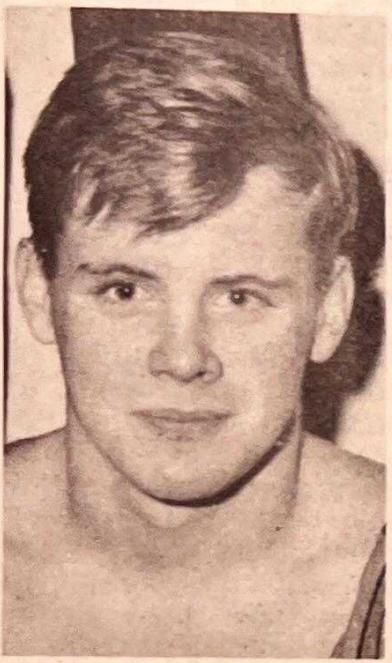


Intermediate playoffs

Vernon to host Kamloops in opener

Vernon Luckies begin a best of five Okanagan-Mainline intermediate



AL ALEXANDER
...in the nets

hockey finals series here at home Friday night when they take on Kamloops Stars in what could be the beginning of the return to Vernon of the Coy Cup, emblematic of Intermediate B supremacy within the province.

The last time Vernon held the coveted trophy was in 1964 with manager Vern Dye now of the Vernon Essos, the helmsman.

Game time Friday has been set for 9 p.m. with pre-ticket sales starting early in the day at Ernie's Esso Station. Prices for the games are \$1 for adults and 50 cents for youngsters under 16 years of age.

The second game of the series goes before the public at Kamloops the following Friday and the third game back in Vernon March 1 in a

Sunday afternoon fixture starting at 2 p.m.

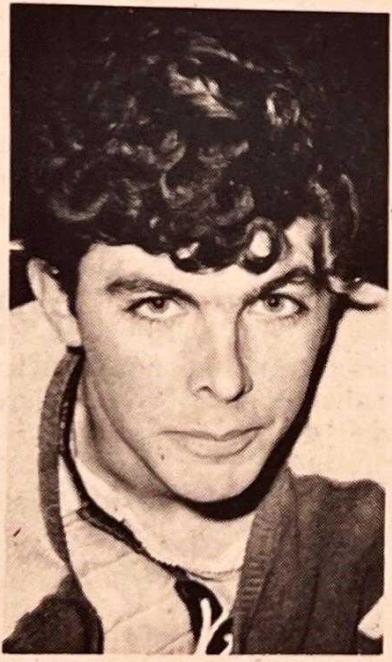
Interesting feature of the Vernon squad this season is the number of ex-junior players now on the roster.

For example, most of the goal tending work has been assigned to Al Alexander well known for his prowess

between the posts while a Vernon Esso team member last season and of course more recently as the backbone to the Lumby Flying Frenchmen squad of the North Okanagan League.

The Frenchmen, by the way, once held the Coy Cup back in 1931.

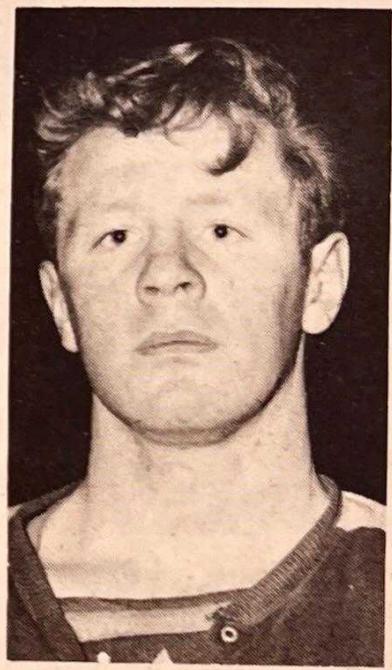
Others worthy of note up from the junior ranks this year are King Cam, Rick Reilly and Keith Rolston.



RICK REILLY
... ex-junior



KING CAM
... another jr.



KEITH ROLSTON
... former Blade

Yacht club launching ramp closed

Following a board meeting of the Vernon Yacht club executive Wednesday night, a decision was reached to close off the old launching ramp

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Certificates of appreciation were given to six members of the Vernon Essos Junior A hockey club for recent top point totals picked up in regular league games played recently. From the left Jack Marsh, team captain Bob Mayer, donor and manager of Big O

Tire Sales Mr. Gerry Murdie, Wayne Dye, Don Manson and Lawrence Quechuk. Missing from the photo because of work commitments was goalie Gary Osborne.

In B.C. Jr. hockey

Vernon moves into the league stretch

Will they or won't they? That question is uppermost in the minds of hockey fans in and around Vernon these days as the Essos prepare themselves for the last five games of the regular schedule of B.C. Junior A hockey.

Will they finish off the schedule in first place in the standings or will they want for another year to reach the high pinnacle of success they have tried so hard to reach these past few years.

As it stands now, they have better than even odds on taking the pennant for the very first time as they are only two points out of a first

place tie with the current league leaders Victoria Cougars who moved ahead once more last Thursday when they drubbed Kamloops Rockets 7-0 in the Island city, and the Essos still have two games in hand over the leader.

With the Essos returning to action Tuesday night in Vernon for their last home game of the regular schedule against Penticton Broncos, after a week's layoff, the rest of the league continued its merry way.

Thursday night Kamloops Rockets hit the Coast trail for a three game stint and came away with a 7-0 loss to Vic-

toria, then Friday they just managed to tie third place Vancouver Centennials 3-3 and Saturday came through with a narrow 4-3 win over New Westminster Royals.

