

# Saturday night vital to both competitors

By WES RUSSELL

"With just eight games left in the schedule, our boys need absolutely every win they can get," said Essos team manager Vern Dye.

This statement was made with reference to Saturday night's contest between the New Westminister Royals and the Vernon Essos in the Vernon Civic Arena.

A Tuesday night contest that saw the Royals and the Victoria Cougars play to a 3-3 tie, caused the league standings to go through quite a change. The game broke two ties in the standings, in that it gave Victoria undisputed possession of second place and brought the Royals out of a cellar dwelling tie with the Kamloops Rockets.

If the Royals were to continue on their winning streak throughout most of their remaining league games, they could very easily edge Kelowna Buckaroos out of the now apparent fourth place playoff berth.

For the Essos, whose busy first of the season schedule has now tapered off to an average one-game-a-week slate, the pattern lies in winning and hoping.

Three losses for the Cougars this weekend, coupled with a win by the Essos could put the Essos solidly in second spot. However, the one fly in the ointment is the fact that Victoria has a Saturday night contest against the sadly flagging Kamloops Rockets who would appear to be riding a greased pole into the league cellar.

The one bright spot in the weekend calendar is the fact that the Cougars must play two games with the Kelowna Buckaroos, who have been holding off all attempts to unseat them from the final playoff berth. Like the Essos, Kelowna is well aware of the fact that every win is absolutely necessary.

Along with the team competition, a contest of a different nature has developed among three members of the Essos.

Lawrence Quechuck who has held the team lead in point-getting is in danger of being unseated from his third spot position in the league scoring race by fast movers Wayne Dye and Gerry Vachon. Dye is now one point behind Quechuck, while Vachon trails by three. Saturday night's contest could see a big change in the personal scoring statistics also.

Dye and Vachon currently have 28 goals each to their credit while Quechuck has 24. Quechuck has maintained his lead to this point however by a greater number of assists.

"There's nothing New Westminister wants more than a playoff spot," said

Coach Odie Lowe, "And they'll do anything in their power to get it."

For the Essos, a second defeat at the hands of the Royals is something that occurs only in the wildest nightmares . . . and they're not going to let it happen on home ice.

The best insurance against a defeat will be plenty of fan support at the Arena Saturday night.

Due to the fact that Saturday marks the beginning of Minor Hockey Week, fans will be in for a triple-treat. The doors will open at 7 p.m. with two preliminary minor hockey games getting underway at 7:30. The main event which will feature the Vernon Essos and the New Westminister Royals starts at 9 p.m. Hockey fans will see three great hockey games for the regular price of admission.

**NORTH**

## SPORTS

**OKANAGAN**

### B.C. spends more—hockey

Figures released recently by the Canadian Minor Hockey Association show that British Columbians spent more money on minor hockey development in the 1967-68 season than any over province in Canada.

The B.C. figure of \$36,100 far exceeds the nearest expenditure of any other province. The Ontario branch is second \$16,100.

The Canadian total for the same period reached

\$116,631. The report continues: "Add to this the fantastic amounts spent by parents for minor hockey equipment and we reach an almost unbelievable amount. If only \$5 were spent on each boy, this alone would be over \$1,500,000. Multiply that by five (\$25 is a minimum average per boy in Canada) and minor hockey costs surge past the \$6,000,000 mark.

"Add to that the funds raised by leagues and association, and spent by teams on ice rental, bus charters, and uniforms and the assertion that minor hockey contributes more than \$12 million to the Canadian economy becomes a modest claim."

The Canadian Minor Hockey Association report was released in conjunction with the beginning of Minor Hockey Week in Canada Jan. 25.

People in the Vernon area are reminded that the annual Vernon minor hockey blitz will be held during that week.

### Community Centre

## Pool is tops in popularity

Due to the extreme popularity of the facilities available at the Community Centre, the management has requested that the schedule be printed for the pool and the sauna.

