

Cougars steal first contest

Victoria 6—Vernon 3

Two unanswered goals in the third period were enough to boost the Victoria Cougars to a 6-3 victory in the first game of the best of seven semi-final series. The game featured action much closer than the 6-3 score would indicate, and moved Victoria into the second game with a psychological advantage, at least over the hometown Vernon Essos.

Vernon moved into an early lead in the first period as Lawrence Quechuk and Gerry Vachon barnstormed the Victoria net to beat Ron Grahame cleanly at 2:28. Vachon fed the puck in to Quechuck who made no mistake on the available opening.

At 8:58, the Essos gained a 2-0 hold on the game when Wayne Dye caught the Victoria defense by surprise, intercepted a pass and slapped home the disk to score unassisted.

The exuberance of the fans soon subsided however, as Victoria came back to tie the game with two rapid fire goals within 27 seconds.

Bruce Cowick scored both of the tallies for the Cougars, the first coming at 10:31 on a pass play from Grant Evans and Dave Williams. The second was scored at 10:58 following a two man rush by Cowick and Evans.

The period ended with the score tied 2-2 and the only penalty going to Vernon's Bob Mayer on a very unpopular tripping call.

The action stepped up in the second period although the Essos maintained their edge in play. However Scott Munro broke through the Vernon defensive line to beat Alexander and take a 3-2 edge at 9:58.

Wayne Dye replied for

the Essos to once again tie the score at 16:50 when he took a pass from Gerry Vachon to beat Grahame on a play screened by the Victoria defense.

Bruce Cowick scored his third goal of the evening for the Cougars at 18:04 of the second frame to give the visitors a 4-3 lead at the close of the period. Once again, it was the line of Cowick, Evans and Williams that beat the Essos in their own end.

Everyone was still optimistic of a Vernon comeback in the third period and felt that a one goal deficit was nothing to worry about considering the comeback performances made earlier in the season by the Essos.

However, such was not to be the case as the hometown boys bombarded the Cougar net to no avail as Grahame stopped shot after shot to hold Victoria's lead.

Grant Evans picked up his first goal of the night for the Cougars as he finished off a pass play set up by Laurie Moore and Adrian Blais at 7:16 of the third, while his team was shorthanded.

At 9:26, the Cougars made another successful rush on the Vernon net, this time Dave Williams was able to slip the rubber past Alexander after taking the

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pass from Grant Evans.

At 13:45, Essos defenseman Mayer let drive with one of his powerful slapshots from the Victoria blue line. The puck was right on target and while making the save Ron Grahame was injured as it deflected off his shoulder pad and caught the side of his neck. Grahame was helped from the ice by his teammates and replaced in the nets by Ed Forslund.

The game was held up for 15 minutes while the Cougars dressed Forslund and during that time Vernon Coach Odie Lowe decided to replace Al Alexander with Jack Gilroy in the Vernon net.

The duo of Alexander and Gilroy blocked a total of

23 shots during the game, while the Grahame-Forslund combo were called upon to block an incredible 42 shots. 38 of the 42 were handled by Grahame.

Referee Tony Winechuck of Kelowna handed out 24 minutes in penalty time during the game which many fans felt was very poorly officiated. Victoria was assessed 13 minutes in the "sin-bin" while Vernon picked up 11.

The only major penalties were handed out at 18:20 of the third period when Vernon's Wayne Dye and Victoria's Dave Williams became involved in a fight at the Victoria end of the ice. Each man was given a five minute penalty for his part in the altercation.

NOHL stats show

Stamps have stranglehold

The Head of the Lake Stampeders, paced by the high-scoring of Larry Fisher have taken a four point edge on second place Grandview Warriors according to the latest statistics released by NOHL statistician Roy Surkan.

Fisher jumped into the lead in the individual scoring race with a total of seven goals in last Sunday's game against the Grindrod Elks.

Head of the Lake has been the surprise team this



Suit winners

Winners of suits from Eaton's of Vernon Tuesday night were Wayne Dye, voted the Vernon Essos most popular player of the year, and Miss Carolynne Churchill of RR 3, Vernon. Dye topped the balloting by Vernon fans throughout the season, and Miss Churchill's name was drawn from the ballot box by Ken Days of Eaton's Men's Wear Department. Mr. Days, and BCHA Zone rep Larry Buchan are in the background behind Dye and Miss Churchill.

Third period rally

Cougars take 2 game margin

A fiery four goal comeback in the third period gave the Victoria Cougars a two-game edge on the best of seven semi-final in a game played in Vernon Wednesday night. Trailing the Essos 3-0 at the end of the first period, the Cougars scored one in the second and added the final four points in the third to take the contest 5-3.

It was the fantastic performance of top-rated goalie Ron Grahame that kept Victoria in the running as the Essos fired a barrage of 44 shots at the Cougar goal. However a lack-lustre performance by the home town team and a strong attack by the Cougars in the third period brought about the decisive victory in favor of Victoria.

