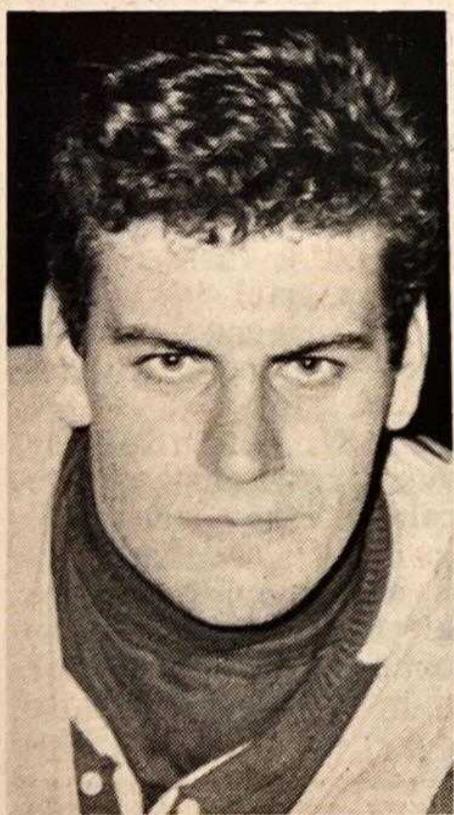




Vernon 5, Merritt 3

Jrs. issue suspension notice



PAT BECOTTE

Pat Becotte, the left winger who created quite a sensation with the Vernon Junior Essos before Christmas, has been suspended by the club for failing to return to Vernon.

Becotte returned home to North Battleford, Sask. for the Christmas season and didn't show up again to rejoin his team.

The suspension will prohibit Becotte from playing organized hockey anywhere in Canada until he obtains a proper release from the Essos executive.

The suspension measures were taken following a phone call to Becotte at his prairie home to confirm his intentions for the remainder of the season.

Legionnaires share lead

The Vernon Junior B Legionnaires moved into a two-way tie for first place with Penticton with a 5-3 victory over the Merritt Copper Kings in the Vernon Civic Arena last Sunday.

The score was tied 1-1 at the end of the first period, with Vernon holding a 3-2 edge at the end of the second, and a 5-3 margin in the final frame.

McKenna opened the scoring to give the Copper Kings a 1-0 lead.

Legionnaire captain Pat Murphy put his team on the board with a goal midway through the first period.

Brian Scherk and Mike Perepolkin scored for Ver-

non at 5:20 and 8:43 of the second to give Vernon a 3-1 edge. Merritt's second period goal was notched by Renaldson, to end the period with a 3-2 score.

At 1:17 of the third period, Nisbet scored for Merritt to tie the game at 3-3, however goals at 8:18 and 12:36 by Perepolkin gave the Legionnaires the win.

Vernon goalie Ted Adair made some spectacular saves as he kicked out 24 Merritt attempts to score.

Kiniski to headline allstars

World heavy-weight wrestling champion Gene Kiniski will be in town Wednesday at the Vernon Community Centre. Kiniski will share the main-event spotlight with Don Leo Jonathan as the climax of a four-bout card.

Other matches will include Bobby Shane and John Tolos, Crusher Stasiak and Johnny Kostas, preceded by Eric Foelich and Bad Boy Shields in the preliminary.

Advanced tickets are on sale at Nolan's Drug and Book Store in Vernon.

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Coach Lowe says,

'We want a pair of wins this weekend'

When the Vernon Essos take to the road this weekend, it will be with the hope of two decisive victories. The main ambition of the team right now is to finish the schedule securely berthed in second spot.

"We don't want to start off the playoffs by spending all our money travelling back and forth to the coast," stated one team official. "So it's with financial reasons in mind, that we're gunning for a second place finish."

To gain that second place spot, the fired-up Essos are going to need a win in all of the remaining scheduled games.

Vernon coach Odie Lowe pins most of his hopes for wins in Victoria and New Westminster this weekend on the fact that the Essos haven't lost in the last seven starts, and that's not counting a 9-0 defeat handed out to the visiting UBC Thunderbirds at the end of December.

As on all trips to the Coast centres, the Essos will be boosted by the appearance in the lineup of Jeff Wilson who originates from Vernon but is currently attending UBC on a hockey scholarship.

Team captain Dick Marsh as well as other members of the Essos camp have voiced the opinion that they are "well up" for the Victoria game Saturday night, but will have to use a certain amount of caution when they invade the home of New Westminster Royals on Sunday.

The Royals have shown a tendency of late to take the end of the season sole of many last place teams and pull off victories that shatter plans of the top teams in the league. Currently on a "hot streak," the Royals could be the team to beat this weekend as far as the Essos are concerned.

As usual, both Vernon goalies will be dressed for the weekend games. Thoroughly honest with themselves and their teammates, both Alexander and Gilroy have been known to pull themselves out of the starting lineup just before game time if "the feeling isn't right."

This policy has proven to be a great boost to the team's morale as they know from the start whether to

Additional

SPORT

play an offensive or defensive game.

Right now, the team's primary concern is for a top-level playoff berth. "Once we get that far," said Lowe, "we won't have to worry too much because the boys already have proven what they can do against stiff opposition and they'll keep things under control."

The fact that the Essos have played more games in the schedule than any other team makes it absolutely imperative that they continue on the current "no-loss" streak until the end of the schedule. Although there is a small margin for one or two losses, the Essos don't want any more samples of the bitter taste of defeat.

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BCJHL stats show changes

Scoring statistics — Games played up to and including Jan. 10:

	G	A	Pts	PIM	
Ed Hays, Penticton	37	32	69	57	
Grant Evans, Victoria	30	26	56	65	
Lawrence Quechuck, Vernon . . .	24	27	51	53	
Wayne Dye, Vernon	26	21	47	78	
Marv Ferg, Kamloops	12	34	46	2	
Mick Wilson, New West	24	21	45	28	
Gerry Vachon, Vernon	27	15	42	4	
Pat McMahon, Kelowna	16	25	41	35	
Reg Cherenko, Penticton	19	18	37	4	
Al Knight, New Westminster . . .	17	20	37	24	
Adrian Blais, Victoria	16	21	37	69	

Penalties — Individual — Larry Lenarduzzi, Kelowna, 115 mins. Larry Morrey, Kamloops, 85 mins. Team — Kelowna 535 mins.; Kamloops 499 mins.; Victoria 494 mins.

GOALIES' AVERAGES

Based on 10 games or more played

	GP	GA	Av
Ron Grahame, Victoria	15	51	3.4
Dave McLlland, Penticton	21	86	4.10
Ron Pyle, Kelowna	22	92	4.18
Ed Forslund, Victoria	11	51	4.64
Al Alexander, Vernon	13	61	4.75
Jack Gilroy, Vernon	17	83	4.88
Lorne Hudson, Kamloops	12	59	4.92
John Bade, Kamloops	16	82	5.13
Maurice L'Heureux, New West . . .	23	120	5.22

LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts	
Penticton	27	17	7	3	147	113	37	
Victoria	26	15	7	4	146	102	34	
Vernon	30	13	11	6	140	148	32	
Kelowna	28	10	11	7	127	122	27	
Kamloops	29	7	16	6	97	144	20	
New Westminster .	26	6	16	4	109	137	16	