

Serviss works out

Back in Vernon for a brief holiday, Tom Serviss took time out to enjoy a practice session with the Vernon Essos Wednesday night. One observer stated, "He was good while he was here . . . he's a heck of a lot better now." Tom is currently

playing with the Calgary Centennials. While on the ice, he gave the Essos a few much needed pointers on the finer aspects of stick-handling and passing. Here, Gerry Vachon gets set to block Serviss during the practice.



A tough practice

It was a tough practice Wednesday night for all concerned as coach Odie Lowe laid down the law and made work the order of the day. Goalie Jack Gilroy, who fell under much criticism after Saturday's 8-4 loss was particularly sharp as he

attempts to get in top form for the home-and-home series with Kelowna tonight and tomorrow. Face-off time tomorrow (Saturday) at the Vernon Civic Arena is 8:30 p.m.

6 game

Holiday treat for puck fans

Hockey fans in the north Okanagan are in for some real hockey entertainment during the Christmas Holidays.

Starting off tonight, the Vernon Essos take to the ice in the Kelowna Arena for the first game of a home-and-home set with the Buckaroos.

Tomorrow night the Buckaroos will come to Vernon to see action on local ice at 8:30 p.m., in what should be a real hockey collision.

Naturally, league bad-man Larry Lenarduzzi will be on the ice for the Buckaroos and this always causes the sparks to fly.

Additional SPORT

when Vernon and Kelowna share the same playing surface.

And then, a good delegation of Vernon fans is expected to make the trip to Kamloops to watch the Vernon Essos take on the Kamloops Rockets in the North Kamloops Municipal arena in the Boxing Day encounter.

These same two teams will face each other Wed-

nesday, Jan. 1 in an afternoon encounter at the Vernon Civic Arena, in the New Year's Day Classic. The New Year's Day game will be a warm-up for the Essos Friday night encounter with the UBC Thunderbirds who will be making an Okanagan Valley tour during the holidays. Game-time for the 'birds-Essos encounter is 8:30 p.m. January 3rd.

Sunday, Jan. 5, the Essos will host the Penticton Broncos in an afternoon contest that should prove to be a real meeting of the minds.

Every other team in the league has fallen under the

powerful Broncos at one time or another during the season. However, the Essos have pulled off some remarkable wins, and this game should be no exception.

Sports fans are urged to take in the games and help support Minor Hockey by purchasing a hockey program.

Saturday's encounter with the Kelowna Buckaroos, six Christmas turkeys as well as the regular door prizes will be given away in the program number draw.

Mississippi's Constitution requires a religious test of state officials.

Exhibition hockey

Essos hope to match 'birds

When the Vernon Essos take to the ice on Friday Jan. 3, it will be against the toughest opposition they are likely to meet all year.

The UBC Thunderbirds hockey club will be in town to play during their Okanagan Valley tour.

Among the powerful roster of the 'birds are such names as Mickey McDowell and Tom Williamson, former stars of the Vernon Minor Hockey loop.

Williamson played for the 1967-68 edition of the Vernon Essos until brought down by injuries mid-way through the season.

McDowell is in his last year with the 'birds and carries with him a long hockey history from the Canadian Nationals, Regina Pats, and several years with the Thunder-

birds.

Sports fans will also recognize Wayne Schaab, formerly of the Penticton Broncos; Jack Moores, who hails from Kamloops, and Barry Wilcox who played last year with the New Westminster Royals.

The average weight of the Thunderbirds is about 180 pounds, with each man picked for his versatility on the line.

Although out-weighted and out-experienced, the Essos will be taking to the ice to provide the home-town fans with a very enjoyable game. The Thunderbirds will be putting on the pressure, and the Essos have turned in their best performances when the pressure was the greatest.

Regular admission rates will prevail for this Friday



MICKEY McDOWELL

night encounter so the fans of the Okanagan are urged to get out and cheer the boys along.



TOM WILLIAMSON

George Watson vs. Czech Nats

Vernon's contribution to the Canadian Nationals Hockey team takes to the ice Monday night at the Pacific Coliseum in Vancouver as the Nats take on the touring Czechoslovakian Nationals.

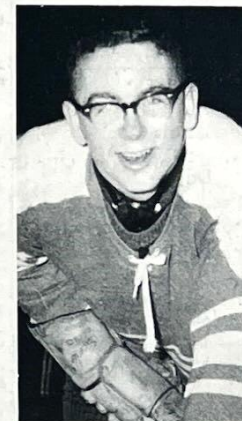
At 21, George Watson has played on more top teams than just about any other player around.

George was picked up by the Nats after his third season with the New Westminster Royals of the BCJHL.

Jackie McLeod, coach of the Canadian Nationals, was very impressed by the young Vernonite's performance in the team's recent series in Moscow against the Russians, Finns and Americans.

While still in Vernon, George played in the Provincial Championship winning juvenile team before being picked up by the Coastal Royals.

Following next Monday's clash with the Czechs, Watson will return to the Winnipeg home base with his



GEORGE WATSON

team, where he will be joined by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clem Watson of Vernon.

The Canadians and Czechs are slated to play two games in the Manitoba capital over the holiday period.

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