The 860 Vernon supporters that viewed the game were smugly satisfied at the end of the first period as the Essos held a 3-0 edge on a pair of goals by Wayne Dye and a single from Bob Mayer all in the space of five minutes.

Dye's first goal came at 8:01 as he completed a rush by Gerry Vachon and Barry Bleakley. At 9:42 he flashed the light again as Grahame, feeling shaky after a previous night's injury, shied off to the left leaving the opening for the Vernon marksman. Assists on Dye's second tally went to Gerry Vachon and Don Manson.

At 13:08, the Vernon delegation let out a roar of approval as Bob Mayer took a pass from Gordie Merritt and slapped home the disk to give Vernon a seemingly safe 3-0 margin.

At the 18 second mark of the second frame Cougar star Bruce Cowick caught the Vernon defense by surprise and scored before goalie Al Alexander could even make a move to block the shot.

After a scoreless balance of the second period the Essos still maintained a relatively safe 3-1 scoring edge over the visitors.

As the teams took to the ice for the action in the third period, the Cougars lost very little time in staging their offensive on the Vernon goal and fired home four points in just over six minutes to take a commanding lead in the game and in the series.

At 1:46, Grant Evans beat Alexander cleanly to narrow the margin to 3-2 with an unassisted tally.

Bruce Cowick picked up his second goal of the evening as the powerful line

of Cowick, Williams and Evans staged a goalmouth scramble that ended with the score tied 3-3.

At 5:25 the Cougars jumped ahead with a goal from the stick of Adrian Blais. His goal was assisted by Shayne Webster and Lon Miles.

Victoria put the top on the game with an insurance marker from Dave Williams at 7:55 with assists going to John Van Horlick and Grant Evans.

William's goal was a weak bouncing shot on which Vernon's Al Alexander made very little effort.

Hoping for a comeback victory from the Essos, coach Odie Lowe pulled Alexander from the net in favor of Jack Gilroy immediately after Victoria's final tally.

To many of the fans it appeared to be too little . . . too late, as Gilroy was only called upon to make five saves in the final 12 minutes of play.

Even when Vernon pulled the goalie during the last minute and 15 seconds in favor of six attackers, Victoria maintained possession of the puck.

The Essos outshot the Cougars once again by an overwhelming 44 to 30 but were unable to beat the outstanding guardsmanship of Grahame in the Victoria net.

Referee Brian Roach called six penalties in the game, all in the second period. The penalties were of a minor nature.

Immediately after the game, the Essos left for Victoria ice where the third and fourth games in the series will be played tonight and Friday.

From the Sports Desk

by WES RUSSELL

Following last night's third period performance by the Vernon Essos, all chances of having even a Provincial Championship team in our midst seem relatively bleak. However, it's been done before and possibly the Essos could do it again and pull a miracle out of the hat. But the chances are very, very remote.

The main reason for this remoteness is the general apathy of the Vernon residents who sit home night after night watching the same insane slush that emanates weekly from the "big eye" in the corner of the living room.

Talk about people being out of condition. Half the people in this town are in such bad physical shape

that they can't even lift themselves out of an easy chair, walk as far as their car, drive to the arena, and sit and watch a hockey game.

And hockey isn't the only thing that suffers in this town as a result of the general apathy that abounds. During the summer, the baseball stands are virtually empty, the lacrosse games are sparsely attended, and any other sports function is far from beint sold out.

Why? The people of the Okanagan are glued to their own comfortable little corners by disinterest. In fact, I'm willing to bet, most of the stay-at-homes aren't even interested in doing what they do at home!

Skiing is a big winter sport. Does the local golf course appear to be a beehive of activity in the summer? Of course not. There's not enough interest in anything.

Even the local dispensers of LCB beverages report that things are usually quiet in Vernon. People must get pretty tired of sitting home doing nothing.

Monday night, a group was started after a meeting was called for those in interested in the physical fitness through jogging. Do you know how many people showed up? THREE! My, isn't it nice that such a large percentage of our

population is concerned about physical fitness.

The people of Vernon used to be know as residents of one of the most active communities in British Columbia . . . now they would get a comparative rating of approximately zero.

With automation encroaching more and more on the every day work world and the incidents of heart failure increasing as the result of obesity . . . it's time that we all took a good look at what kind of shape we're in mentally and physically and start coming back with some of that fiery spirit that was so prevalent in this community just 10 short years ago.

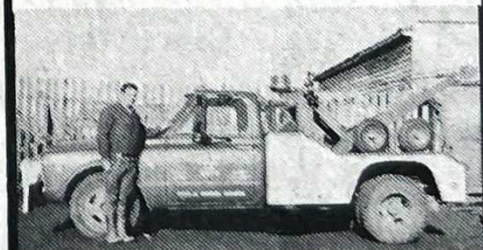
Bantams stop Salmon Arm

The Vernon Bantams whitewashed their Salmon Arm counterparts to the tune of 8-4 in a Sunday afternoon exhibition contest in Vernon.

