

"The Centennials"

New club starts training Sept. 15

Professionals will have a lusty young competitor on the sports scene this winter with the entry of the Vancouver Centennials into Junior A ranks. Keenly aware of the challenge they face, the new club swings into a rigid training schedule Sept. 15 for a league curtain raiser slated for Oct. 3 against the Penticton Broncos, the first in a full season of Friday night encounters.

Coach Ron Matthews, a former Western Hockey League all-star defenceman, will have his Centennials skating and hitting from 6 to 8 every night from Sept. 15 to 26 at the Kerrisdale Arena. An invitation has been extended to all boys in the Vancouver area to try out for the team.

General Manager Gil Lundihn has launched a ticket - sales campaign

which he hopes will fill every one of his newly-painted and cushioned reserved seats. The arena, painted and polished as the result of a \$20,000 face-lift, holds 4,000 people in all.

The Centennials club is headed by R. Laird Cliff. The board of directors includes such well known sports boosters as Fred (Cyclone) Taylor, L. L. G. (Poldi) Bentley, Nat Bailey, Walter Hendricks, M. C. D. Hobbs, R. J. R. Kerr, and Douglas W. Lowe.

Vancouver joins in the Memorial Cup hockey chase for the first time in many years, competing in a seven-team B.C. circuit that includes Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon, New Westminster and Victoria.

Points f

League opener Oct. 3

Busy 69-70 schedule ahead for Jr. Essos

The Vernon Essos versus the New Westminster Royals.

That's the way the 1969-70 B.C. Junior Hockey League schedule starts on the local scene.

Their first encounter will see the Coast club on the road for the action on Oct. 3 in the Vernon arena.

The first chance the Vernon hockey fans will have to see the newest entry into the BCJHL, the Vancouver Centennials, will come Oct. 19 when the two clubs will square off in an afternoon contest.

Each of the clubs in the league will play 48 games,

Additional SPORT

24 at home and 24 away.

The first coast trip for the Essos will take place Oct. 24 with the Essos traveling to meet Victoria and Vancouver.

From what scant information that can be gleaned from the various clubs, the BCJHL would appear to be heading into one of the most action-packed seasons ever witnessed. All of the clubs would appear to be picking up strength in order to provide tough hard-hitting competition.

Once again this year, Victoria would appear to be the club to beat. However,

as with every other season, the real proof as to who has the toughest team in the league won't be apparent until late in the schedule.

The Essos will begin their training camp at the Vernon Civic Arena Sept. 19 with a good lineup of top quality players in attendance.

Manager Vern Dye announced early this week that veteran defenceman Barry Bleakley will be returning to Vernon from his home in Whitehorse in time for the camp, bringing with him another top prospect for the club's roster.

Arena officials have stated that ice preparation will begin early next week and will be completed in plenty of time for the training camp, as well as the training camp for the Salt Lake City Eagles which will start Sept. 20.

Watson rejoins Nationals

Vernon's native son, George Watson is once again on the lineup of the Canadian National Hockey Team.

This makes the second year that he has made the club, after completing his minor hockey in the Vernon system then playing Junior A with the New Westminster Royals.

While playing with the team, Watson will be continuing his studies at the University of Manitoba.

George is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clem Watson of Vernon.

Juniors arrive for camp

Vernon Essos Manager Vern Dye announced Wednesday that two more players have arrived in town for the 1969-70 tryouts which get underway Sept. 19 in the Civic Arena.

The latest to arrive are Greg Laycock and Don Adair, both 170-pound right wingers from Calgary. Laycock also has the benefit of the recent Calgary Centennials training camp, and if he signs for the club should be in good shape for the league opener Oct. 3 against the New Westminster club.

Pheasants get shorter hours

Approximately 40 persons including members of the four Fish and Game Clubs in GMA 6, farmers, ranchers, orchardists, and hunters were on hand to express their opinions in front of the regional supervisor for the Fish and Wildlife Branch, Dave Hurn, and Regional Biologist Dave Spalding, regarding the pheasant hunting hours as laid down in the new hunting regulations.

It took just under 10 minutes for the delegation to make their feelings clear on the matter and an order in council ruling is expected before the end of September.

"The fact that everyone is in favor of the 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. hours for pheasant hunting instead of the one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset makes the Order in Council ruling almost a formality," stated Spalding.

The delegations from the four Fish and Game Clubs—Armstrong, Oceola, Kelowna and Vernon—all voiced unanimous opinions favoring the 8-4 opening.

The orchardists and

ranchers also showed their support of the shorter hours.

The order-in-council ruling will be fully publicized as soon as a decision has been reached and will supersede any regulation to the contrary stated in the 1969 edition of the Game Regulations.

On the pheasant situation, the regional biologist reported an average spring crowing count and a relatively high number of birds spotted in the summer "group count".

"On the whole," he stated, "I think we're looking at a normal to better than normal season ahead."

Although it took less than 10 minutes to resolve the main issue of the meeting, the officials were plied with questions on game management, land posting, and bird hatches for the better part of an hour to round out the meeting.

One of the items discussed was the smallness of the grouse for the opening of the current season. This was explained as being due to a late hatch in the lower regions. Upper levels birds are reported to be in a farther advanced stage and more suitable for hunting.

Rockets appoint manager

A Kamloops Newspaper, The Advertiser, stated yesterday that Mr. Ernie Davies, president of the Junior A Rockets has announced the appointment of Kamloops solicitor Dennis Coates as the team's manager.

Coates was associated with the Rockets last year in an advisory capacity and has been active in other Kamloops hockey organizations.

At the same time, Davies announced that the "working agreement" with the Calgary Centennials had fallen through as it was contrary to the wishes of other members of the seven team BCJHL.

The league frowns on direct affiliation with other clubs that could have an unbalancing effect on the teams by making some so powerful that they are "out

From the

Wrestling impressario, and promoter for the central B.C. area, Gerry Hartley, made his usual grandiose (how's that again?) entrance into the office the other day.

As I sat, pen at the accepted "ready" angle, anticipating a list of names for the next wrestling card at the Community Centre, I was completely taken aback by his opening remark.

"Vernon is no longer on the wrestling circuit," he told me.

A visitor's opening statement is usually my cue to ask for an explanation, except in this case he didn't give me the opportunity to ask. Hartley is disturbed ... very disturbed and although he's very sympath-

of reach".

The Kamloops training camp opens in the North Kamloops Sports Centre on Sept. 20.

Early interest in hockey club

Sponsor of the Vernon Junior Essos Hockey Club, Ernie Kowal of Ernie's Esso, stated Tuesday that he is absolutely amazed at the response shown by the citizens to the members of the club so far.

In backing up his statement, Kowal said, "It took no time at all to get all the boys fixed up with accommodation and to top that all off, transportation to the out-of-town games would

appear to be already settled.

"People would appear to be opening their homes and their hearts to the hockey club much earlier this year than ever before," he added.

In this regard, Kowal stated that he would like to thank those persons who had co-operated so fully and willingly.

Advance tickets have been moving as well as was

expected at such an early date, and a sharp increase in sales is expected within the next two weeks prior to the league opener in Vernon on Friday Oct. 30.

Advance tickets are on

sale, at Ernie's Esso, Eaton's, Dye's Billiards, and Vernon Sport and Marine with the saving on regular "at-the-door" prices mounting up to \$11 on adult tickets.

It pays to roll your own
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