

# From the Sports Desk

by WES RUSSELL

Well, I finally did it. It just had to happen once this year, and what better time than at the end of the regular hockey league schedule to get everything balled up.

In Monday's edition, I had the Vernon Essos playing the Victoria Cougars Friday and the New Westminster Royals Saturday in the announcement for this coming weekend. Actually, it should be the other way around. The Essos play New West Friday and Victoria Saturday. Or should it be Victoria Sunday and the Boston whachamacallits Friday? Anyway, I think

I got it straight in the other story on the sports page.

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In a conversation with one of the hockey officials hereabouts I discovered the Penticton Junior B Combines are under a total team suspension until March 6, after using an illegal player from the U.S. Big deal! After placing first in the "B" division they're not slated to play until March 7 anyway so the suspension is just a "token gesture" by the league administration.

However, next year the clamp is going to be put on

the coaches and managers of all the teams and a close surveillance will be made of recurrences in all the divisions.

The Vernon Junior B Legionnaires were knocked out of competition for using too many unsigned players, however they won't get a second chance as there's not enough time to start the semi-finals all over again.

The Vernon Midget representatives lost out the same way which shows that even in the Minors the rules must be adhered to.

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The big thing I'm looking forward to this weekend is the battle between the Essos and the Cougars on Saturday night. The thoughts that run through one's mind are like those expressed by the commanding voices years back at the end of each radio soap opera episode: Will Grant Evans dare attack Dawson Waite with his stick on Vernon ice? Will 6'2" Gerry Bond attempt a rematch against 5'7" Bobby Craig? Can Dick Marsh rise from his bed of pain to help hold the line? Will the Vernon referees be as bad as the ones in Victoria? Be there Friday and Saturday night when all the answers will come to light. (oh boy).

See you at the arena!

## Dog killer shot near Lavington

Bob and Albert Forslund of the Vernon area added one more cougar to their total last weekend — this time another "dog killer."

The Forslunds received a phone call Saturday from the Lewis Mohawk Ranch near Lavington, stating that a cougar had entered the yard and attacked and killed a Border Collie belonging to the ranch.

The brothers promptly loaded up their own two cougar hounds and headed for the ranch where they were able to pick up the trail.

The dogs were pursuing the cat through a wooded area when apparently it doubled back on its trail, climbed a tree, and waited for the dogs to catch up. As the first dog came under the tree the cougar leaped from the tree and attacked its pursuer.

Following this attack, the cougar treed quite quickly and was shot by Bob Forslund.

The wounded dog, a veteran of 35 successful hunts was rushed to the veterinarian where Tuesday it was reported to be coming along as well as could be expected. The dog's skull was apparently punctured in several places by the cougar's teeth.

## BCJHL stats show

# Final weekend scramble set

The latest BCJHL statistics released from Penticton show the shape of things to come in the final weekend of action. Tonight the currently second spot Victoria Cougars will very likely move briefly into first spot as they play a delayed game against the last place New Westminster Royals before moving on to play Penticton Friday night and Vernon Saturday.

For the Essos, Saturday will present a key game as they go against Victoria, however the standings could take a complete turnaround when a tired team of Cougars go against the Kelowna Buckaroos on Sunday afternoon.

There are numerous combinations, all leading up to a semi-final round between Vernon and Penticton, and the other set between Victoria and Kelowna. Neither Penticton nor Victoria has impressive win records against their expected rivals in the semi-final series which once again points the way to a final round between the Kelowna Buckaroos and the Vernon Essos. Penticton has played eight games this year against the Essos and has managed to salvage only two wins, while much the same type of record applies with the Buckaroos and the Cougars.

Even one win Friday or Saturday will leave the Essos set soundly in third spot, however it is up to Penticton and Kelowna to hold the Cougars down into second place in the final standings.

### SCORING STATISTICS

Games played up to and including Feb. 23.

	G	A	Pts	PIM
Ed Hays, Penticton . . . . .	55	44	99	67
Grant Evans, Victoria . . . . .	45	32	77	94
Reg Cherenko, Penticton . . . . .	30	30	60	6
Marv Ferg, Kamloops . . . . .	16	44	60	2
Wayne Dye, Vernon . . . . .	35	24	50	101
Mick Wilson, New Westminster .	28	30	58	34
Lawrence Quechuck, Vernon . . .	27	30	57	61
Gerry Vachon, Vernon . . . . .	32	20	52	22
Pat McMahon, Kelowna . . . . .	21	31	52	74
Adrian Blais, Victoria . . . . .	20	40	50	81
Al Knight, New Westminster . . .	20	30	50	24

Penalties—Individual—Larry Lenarduzzi, Kelowna, 170 mins.; Al Reid, New Westminster, 107 mins. Team—Kelowna, 761 mins.; Victoria 650 mins.