At the same time, Penticton Broncos and Kelowna Buckaroos battled out a 5-5 tie Friday night at Penticton and returned to Kelowna ice Saturday with the Broncos coming through with a 6-3 win, to close out the 48 game schedule for Kelowna leaving them mired deep in sixth place of the seven team league.

Their record of 17 wins, 29 losses and two ties for 36 points was much better however than that of the cellar-dwelling Royals who have two games to go, one with Victoria and the last one with Vernon and so far have won only two games while suffering an all-time loss record of 42 games with two ties for a mere six points.

Essos face one of the toughest weekends yet as they begin a five game stretch to the finish, starting Tuesday night, then travel to Kamloops Wednesday, have one day off then head for the Coast to play Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster to wrap up the regular season.

With the first three places as of now so close, only calculated guesses can be made as to who will finish where.

Victoria have played 45 games and must face Vancouver, New Westminster and Vernon in that order while Vancouver, with 46 games played so far have to meet the leaders and second place Vernon. At best, all the Vancouver club could do now is end up with 64 points and in second place one point ahead of the present total Victoria now hold, providing Victoria doesn't win.

As it looks now, Vernon do have the best chance because of so many games in hand over the other clubs.

Vernon also has the most

goals scored for, this season, at 222 and so far have the least goals against with only 138, nearly ten less than both the other leaders.

The game here Tuesday could foretell the tale of where Essos might finish, if they can come through with a convincing win, then do the same thing to Kamloops Wednesday night, nothing will stop them at the Coast even if they are on someone elses' ice.

One thing for sure as far as the Coast trip is concerned and that is they will have a good many supporters on hand to cheer them on. Word has it that a bus has been chartered out of Vernon and several hundred Vernon fans already at the Coast will be on hand to give them a moral boost.

Word out of both Vancouver and Victoria indicates sell-out crowds will be on hand for the Esso games.

B.C. Junior A standings up to and including Feb. 21, 1970:

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts
Victoria	45	29	11	5	220	147	63
Vernon	43	29	11	3	222	138	61
Vancouver	46	26	13	7	199	147	60
Kamloops	46	23	18	5	185	171	51
Penticton	46	19	21	6	186	193	44
Kelowna	48	17	29	2	200	260	36
New West.	46	2	42	2	147	304	6

Penticton here Tuesday night

It's Junior A hockey in Vernon Tuesday night as the Essos host Penticton in the last league game of the year on home ice for the Essos.

Indications of one of the largest crowds on hand to watch a regular league game is forecast by the early pre-game ticket sales which went on sale at Ernie's Esso Service Station today and continues all day tomorrow.

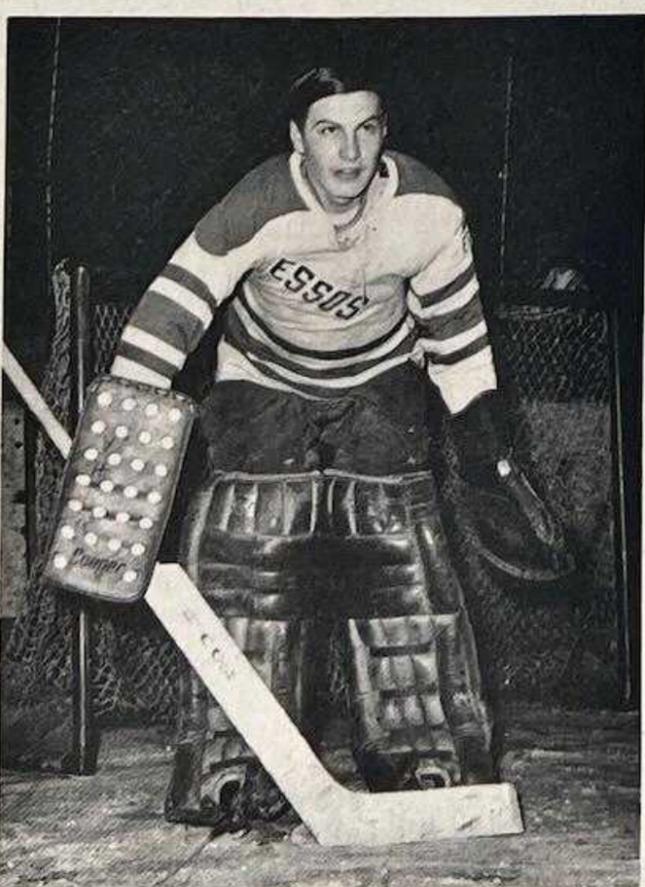
Game time has been set for an 8:30 p.m. start and additional entertainment will also be scheduled.

The naming of Miss Esso, from several young women

vying for the title will also take place with the winner receiving several prizes and the honor of being the first girl to hold the title.

It is hoped continued support by local fans will remain and word out of the Esso camp indicated the excellent support by residents here is just a little more appreciated than what most people would suspect.

Several players feel the large crowds have been one of the main reasons why the Essos have done so well of late in their drive for the championship.



ART PAGEE ... new Esso goalie

Newest acquisition to the Vernon Essos roster is 17-year-old Vegreville, Alta., goalie Art Pagee, who has been in the Vernon camp for several weeks but was just recently officially listed as a team member. Manager Vern Dye hopes Pagee will see some action before long and is looking forward to seeing him doing permanent duty between the pipes next season.

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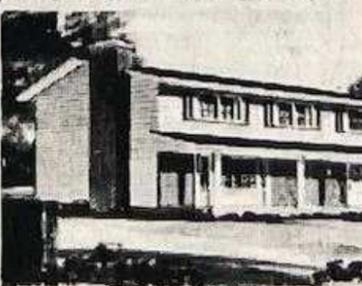
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