

Friday night game

Alexander blanks the Royals with agility

Just over one thousand fans gathered at the Vernon Civic Arena Friday night to see what they felt would be a one-sided contest in favor of the Vernon Essos over the last place New Westminster Royals.

By the time the game had ended, everyone was applauding the outstanding goal-tending efforts of Vernon's Al Alexander and New Wests Maurice L'Heureux.

The game ended in a 1-0 victory for the Essos as both teams fired forty shots on the opposition goal to make the entire evening hinge on goalie performance.

For Alexander, the evening was an outstanding suc-

cess as he displayed a brilliance unseen since the Christmas Holiday exhibition contest against the UBC Thunderbirds.

L'Heureux's only mistake came at 19:10 of the first period when he dropped to grab the puck in a goal mouth tangle. The rubber was knocked out of his reach and before he could regain his feet, Essos captain Dick Marsh hit the available opening to score the only goal.

Although low in scoring and in penalties, the game was an unqualified success as both teams played wide open hockey throughout with end to end rushes that kept the fans on the edges of their seats.

The New Westminster team, fighting hard to get out of their cellar position in the BCJHL standings played the game like it

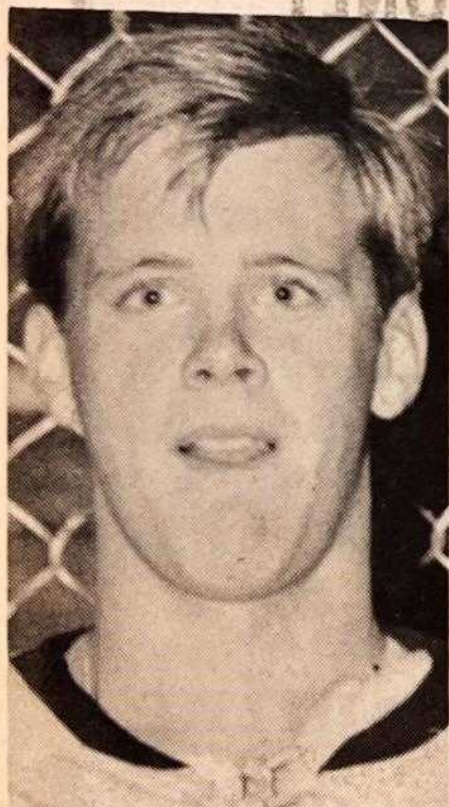
should be played and even had the normally partisan Vernon fans cheering them on after each play.

The defensive work was outstanding on both sides and the forward rushes left very little to be desired.

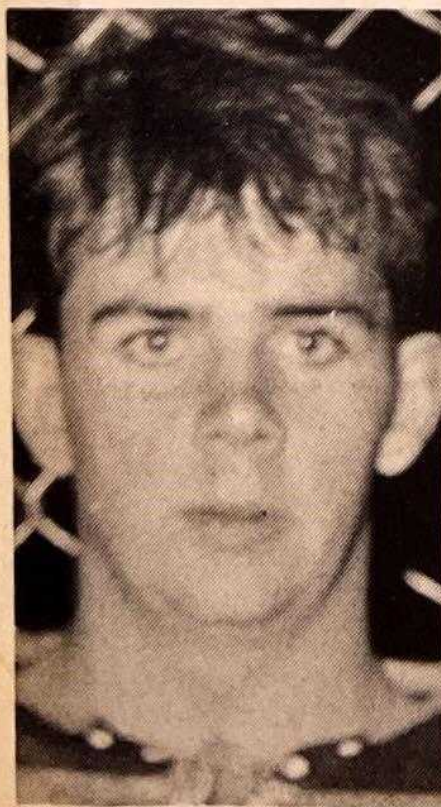
Following the game, several members of the Royals Club told this reporter, "You can tell them (the Essos) we'll be back next year and provide even better competition than we have this season. Games like tonight are tough to lose, but they're really well worth playing."

In the Essos dressing room, there was jubilation over Alexander's shut-out and also over the news that Penticton had managed to edge Victoria in a closely played game.

They had no knowledge of what was to come Saturday night.



