

Junior club takes opener

Vernon 10
New Westminster 4

Firm handshakes and sincere words of congratulation passing around the dressing room of the Vernon Essos probably best tells the story of Vernon's victory over New Westminster Royals Friday night at civic arena.

It was the opening game of the 69/70 B.C. junior A series and well over 1,200 fans were on hand to see the revamped local club come on strong to execute some of the finest displays of hockey observed in these parts for some time.

Interesting enough the reaction of the players between periods and after the game seemed to tell a story of Junior hockey in B.C. coming of age at last.

From the moment they started lacing up their skates until they were back in street clothes, the young men treated the game with a seriousness never before observed, showing the much needed maturity in the junior ranks that has been lacking for many years.

In the opening period, Essos spotted the Royals a goal with a minute and a half showing on the clock then came back with two excellent efforts of their own to end the period leading 2-1.

Newcomer John Price of Cranbrook started the ball rolling for Essos at 3:05

NORTH

SPORTS

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Editor

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from a scramble in front of the Royals net when he bounced the puck off the corner post and it flicked in past the Royals netminder after Jack Marsh had made two stabs at the rolling puck at the goal line.

It was Price again featuring on the second Vernon tally as he made a perfect sweep down the left side and moved behind the Royals defence to put the puck on Lawrence Quechuks stick who was coming in from the right side and Vernon were in the lead, at 14:11 of the period.

New Westminster answered with their second market at 3:30 of the middle frame to tie the game but from then on it was all Vernon as they locals came back with five goals to hold the major edge in play.

Royals second goal of the period came with just one second showing on the clock when Vernon's defence let up and the period ended with a 7-3 lead in favour of Vernon.

In the final stanza, Vernon again more than held

their own as they managed to come through with goal number eight before allowing Royals to come up with their fourth and final marker in the game. Essos remaining two goals of the period served merely to notify all concerned that their well known habit of fading in the final periods was now at an end.

Big guns for the Essos were the fine efforts of forwards Don Manson, one of last years returnees and new comr John Price of Cranbrook. Both boys came up with a pair of goals each and then featurd on three big assists for a five point night to start them on the road to the league scoring title.

Other marksmen for the Essos were team captain, Bob Mayer, also with two goals while single came off the sticks of Lawrence Quechuk, Wayne Dye, Ken Warner, and Jackie Marsh.

Dye also picked up one assist, Jack Marsh added two more and Bob Craig was in on three to round off the Essos scoring.

Manson picked up all his points in the first two periods as he was sidelined in the final period because of a badly bruised shoulder received when he crashed into the boards near the end of the second period.

Vernon outshot Royals by a score sheet tally of 38-32 but at several points in the game it looked like they should have racked up several hundred the way

they were flying around the Royals net.

The penalty department also had a busy time of it as a total of 86 minutes were assessed in the 60 minute encounter.

There were 18, two minute minors handed out by referee Ernie Poggemil-

ler, plus six, five minute fighting and two 10 minute misconducts.

Next game for the Essos will be played here at Vernon Saturday Oct. 11 when they play host to the defending B.C. champion Victoria Cougars. Game time is set for 8:30 p.m.



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Junior B hockey

Vernon over Merritt 8-6

Prospects of a strong contender from Vernon in four big goals and assisted on one other for a five

his style:

