



Back again... to stay

Back with his Vernon Essos once again after the settlement of the CUPE strike, is coach Odie Lowe. Earlier this week he put the boys through a stiff workout interspersed with on-the-ice pep

talks and observations. Lowe's hope is for a triumphant comeback by defeating both Victoria and New Westminster when the team travels to the coast to see action this weekend.

Armstrong wins in close game

ARMSTRONG (Staff) — A two point margin gave the Armstrong high school team a win over the Rutland team in basketball play last Friday. Final score of the game was 39 to 37.

At quarter time, the Rutland lads lead the way with 9 to the Armstrong 8; at half time, Armstrong moved ahead with 24 to Rutland's 18 and at the three-quarter mark, Armstrong stayed in the lead with 31 to 24 and finished the game with a two point edge.

The Rutland team saw strong action in the first quarter but its strength petered out as the game moved into its closing seconds as Armstrong scored the winning goal. High scorer for Armstrong was Robert Aspinall with 10 points and for Rutland, G. Wolfe with nine points.

Another game is in store for Armstrong this Friday when they journey to Revelstoke to meet the Mountaineers in senior A basketball.

Curling bulletin board

Wednesday, Dec. 4

Section 1-7 p.m.

1. Kashuba vs Jones
2. Schmidt vs Guenther
3. Blatchford vs Marshall
4. Brown vs Wetherill

Section 4-9 p.m.

1. Meek vs Atchison Jr.
2. Stowell vs Frizzell
3. Corner vs Soroka
4. Hake vs Faryuk
5. Copan vs D. French

Thursday, Dec. 5

7 p.m. - Open Ice

9 p.m. - Business Girls

Friday, Dec. 6

7 and 9 p.m. - Open Ice

Saturday, Dec. 7 - Firemen's Bonspiel-Daytime

Mixed Curling-Evening

Sunday, Dec. 8 - Firemen's Bonspiel-Daytime

Commercial League - 7 and 9 p.m.

Second round of league play commences Dec. 9.

Registrations are invited for the Senior men's curling which gets under way every Monday and Thursday at 2 p.m. Anyone over 55 is welcome.



Practice makes perfect

If the old adage holds true, perfection should be somewhere in the near future for Vernon Essos goaltender Jack Gilroy, back with his team after a lengthy illness. His first return performance against the New Westminster Royals last Sunday was just short of sensational as he kicked out 49 assaults on the Vernon nets. The Essos won the game on a last minute goal by Wayne Dye with a 4-3 score.

Game club told

Salmon industry has efficient watchdog

"People in the Interior know very little about the salmon industry, and even less about the federal fisheries department."

This was the opening comment made by Forbes Boyd of the fisheries resource development branch in Vancouver in addressing the Vernon and District Fish and Game Club assembly Tuesday evening.

In the course of his talk, he enlightened the group regarding the duties of the federal fisheries department both in control and management capacities.

"One of the main duties of the conservation and protection branch," he said, "is to act as a watchdog over the salmon of the province."

Sixty federal fisheries control officers, based at 10 locations throughout the province, are responsible for the regulations en-

forcement of 1,760 salmon spawning streams.

"As far as catch information is concerned," said Mr. Boyd, "radio network call-in set up is the finest in the world... giving us a running total of the number of Salmon taken at any given time."

Fisheries control officers are also responsible for recommendations regarding the granting of water licenses throughout the province.

The resource development branch is made up of teams of engineers and biologists who are primarily concerned at this juncture with the sockeye runs in the Skeena and Nass rivers of northern B.C., and with the Chum migration in the Fraser.

Much of their time is engaged in building fishways, conducting egg transplants, and designing and constructing artificial spawning beds.

Another major duty of the resource development branch is habitat protection. Problems arise from time to time with major industries and water pollution. The fisheries department lays down stringent controls and attempts to make the companies abide by them.

Another major problem results from log drives, such as the one held in the past one the Selkirk River. This particular drive destroyed 24,000 square yards of spawning beds in 1965.

In spite of a federal fisheries department ban on logs down this particular stretch of water, the B.C. Government seized the logs and turned them into the river anyway in the following year.

"Since that time we have

a better working agreement with the provincial authorities," stated Mr. Boyd.

In explaining the benefit fish ladders are to the salmon migrations, he related that prior to the construction of the Hell's Gate fishway, the number of Pink salmon was almost nonexistent. The Pinks were blocked from getting through the gate by a 30 year old slide which created too much turbulence for them to navigate.

After the construction of the fishway, the Pinks once again made their way upriver to make use of spawning beds that they hadn't used for 30 years. Such is the inherited homing instinct of the Pacific Salmon.

The department has managed to successfully transplant salmon eggs from their natural habitat to artificial spawning beds where the fish can live in a controlled and protected environment until old enough to care for themselves and elude danger.

"With this transplant method we have achieved 80-95 percent survival success," stated Mr. Boyd.

Women curlers to hold pot luck supper

The Vernon Afternoon Ladies Curling Club pot luck supper will be held at the curling club lounge Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

Deadline for new members for the season is Dec. 16.