Goalies' Averages—based on 10 or more games.

	G	GA	Ave.
Ron Grahame, Victoria . . . . .	23	73	3.17
Dave McLelland, Penticton . . . . .	32	125	3.90
Ron Pyle, Kelowna . . . . .	32	136	4.24
Al Alexander, Vernon . . . . .	18	81	4.50
Jack Gilroy, Vernon . . . . .	20	98	4.90
Ed Forslund, Victoria . . . . .	13	64	4.92
Maurice L'Heureux, New West . .	32	164	5.125
John Bade, Kamloops . . . . .	23	121	5.26
Lorne Hudson, Kamloops . . . . .	16	86	5.38

### LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Penticton . . . . .	38	22	13	3	102	152	47
Victoria . . . . .	36	20	10	6	102	137	46
Vernon . . . . .	38	18	14	6	174	183	45
Kelowna . . . . .	38	16	14	8	173	166	40
Kamloops . . . . .	40	9	23	8	132	210	26
New Westminster . . . . .	36	9	20	7	151	186	25

Full houses expected

# Essos face two big contests—weekend

The two most important contests of the season face the Vernon Essos this weekend as they face the New Westminster Royals Friday and the Victoria Cougars Saturday in the final two games of the regular BCJHL schedule.

The Royals, still smarting from a 6-4 defeat at the hands of the Essos last Sunday will be throwing out everything they have in the first of their three game series against the Valley teams Friday night.

To remain in their present third place position would be the ideal situation for the Essos as it would pit them against the Penticton Broncos in the semi-finals, leaving the Kelowna Buckaroos to deal with the Victoria Cougars.

The Cougars will be facing the Broncos Friday night in Penticton for a bit of softening up before

travelling to Vernon for the Saturday night fixture which is expected to draw the largest crowd of the season.

The Essos are in prime condition for both contests although they may still have to start without the services of defenceman-captain Dick Marsh who managed to play only a few brief moments in the Vernon - New Westminster game last Sunday. Marsh is still troubled with a severely sprained ankle received in the last Vernon-Penticton encounter.

For the Essos, two wins this weekend could very well set the pace for the semi-final action which will in all probability get underway on the following weekend.

Meanwhile, the Kelowna Buckaroos will have their hands full as they tackle the Royals Saturday night

and the Cougars Sunday afternoon to finish off their regular schedule.

Essos Manager Vern Dye stated Tuesday, "There's no way in which we can stress to much the importance of these two final games. The boys are really up for the contests and they're going to need every break they can get."

Saturday night, the third period will be prefaced by the presentation of the Most Valuable Player Award to the Essos player who has proved himself to be the greatest asset to the team.

Vernon fans are also reminded that the "most popular player" balloting will close Saturday with the draw to be held during the first semi-final game at the Vernon arena. The draw will determine which fan will receive a free suit courtesy of Eatons of Vernon. The ballots will then be counted and the most popular player on the Vernon team will also receive a free suit.

If you haven't yet cast your vote on the ballot provided in every Vernon Essos Hockey program, Friday and Saturday will present your last opportunities.

Saturday's Vernon-Victoria game is expected to draw the record crowd of the season as many of the fans will be in attendance to see just how the Victoria temperament reacts to being bodied about on Vernon ice.

Both Jack Gilroy and Al Alexander will be dressed for goal-tending duties, and as usual neither one will get the nod from Coach Odie Lowe until just before face-off time. In describing Gilroy's performance Sunday in New Westminster, Lowe used several superlatives that indicated a terrific game on the goalie's part.

The line of Manson, Dye and Craig has been working out tremendously and is expected to carry the play in Friday and Saturday's action.

"In fact," said one official, "the whole team has really started working as a unit so that they can be switched around and still come up with winning combinations."

The story will be told this weekend as the Vernon Essos go all out to get two of the biggest wins of the season. And what better place to do it than on home ice?

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