Two goals each were scored by Barry Dye and Clay Anderson. Additional Vernon scores were notched by Bob Simpson, Fred Perepolkin, Eddy Johnstone, and Lyle Brewer.

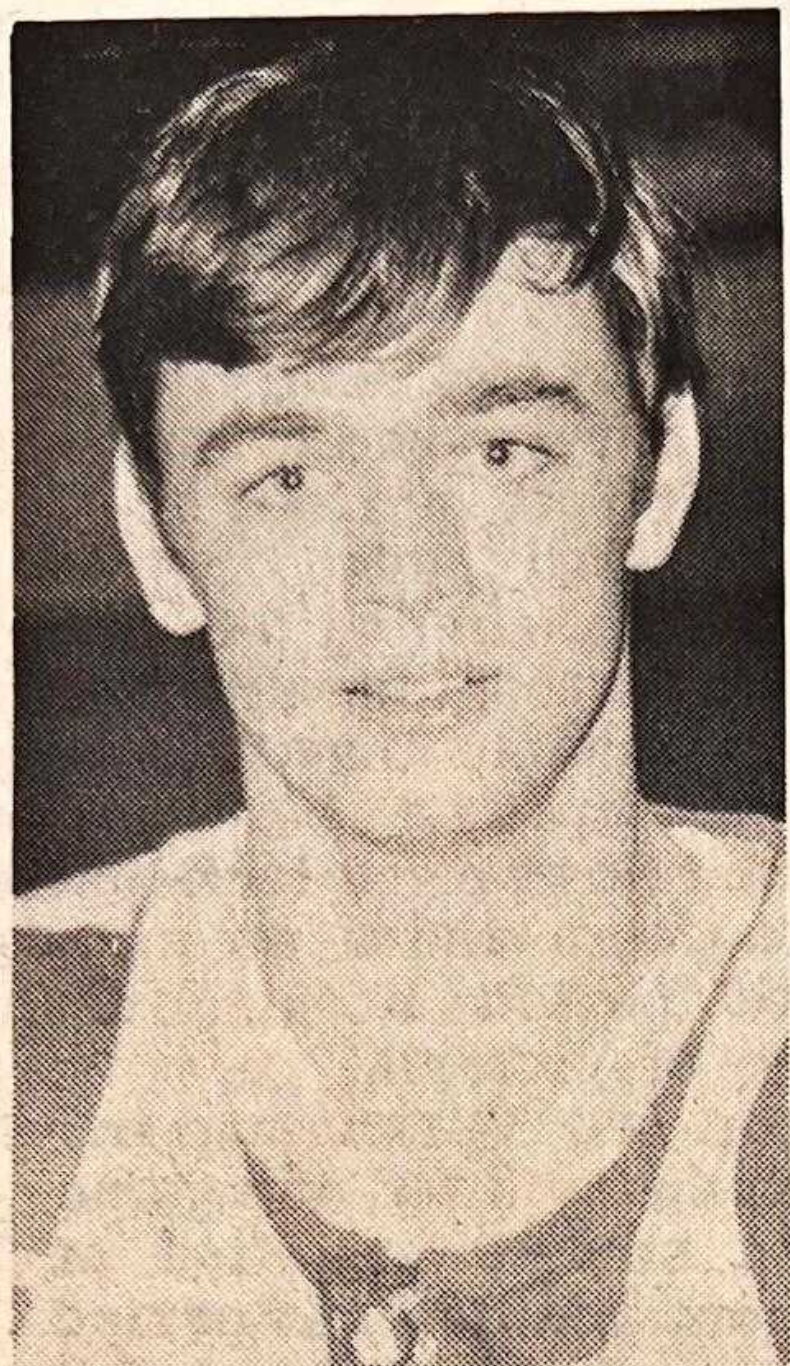
Salmon Arm goals were netted by Lipsett, Strykowski, Jorgenson and Kennedy.

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WAYNE DYE

... most popular player

Wayne Dye is popular with fans

Popular Esso forward Wayne Dye made a clean sweep of the awards for the 1968-69 playing season as he was noted the Most Popular Player of the Year.

This award was announced just three days after his presentation with an award as being the Most Valuable Player on the Essos team.

Dye's Popular Player Award came as the result of balloting by Vernon fans throughout the regular season play.

As winner of the award he was given a certificate for a new suit courtesy Eaton's of Vernon.

Following the introductory remarks at the presentation by BCHA Zone representative Larry Buchan, Ken Days of the Eaton's Men's Wear Department made the presentation to Dye, and to Miss Carolynne Churchill of RR3 Vernon, whose name was drawn from the ballot box.