Anyone interested in joining the women's afternoon curling may do so by contacting Thelma Trickette at 542-7240.

Pool schedule

Gerry Goudge, assistant director of recreation has informed The Vernon News of the Community Centre pool schedule which is now in effect. Early Bird Dips, Mon., Wed., Fri. from 7-8 a.m. School Swimming, Mon. through Fri. from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Adults only, 12-1 daily, Mon. through Fri. Public swimming, 1-5 p.m., Mon. through Fri., and 7-9 p.m., Mon., Wed., and Fri.

Adults only, public swimming 7-9 Tuesdays. Skiers Splash (everyone welcome) 7-9 Thurs. Weekend public swimming will run from 1-6 p.m. and from 7-9 p.m. with everyone welcome. The first set of winter swim lessons will commence on Monday, January 6 for the group that wishes to take two lessons per week.

The group wishing to take one lesson per week will begin on Jan. 8.

Lessons will be given in all divisions from Tadpoles to Seniors.

The Community Centre Sauna bath will be open from 12-5 p.m. week days and from 12-6 p.m. weekends. Monday from 7-9 p.m. is open for men only, while ladies night is Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. All other nights are open to the whole family from 7-9 p.m.

From the Sports Desk

by WES RUSSELL

If the British Columbia Junior Hockey League has any hopes of becoming the efficient feeder organization it wants to be, supplying the hockey greats of the future to the major league teams, there will have to be some radical changes made in the style of officiating.

This year in particular, the officiating has often been so slipshod at the beginning of each game that often things went out of control until the third period. And only then do things come back into perspective if the referee in charge has handed out a series of majors and misconduct penalties.

A great example was the BCJHL game played in Vernon Friday night in which 59 minutes in penalty time were handed out during the first 40 minutes.

Now to anyone who wasn't at the game, 59 minutes in penalty time sounds like some pretty rigid officiating. In actuality, the reverse is true. In this particular game that much time needed to have been handed out in the first 20 minutes.

The players have been allowed to start playing a "chippy" brand of hockey that results in hard-fought, fast, and on occasion injuries.

If we are going to have any kind of a league at all, the referees must clamp down on the elbowing, butt-ending and spearing which follow after almost every bodycheck.

Now, I am certainly not advocating the "mustn't tough" brand of hockey played in world competition. But the players must be trained in the mental attitude of "give and take."

Certainly, the only recourse for a player who is repeatedly butt-ended, pummeled, and kneed to either skate off the ice and wait for a line change, or try to knock his oppressor's teeth down his throat.

As an example of this, mention Vernon defenseman Bobby Craig. Basically, Craig is as clean and gentlemanly a player on the ice as you'll find anywhere.

However, being a defenseman, he is required on numerous occasions to check his opposition closely in an attempt to keep them away from the net. Because of his shortness, Craig is often elbowed, punched, and butt-ended in an attempt to get him out of the way. Consequently these aggressors get a big surprise when suddenly they are flat on their backs wondering why the lights have changed to so many colors.

The point is, Craig wouldn't fight with anyone if the officials would put an end to the chippiness and

stop the viciousness on the ice which precedes every fight. And, the Vernon Essos are as gully as any team in the league.

Ken Love of the New Westminster Royals spent

Additional SPORT

last weekend in hospital because of the same kind of tactics. A Kelowna Buckaroo player smashed him head-first into the boards, then two Bucks jumped on him and beat him up quite severely.

There's something exciting about a good fight in a hockey game... but there's plenty enough opportunity for that in regular wide-open hockey.

Hockey writers from the coast have stated that the refereeing in the interior is the worst they have ever seen — not for bad calls, but for the lack of calls on completely obvious offences that soon lead to the game getting out of hand.

Unless this situation is brought under control in a hurry, some of the junior players could easily be injured for life.

As an aside to the refereeing, the crowd control at all four Okanagan centres has decreased to absolutely nil with patrons even indulging in copious quantities of LCB tonic and becoming thoroughly obnoxious to those sitting in their vicinity.

Where were the RCMP Friday night? Your guess is as good as mine. Where were they Sunday after they had been asked to be in attendance? Lets give them credit for a 10 minute appearance which commenced at the mid-point of the first period.

Now that the strike has been settled, the crowd control can perhaps be organized a bit better by the appearance of more of the regular arena staff. It's a hope anyway.

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Carnival to host

B.C. snowmobile championships

The 1969 edition of the Vernon Winter Carnival will have as one of its main attractions the '69 British Columbia Snowmobile Championships. The events will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 8 and 9, and promise to be bigger and better than any ever held in Western Canada.

This year's races will include the Western and B.C. snowmobile jumping championships, with jumps sanctioned for the world jumping records.

Another event will be the electronically timed speed and drag races — the first electronically timed speed accredited races in Western Canada.

Other events will include cross country races, speed oval races, and closed course obstacle events.

This year, parking facilities will be made available for over 4,000 cars, within a very short walking distance of the race events. And, buses will unload right at the race sites.

Saturday's events will include the start of the cross country events, including the 3.20 cc, 410 cc, and open classes; world speed record drag races; jumping competition; and the completion of the high performance, unlimited, open class cross country race.