AL ALEXANDER
... shutout



DICK MARSH
... lone goal

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Season final

Cougars smash Vernon Essos

The Vernon Essos were out-thought, out-skated, and out-played Saturday night as they received an 8-2 thrashing from the Victoria Cougars before 1,130 fans at the Vernon Civic Arena.

The goal came at the 43 second mark of the first period when Murray Kennett moved in on the attack for a wide open shot at Alexander who had no chance at all on the save.

At 6:10, Wayne Dye picked up the attack for the Essos and slipped the disk past Ron Grahamme in the Victoria nets to tie the score at 1-1. Assists on Dye's tying marker went to Don Manson and Dick Marsh.

At 14:02, the Cougars once again took the edge on a screen shot by Scott Munro.

As the Essos pressed the

play once more back into the Victoria zone, Jack Marsh intercepted a Cougar pass and slammed home the puck for Vernon's second and final goal.

Victoria moved ahead once again at 17:55 of the first period as Lon Miles scored his first goal to round out the period.

Trailing by one point going into the second period, Coach Odie Lowe replaced

Alexander in the Vernon nets with Jack Gilroy.

Gilroy played an excellent second period as he blocked 13 Cougar attempts to score in a scoreless frame, however the third period showed a different story altogether as the Vernon defense was repeatedly caught off guard and out of position leaving the road wide-open for the Victoria marksmen.

Lon Miles led the way for the Cougars in the third as he scored his second and third tallies of the evening. Additional scores were netted by Len Barrie, Bruce Cowick, and Grant Evans.

The Essos defensive line was particularly let down by the playing tactics of Barry Bleakley who was caught at the wrong end of the ice on three scoring occasions. Instead of passing the puck and holding his defensive position, Bleakley chose rather to carry the disk all the way only to be taken out of the action by Victoria defensemen.

None of the rear-guardsmanship that had been displayed in Friday nights contest was in evidence Saturday as the Cougars found easy pickings around the Vernon net in the third

period.

A total of 27 shots were blocked by Vernon goaltenders, while Ron Grahamme handled a total of 44 Vernon attempts to score.

Although the Essos out-shot the Island crew, they were unable to find a definite weakspot around the net to capitalize on.

Thirty minutes in penalties were handed out by referee Sarge Samartino of which Victoria was assessed 22 including a 10 minute misconduct to centreman Grant Evans.

The semi-final round of the BCJHL playoffs will get underway Tuesday.

It is impossible to photograph a stationary object with a photo finish camera.

All Star team named, BCJHL

Saturday the BCJHL coaches and managers announced the annual all-star team from the top players in the league.

On the first team, Ron Grahamme of Victoria was placed in the goal position while Dick Marsh of Vernon and John Van Horlic of Vernon were nominated to the defensive positions. Ed Hayes of Penticton picked up the centre ice position on the first team along with left winger Adrian Blais of Victoria and Mick Wilson of New Westminster.

Coach of the first all star team is Doug Ander-

son of Victoria.

Jack Gilroy of Vernon was nominated by the coaches and managers of the league as the goalie for the second all-star team while defensive spots were picked up by Tom Madden of Penticton and Larry Mory of Kamloops. Gene Carr was nominated to the centre ice slot with wingers Reg Cherenko and Gerry Vachon. Coach of the second team is Odie Lowe of Vernon.

Ed Hayes was nominated the most valuable player of the league, while the Rookie of the Year award



ODIE LOWE

went to Dwayne Pentland. Both players are from Penticton.

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1968-69 most valuable player award

Wayne Dye, voted the Most Valuable Player by his team, team executive, and members of the press and radio is presented with the Pat Reilly Memorial Trophy during Saturday night's hockey action. Runners-up in the Most Valuable Player competition were Gerry Vachon and Lawrence

Quechuck. The trophy was presented to Dye by Chuck Reilly. Wayne was lauded for his high calibre of hockey throughout the season and was given a strong ovation from the fans following the presentation.

From the Sports Desk

by WES RUSSELL

A sure sign that spring is just around the corner is the fact that talk is slowly straying away from minor hockey to Little League baseball.

Little League Baseball — a grand institution! It teaches the youngsters how to play ball, perform with good conduct, and show good sportsmanship as well as how to correctly pronounce a few explicit four letter words regarding umpiring.

