

# Victoria knocked from lofty perch

BY DOUG BULWER

Team captain Bob Mayer started it, Wayne Dye picked up the momentum and Lawrence Quechuk found the opening as Vernon Essos struck early then never looked back in their near perfect 5-1 victory over Victoria Cougars before 1,000 home town fans Saturday night.

Essos have waited a long time to pull off this type of win over the Cougars and the excellent way they did it should prove to one and all they do have the ability to reach the top of the B. C. junior A league in the very near future.

Taking advantage Dale Pennocks elbowing penalty, Vernon's first string of Don Manson, Wayne Dye and Lawrence Quechuk put on the pressure and with perfect teamwork on the part of defenceman Bob Mayer moved the puck quickly out of their own zone and swarmed in on the Cougars net with Wayne Dye taking Mayer's pass and quickly moving it in front of the goal mouth where Lawrence Quechuk poked it

past goalie Geoff Ward to light up the scoreboard at 4:26 of the initial stanza.

Nine minutes later Gordon Merritt worked the rubber around the Cougar net and then jammed it into the corner past a very surprised Cougar netminder.

Fired up, Essos came on strong once more in the early stages of the middle frame and just over four minutes into the period had racked up goal number three with Gordon Osinchuck doing the honors from a good combination passing play by Ken Warner and Gordon Merritt.

Wayne Dye with the help of Bill Owens and Don Manson again exercised some near perfect team work as the fast skating line moved in on top of the Cougars and fired a series of hard shots at the Victoria net with the third try paying off as Ward couldn't control the rebounds. For Dye it was his second point of the night as he featured in the opening goal by Quechuk.

Vernon's third goal of the period could be considered the goal that broke the camels back as again the Essos took advantage of the power-play situation.

This time Bob Mayer was the big gunner as he drove a blistering blueline shot from the left side that bulged the netting with no mistake.

Mayer, moments before had made a similar try barely missing the mark but with aggressive action by Vernon forward Ken Warner was given the second try. Warner was on top of the play all the way, picking up the loose puck and firing it back to Mayer on the point.

Going into the final period with a 5-0 lead, Essos kept up the pressure, with good forechecking and back checking tactics that kept Victoria completely off balance.

Essos skated hard both ways and were always on top of the play, however a brief letup a 5:06 of the third period spoiled Essos netman, Gary Osbornes shutout as the defence slacked off, letting Shayne Webster score the lone Victoria goal with help from Murray Kennette and Laurie Moore.

That was all for the visitors however as Essos really put on the pressure and kept their first two period pace going at full tilt.

Both clubs broke even on the shot on goal statistics as Vernon led the first period tally 12-9, dropped behind 11-9 in the second frame and 13-12 in the final 20 minutes of play to come up with identical 33 shots on the mark.

Essos also led in Penalties as they racked up 10 as compared to seven by the Cougars.

## Suffer 9-8 loss

Friday night at Kelowna, Essos found themselves behind 4-2 at the end of the first period, were outscored 3-2 in the second period then came back with four of their own with two Kelowna answers in the final period for a 9-8 loss.

Loyal Vernon fans csme away from the Kelowna game upset by Essos defensive breakdown as the home town boys couldn't seem to get untracked in their own zone.

Some spectators also felt the game officiating was of a very low calibre and poor handling of a third period fight between Vernon's Al Wahlstrom and Bucks Cliff McKay behind the goal eventually was the cause of a painful knee injury to Wahlstrom which will put him out of action for nearly six weeks.

## Game club to meet Tuesday

The next general meeting of the Vernon Fish And Game Club will be held Tuesday at 8 p.m. in the Elks' Hall.

Guest speaker will be Paul J. Presidente, the chief hunter training officer for British Columbia.

Mr. Presidente will give a lecture and show films and explain the functions and objectives of the hunters' training program.

It appears that in the not too distant future a segment of the hunting population will have to pass an examination before a licence is issued.

Several reports said the officials should have left the two fighters alone while they were still on their feet, but in the attempt to break up the melee, Wahlstrom was forcefully thrown to the ice by an official while his arms were pinned and then fell on the Vernon players leg, pulling all the tendons from around the knee cap.

Said one club official after the game, "It was a good one to clear the air and bring out the teamwork so badly needed on the Vernon Roster."

## Sportsman of year names requested now

Vernon clubs and organizations have been invited to submit a nomination for the Sportsman of the Year for 1970.

Branch 25, Royal Canadian Legion's sportsman award committee last week mailed letters asking the clubs and organizations to bear in mind that the committee is interested in the activities of their nominee for the period from February 1969 to February 1970.

The nominee must reside within the Vernon district.

All information, with a list of nominee's qualifications must be in the judges' hands by Jan. 23.

Nominations must be mailed to the Secretary, branch 25, Royal Canadian Legion, Vernon.

The Sportsman of the Year dinner will be held in connection with Vernon Winter Carnival 1970 activities in February.

The Volkswagen is in a class by itself.

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## Essos host Rockets

# Leadership at stake in Junior game here

Following the 5-1 victory by Vernon Essos over league leading Victoria Cougars last Saturday before more than 1,000 home town fans, great expectations on what the Essos can do to second place Kamloops at Vernon tomorrow night is uppermost in the minds of many, particularly the Vernon players.

Essos accomplished more than just what the eye observed Saturday night. Going into the game they had dropped seven straight games to the Cougars both in playoffs at the end of last season and three regular fixtures this season.

Kamloops meanwhile, dropped a 6-3 decision to the

same Cougars Sunday afternoon to allow the Victoria club jump three points ahead of the Rockets in league standings.

With Vernon currently holding a fourth place tie with Kelowna, the game Tuesday has got to be considered very important to both clubs as Rockets must try and stay abreast of the Cougars and Vernon needs the points to go ahead of Buckaroos and at the same time go ahead of the third place Vancouver Centennials.

The excellent teamwork displayed by the Essos against Victoria should go along way to convince the local boys they can play

hockey together and make it pay.

Let's hope they don't lose sight of this factor and come out strong against the Rockets in another good showing before home town fans.

Game time at Civic Arena is 8:30 p.m. and fans are urged to turn out early so as to get some of the better seats.

## Fire damages prep school

COLDSTREAM — Vernon Preparatory School was damaged by a fire Sunday which broke out in the east end of the basement.

The Coldstream fire