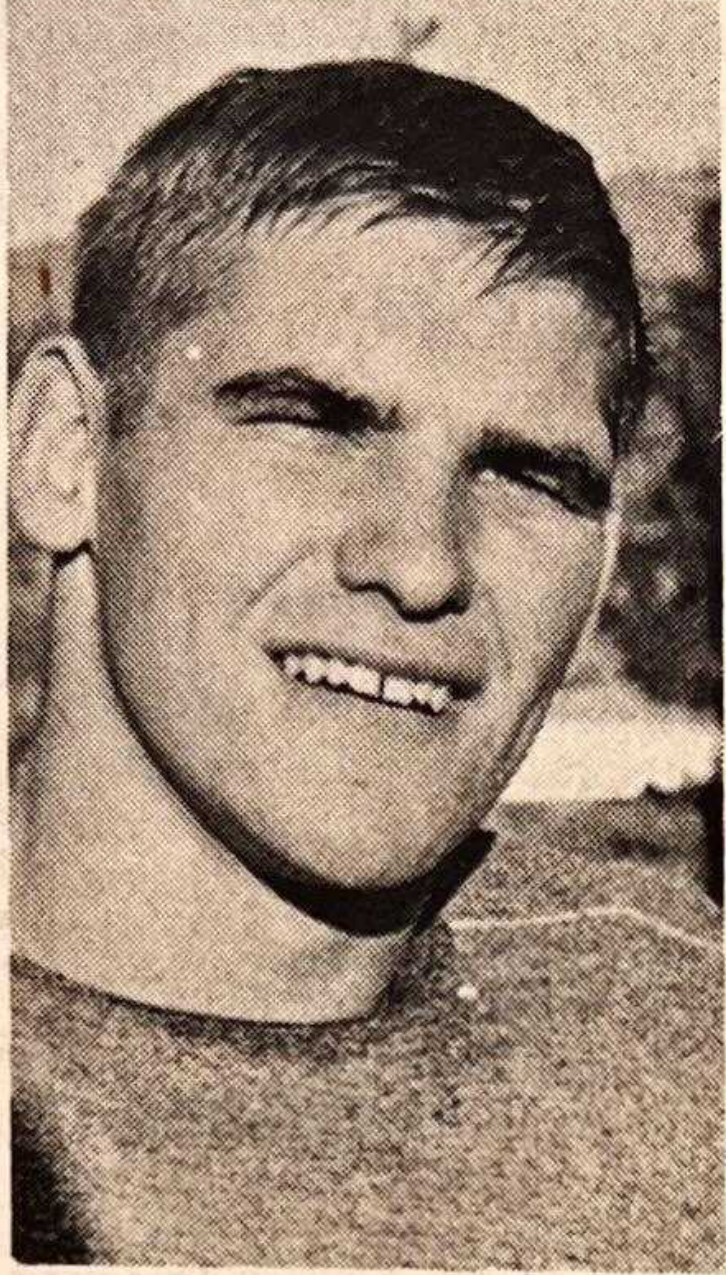
A notable increase in

through Friday; on weekends from 1-6 p.m. and from 7-9 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Monday evening from 7-9 is for men only.

Wednesday evening from 7-9 p.m. is for women only.





## TOM SERVISS

Former Vernon Esso Hockey star Tom Serviss was selected by sports-writers and sportscasters in eight Western Canada Hockey League centres to be on the All-star team for 1968.

Serviss, who is playing this year as captain of the Calgary Centennials is currently fifth in the scoring race with 12 goals and 42 assists.

Referee in chief of the WCHL is quoted as saying, "Serviss is a coaches hockey player. He thinks all the time and doesn't give the puck away foolishly. It would have been a gross injustice if he hadn't made the all-star squad."

Tom played last year as captain of the Vernon Junior Essos and left a very enviable record behind in the Okanagan Valley.

The Centennials have utilized his talents on the defensive lineup when the Calgary rearguards have been beset by injuries. He's also seen considerable duty on the centre and right-wing positions as well.

Serviss and team mate Bob Liddington journeyed to Flin Flon to go against the Bombers in the All-Star classic. Flin Flon is currently the leader in the eastern division.