Sunday schedule will include: B.C. Championship speed oval elimination

heats; women's powder puff speed oval event; B.C. championship speed oval finals; women's powder puff — Closed obstacle Championships. — Closed obstacle events, and the presentation of trophies.

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ALDERMAN

McDowell, Williamson star with UBC Birds

Two native sons of Vernon have been making the headlines at the coast over the past weeks with their stellar performances with the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds hockey team.

Tom Williamson and Mickey McDowell are reportedly doing a fantastic job with the Birds, who are tied for second place in the Western Intercollegiate Conference.

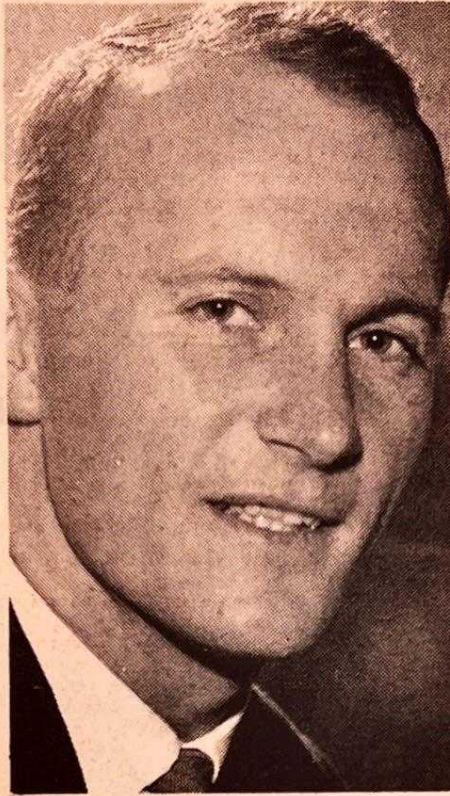
The outstanding point with McDowell and Williamson is the fact that they've been working out tremendously on the same line, with Williamson holding down the centre ice slot. Yet, they had never played together before.

With the fine skating and brilliant passing ability displayed by the pair, Williamson has notched four goals in the last four games played by the Birds.

Last weekend, the Birds defeated the University of Manitoba two straight games. The previous weekend they had done the same thing to the University of Winnipeg in the Manitoba capital.

During the 1967-68 season, Tom Williamson was an outstanding member of the Vernon Essos, until an unfortunate team brawl with the fans in the Kamloops arena caused him to be singled out and suspended for the balance of the season. The incident, one of many with the seemingly uncontrollable Kamloops spectators and visiting BCJHL teams occurred mid-way through the season.

Williamson got an early

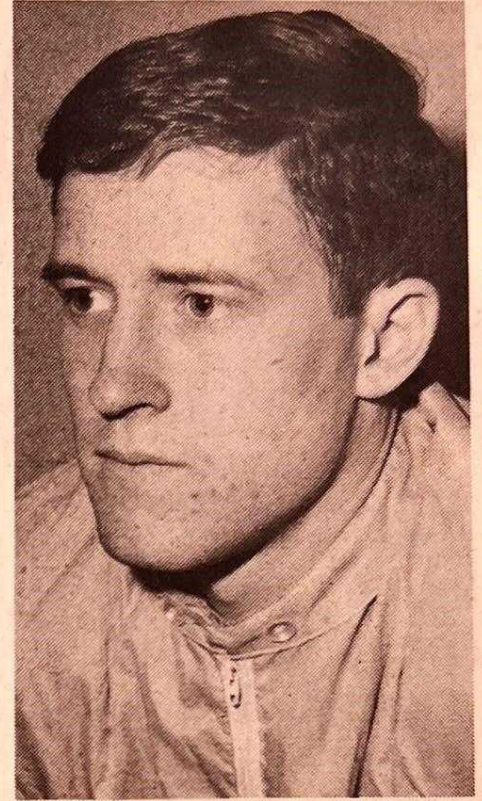


MICKEY McDOWELL

start at hockey stardom while still in the minor ranks. In one particular season he had so great a lead in the scoring race that even a broken leg which kept him out for the balance of the season couldn't overcome his margin. That year, he missed the last half of the season also.

As for McDowell, most of his minor hockey years were spent in Vernon, until he was picked up by the Regina Pats in 1957. After spending one and a half seasons with the Pats he came back to Vernon, disappointed with the educational facilities offered to hockey players in Saskatchewan.

While in Vernon, he played with the final edition of the Vernon Canadians as he continued his studies in the local high school. McDowell was one of the first players chosen by Father David Bauer to form



TOM WILLIAMSON

the nucleus of the Canadian Nationals Hockey team.

Mickey stuck with the Nats for a season or two, then came to the ultimate decision that "education is more important than chasing around the world playing hockey."

Currently, he is gathering information for his thesis for a masters degree in physical education.

As well as doing an outstanding job with the UBC Thunderbirds hockey club, McDowell has made use of his ice knowledge in coaching the UBC Jrs. and working with the minors at the North Shore Winter Club in Vancouver.

DRINK