, Bade had turned aside 43 Esso attempts.

In the second period, play was confined to the centre ice area. However, Larry Simon and Stephen Sanders did manage to break through the Vernon defence and pick up two more tallies.

Then in the third period, the Essos pulled all the stops and out-played, out-shot, and outskated the tiring visitors.

It was a big evening for Wayne Dye who pulled off three goals in seven minutes.

Dye connected at 1:12 of the third to give the Essos their first score of the game. The goal had come on a pass from the point, manned by Bob Craig.

With the ice broken, the Essos went all out to score more goals. The next man to beat Bade in the Kamloops net was Bob Blanchette who scored unassisted at 2:08.

At 3:49 Gerry Vachon slapped a pass in front of the Kamloops goal. Wayne Dye, who had been waiting in the "slot" position rushed the puck and tipped it into the Kamloops net with the greatest of ease.

At the eight minute mark of the third, the line of Dye, Quechuck, and Blanchette returned to the ice with

every fan screaming "Go Vernon, go... go Vernon, go." And "Go" is exactly what they did. Wayne Dye picked up his third goal of the evening at 8:14 on a pass from Lawrence Quechuck. The score was tied 4-4.

As is only fitting when a team pulls a surprise come-back over stiff opposition, a defenceman scored what proved to be the winning goal for the Essos. In attempting to set up a scoring play, Gerry Vachon found himself hemmed in along the boards by two Kamloops defenders. He made a quick flip pass out to Bob Craig who made no mistake in his attempt to get it past Bade. The Essos had come to the front, 5-4.

Not satisfied with a one-goal advantage, the Essos kept up the pressure until Pat Becotte scored at 12:30 on a pass from Jack Marsh.

For the remainder of the game, the Essos maintained their 6-4 lead by using solid defensive tactics.

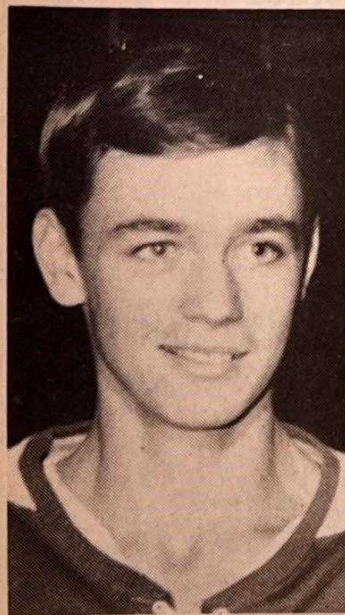
At 16:04, Rockets forward, Larry Mori joined the growing list of BCJHL players who have found that it doesn't pay to throw down their gloves and stick to take a punch at Esso defenceman Bob Craig. As is the usual result of such an encounter, Mori was retired to the penalty box, bleeding from the nose and mouth.

The five-minute majors handed out to Craig and Mori were surprisingly the only such incidents of the game which featured tough tight checking throughout.

Bade in the Kamloops nets blocked 43 Vernon shots, while Al Alexander was required to handle 24.

The fans had entered the

arena in the hope of seeing an Essos victory on home ice. They sat stolidly through the first two periods with nothing more to do than jeer at referee Ernie Poggemiller. But in the last 20 minutes of action... they got what they had come to see. As the near 800 crowd filed from the arena after the final whistle, it was obvious they were content with the knowledge that the Essos are a winning team.



WAYNE DYE



BOB CRAIG



MARVYN MAIER

Reports have come in that Marvyn Maier, who was a member of the old Vernon Blades Hockey Club, is now with the Minnesota North Stars. Maier went to the Stars for the training camp, and is spending this season with the NHL club's farm team in Duluth.

Coal mining has been big business in Oklahoma almost since the first mine was opened in 1872.

## Panthers face tight season

The Vernon senior high school Panthers basketball team is underway for the 68-69 season on a



# From the Sports Desk

by WES RUSSELL

After scoring a fantastic 50 percent in Sunday's physical fitness test on the tube, I feel today like a man scorned by the nation.

On top of that, when a guy can run up a mountain side and leave his wife puffing and moaning far in the rear and then come home and have her beat him out in a silly TV test, things are sad . . .

\*\*\*\*\*

Things are also pretty sad with the Canadian National Hockey team according to St. Louis Blues chief scout Frank Mario.

Mario was in town for last Friday's encounter between the Vernon Essos and the Kamloops Rockets.

Regarding the Nationals, he stated that there are only two players on the team who come up to professional standards.

"It's tough," he said, "to get a good National team together, because once they've achieved a certain standard of performance, the players eagerly accept the offers of the pro-ranks. They know where the money is."

When asked about the calibre of junior hockey he had just witnessed in the Vernon Arena, Mario stated that he was astonished at the way the Essos had made a third period comeback over what had appeared to be overwhelming odds. In particular he pointed out the younger members of the team for special mention.

He also commented on the high calibre of Junior Hockey the boys are able to maintain in the league without the benefit of pro-hockey sponsorship to any great degree.

\*\*\*\*\*

There were a few rumblings among the local sports fans at Friday night's hockey game, that the only time the Essos can play good hockey is when

the pressure is really on.

So what? Lots of teams under a 4-0 deficit would choke up so badly that the score would end up as a total fiasco. Don't knock a team that comes on strong in the final frame . . . it takes good conditioning to be able to save enough energy for a big push late in the game.

This year, the boys have come up with some winning combinations, and they're discovering how to use them most effectively.

\*\*\*\*\*

If the strike of civic workers lingers on, the Mount Paul Skating Club in Kamloops could be in a bit of a bind. They're slated to host the B.C. figure skating championships on Dec. 12, 13, and 14 in the Kamloops Memorial Arena.

\*\*\*\*\*

Finally, congratulations to the five young men who managed to stick to their pledge and pull off 24 hours of bowling over the weekend. My only regret is that people who saw the boys in action only dug up slightly over \$3 for the United Appeal.

The Canadian Film Board has bought 25 U.S. films to be shown to deaf children.

WINTER RECAPS

FROM

\$1.95 EXCH.

\* BIG O TIRES \*

2904 43 Ave. Phone 542-0034