The last bit of coaching will of course come from the "win at any cost" fathers who man the sidelines.

There's a lot of fathers who like to see their sons in a winning game. But why don't they show up to a league organizational meeting so that some of their time could be put to a good use?

It's amazing, appalling, and downright disgusting that the same faithful few who have spent all winter with minor hockey should have to move right on to Little League ball and start again.

The disgusting part is

sters should appeal to almost any red-blooded man. Besides after sitting all day in the office an outing with kids a couple of nights a week would be a much bigger change of pace than you ever thought possible.

If you think you have the intestinal fortitude to help out, phone the Little League President Al Madden at 542-8532 and volunteer your services. Remember, though, it takes a "real man" to lead kids and if you don't think you have the mental stamina to lose as well as win forget the whole thing. You're not the type that's desirable in minor baseball.

For those of you who do qualify, a few hours a week won't interfere that much with your "busy schedule" and the benefit you could give the boys, though unrecognized at the present, could well stand them in good stead later in life.

Don't neglect the young people of Vernon. Give your support to minor baseball.

Dye, valuable player award

The three most valuable players to the Vernon Essos Hockey Club were lauded publicly for the efforts Saturday night.

Following voting among the players, members of the executive, press and radio, Wayne Dye emerged the victor for his outstanding performance the past year.

Dye has consistently lead his team in goals and assists throughout the season and has proved to be a real guiding light to the team in spite of the fact he has just turned 16.

For his efforts, Wayne was awarded the Pat Reilly Memorial Trophy between the second and third periods of Saturday night's game against the Victoria Cougars.

Runners up were Gerry Vachon and Lawrence Quechuck.

The trophy was first presented in 1968 to Esso star Tom Serviss, now with the Calgary Centennials. Now in his second year

with the Essos, Dye was the popular choice of the fans as his name was announced as the winner of the trophy.

He wasn't allowed to display his ability to any advantage in Saturday's game however, as the powerful Victoria Cougars held the Essos to a 8-2 deficit.

In the first home game of the semi-final round, the announcement of the "most popular player award" will be made and suits presented by Eatons of Vernon to the player and to some lucky fan who has his name drawn from the ballot box.

WE'R

"Mr. Carpenter
from
Th

Semi-finals here Tuesday

Two major upsets in Sunday's BCJHL action finalized the league standings and brought to light who will play whom in the semi-final rounds.

The New Westminster Royals, unsuccessful in two weekend bids in Vernon and Kelowna to get out of the cellar finally made good Sunday in Penticton with a narrow 3-2 victory over the high-flying Broncos.

In the other Sunday afternoon game, the Victoria Cougars met defeat at the hands of the Kelowna Buckaroos to the tune of 5-4. However, Penticton's loss left them in second spot, one point behind the league leading Cougars. The idle Vernon Essos remain in third spot tied with Kelowna with 44 points. However, since the Essos have fewer tie games in the regular league schedule they officially have sole possession of third and move into the semi-final round against Victoria.

The first game between the Essos and the Cougars will take place in the Vernon Civic Arena Tuesday night at 8:30, the second game will go Wednesday at 8:30. Should Vernon and Victoria split the first pair of games in Vernon, a third game will be played in Vernon on Thursday night. However, if either team wins both the Tuesday and Wednesday contests the action will shift to Victoria for Thursday, Friday and Saturday contests in the best of seven semi-final round. If necessary, the additional two games would be played the following

Additional

SPORT

Monday and Wednesday in Victoria.

At the same time, the Penticton Broncos and the Kelowna Buckaroos will square off in a best of seven semi-final round in the two Valley centres.

Vernon hockey fans are urged to turn out and support the Essos during the home games. Plenty of fan support will be a must for the Vernon crew as they take on the toughest opposition in the league.

Manager Vern Dye said this morning, the boys are looking forward to Tuesday night and eager to make up for their Saturday night showing on Vernon ice. "The old tiger spirit is swelling up once again, and

they intend to feed it with a good solid victory in the first game . . . after that they'll be taking each step as they come to it."

Wins by the Essos on Tuesday and Wednesday could give them a solid basis on which to travel to the coast for the remaining games of the semi-final round.

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