

Exhibition match

Juniors edge Kelowna 8-6

Essos 8
Buckaroos 6

Billed as an exhibition match, the Vernon Essos-Kelowna Buckaroo game Tuesday at the Civic Arena before more than 600 avid fans may have unfolded a story of things to come in the 1969-70 edition of B.C. junior A hockey play.

For a game that really meant nothing except the prestige of winning, spectators were given more than their money's worth.

It was a no-holds-barred type of game with everything thrown in from excellent play making to clumsy fisticuffs, but, from it all, local hockey enthusiasts may have begiven a crystal-ball look at the future provincial champions.

The fervour and aggressiveness displayed by Vernon throughout the first two periods was something to behold and although they slacked off noticeable in the final 20 minutes, their display of prowess could lead to better things as the regular schedule is played out.

Essos spotted Kelowna one goal early in the opening minutes of the first period then came back with the equalizer five minutes later, then gave way again to another Kelowna marker before coming back with a pair of their own to take a 3-2 lead in the first 20 minutes of play.

Junior A action . . .

Season opener here Friday

The opening game of the 1969-70 B.C. Junior A hockey schedule takes place at the Civic Arena Friday night and features the home town Essos and New Westminster Royals.

Special events planned for the big night will see Minister without portfolio Pat Jordan, MLA for the North Okanagan, drop the puck during face-off ceremonies.

Entertainment features will be the music of the 75-member senior secondary school band under the direction of Vern Bryant. The band will play before and during period intermissions. Secondary school cheer leaders will also perform.

Door prizes for lucky ticket holders will also be given out and a draw for a suit of clothing will also be made to holders of season tickets.

Game time is 9 p.m. and tickets can be obtained at the door.

In the second period, Essos again held the margin of play as they outscored the Buckaroos 3-1 to take a three goal lead going into the final period.

Essos started strong in

the early minutes of the third frame with a goal after two minutes of play but fell into their habitual ways as they slacked off to let Kelowna come back with three of their own and to come within one goal of the Vernon crew.

Essos put the game out of reach however, as they scored the clincher with only 40 seconds remaining on the clock.

Big guns for the Essos was Don Manson with three goals and an assist, while Wayne Dye was close behind with a three goal effort.

Singles for the Essos came off the sticks of newcomer John Price and veteran Lawrence Quechuk. Price also picked up an

assist for an impressive night.

In the assist department, blueline patroller and new team captain, Bob Mayer racked up three assists, while another defenceman and newcomer to the roster Dave Stewart assisted on two others as did rookie Jim Marsh. Single assist went to another new man, Ken Warner.

Kelowna scoring came on single efforts with the exception of a two goal splurge by new comer Bruce Wicks. Singles went to Ken Philips, Gene Carr, Cliff McKay, and Doug Manchak.

Vernon outshot Kelowna by a narrow 33-28 with Vernons net minding chores being shared by

Gordon Mackintosh and Gary Osborn.



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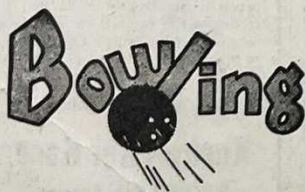
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