

# SPORT SPOTLIGHT

This, and the following two issues of The Vernon News, will feature the five semi-finalists in the Sportsman of the Year competition.



## W. "BILL" BROWN

Today's spotlight is on the first nominee in alphabetical order, William "Bill" Brown.

Active throughout most of his life in the minor hockey circles, Mr. Brown holds the distinction shared by very few people of breaking into organized Junior Hockey at the age of 14.

He started his hockey career in Nelson in 1925 at the bottom rung of the minor hockey divisions. From then until 1941, he was an active player at the Fairview Athletic Club in Nelson.

From 1935 to 1950, he coached the Nelson Midget and Juvenile House League teams, and in the late 1940s, coached the Nelson Juvenile Rep team.

In 1951, after moving to Vernon, he continued his work in Minor Hockey and assisted in various House Leagues for the Vernon Minor Hockey Association.

In the 1951-52 season, Mr. Brown coached the Vernon Juveniles to the B.C. Championship and the Monarch Life Cup. Then from 1952 to 1962, coached the Vernon Junior Blades in the Okanagan Junior Hockey League.

Still active in the Minor Hockey ranks, Mr. Brown has held several executive positions in the past 12 years.

He has been granted a life membership in the Vernon Minor Hockey Association for his outstanding activities.

In 1957-58 he held the office of vice-president for the now defunct Okanagan Senior Amateur Hockey League. In 1961, he was named as the first president for the Okanagan Junior Hockey League.

From 1961 to 1965 he was owner and manager of the Vernon Blades. Then, in 1966 he took over the post of registration chairman for the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association Convention.

In 1967, he was awarded the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association Award Plaque from the CAHA.

Although his primary interest leans towards hockey, his summer interest in lacrosse saw him serve as the president of the Vernon senior lacrosse

team in 1962 and 1963. In 1968 he was named chairman of the minor lacrosse division of the Vernon Lacrosse Association.

For years of devoted service to the two communities that he has called "home" the selection committee has chosen Mr. Brown as one of five semi-finalists in the Sportsman of the Year Award competition.

The final announcement will be made at the awards banquet on Thursday March 27.



## DAVE MacKAY

Today, we would also like to turn the spotlight on to nominee number two in our list of five in alphabetical order, David Stanley MacKay.

Besides holding down the position of city engineer in our fair city, Dave MacKay has been deeply involved with sports for the past 20 years in the Vernon area.

He was the playing coach of the first Senior "A" Hockey team in Vernon in 1950 and was known as Mr. Hockey in the Okanagan Valley.

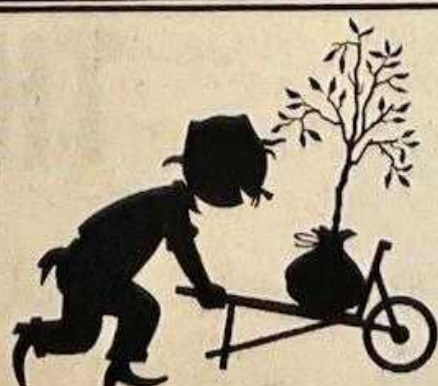
He was directly responsible for improving the calibre of hockey in Vernon and led the Vernon Canadians to the Allan Cup in the 1955-56 season.

Dave was responsible for obtaining jobs for many players who decided not only to play, but stay in Vernon.

In the past, Mr. MacKay took over the post of President of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association and completely reorganized the system in Vernon.

He was also one of the persons responsible for obtaining the Junior "A" Franchise from a private citizen bringing it under the jurisdiction of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association.

Mr. MacKay is past president of the Okanagan Mainline Junior Hockey League, and currently president of the Vernon Junior Essos Hockey Club.



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