

# Hail to the league champs



GARY OSBORNE



GORDON MACKINTOSH



DON MANSON



WAYNE DYE



BILL OWENS



JOHN PRICE



JACK MARSH



LAWRENCE QUECHUK



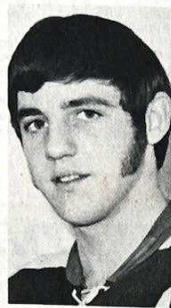
KEN WARNER



GORDON OSINCHUK



GORDON MERRITT



BOB MAYER



JIM MARSH



BARRY BLEAKELY



AL WAHLSTROM



ART PAGE



BOB CRAIG



DALE CRAIG



ODIE LOWE



VERN DYE

The Vernon Essos today reign supreme over the B.C. Junior A hockey league following a 6-2 pounding of last place New Westminster Royals Sunday afternoon in the Coast city.

The closely contested seven team loop went right to the wire of their 48 game schedule before a championship was declared, with eventual winners, the Essos battling with second place Victoria for the top honors with Vernon taking a slim one point edge in the standings for the pennant flag and the league championship.

Vernon, the odds on favorite, went in the final weeks play with games in hand over the Victoria and third place Vancouver Centennials with Essos winning three, tying one and losing one in five games played in six days to emerge in championship form for the first time in the leagues nine year history.

Obviously the most pleased, but taking nothing away from the players as they bounced all over each other slapping backs, shaking hands and hugging each other at the final whistle of the Sunday game, were coach Odie Lowe and club manager Vern Dye.

For both men it was a victory well earned after years of hard work to shape such a team as Vernon has this season into championship form.

Final crowning glory and repayment for the many times said, thankless job of running a club of this stature, would be to go on and take the playoff series for the Mowatt

Cup and the right to represent B.C. in Memorial Cup playdowns for the National Junior Championship title.

For the Essos, the home stretch was probably the hardest, as they played out their 48 game schedule with five games in six straight days ending Sunday with the final game proving to be the most crucial.

Last Tuesday and Wednesday, Essos took a pair of wins over Penticton and Kamloops, travelled to the lower mainland Thursday night for three games in three days, meeting Vancouver Friday night and coming out of that encounter with a 3-3 tie, then going into Victoria Saturday only to drop a 6-3 decision to the tough Cougar crew but coming back with the big win and what proved to be the most important game of the year when they downed New Westminster Royals 6-2 Sunday afternoon.

As in most latterly games of the regular schedule, it was again a full team effort as nine players featured in the scoring Sunday.

Jack Marsh and Bill Owens paced Essos with two goals each, while John Price and Bob Mayer backed them with single markers.

Aiding the cause with assists was Lawrence Quechuk and Wayne Dye with two each, while singles came off the sticks of Jack Marsh, John Price, Bob Mayer, Dale Craig, Gordon Merritt and Al Wahlstrom.

Jack Marsh also headed the Vernon scoring against Victoria as he notched a pair with the single in that game coming from Lawrence

B.C. Jr. 'A' team standings to March 1, 1970

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	P
Vern	48	32	12	4	245	151	68
Vic	48	31	12	5	238	155	67
Van	48	27	13	8	205	152	62
Kam	48	24	19	5	190	178	53
Pen	48	19	23	6	188	202	44
Kel	48	17	29	2	200	260	36
New West	48	2	44	2	151	320	6

Quechuk, with Quechuk and Wayne Dye picking up assists.

In the Friday night encounter, Essos managed a tie with the big and powerful Vancouver club, as Wayne Dye, Lawrence Quechuk and John Price scored the Vernon goals, with Quechuk and Price assisting along with Al Wahlstrom.

Against Vancouver, Essos took a 2-0 lead in the first period, dropped back in the second frame as Vancouver came up with two goals of their own to equalize the scoring with each club then picking up one more goal each in the final stanza.

In Victoria, Cougars came on strong in the first period to lead by 2-0 going into the middle frame only to have Essos pick up equalizers of their own which they handled until just over two minutes to go in the period when Cougars once more took the lead to stay.

In the final period Cougars added three more while Essos managed to pick up one to round out the scoring.

Obviously tired and nervous from the strain of wanting to take the league title, Essos couldn't seem to get untracked, although all of the players were putting everything they had into the game.



JOCK WORTH

Goalie Gary Osborne was brilliant in the nets for Vernon as he time and again pushed aside what looked like sure goals.

His stellar net minding was a pleasure to behold, particularly when it came to facing the attackers single handed. His brilliant work probably saved at least a dozen more goals.

While Osborne was playing one of his better games of the year, although in a losing cause, alternate netman, Gordon Mackintosh also did well, playing in both the Vancouver and New Westminster games, picking up a tie and the final win.

With the effort put forth by both goalies, they will jointly share the league honor as the two best goalies, because of the least goals scored against them in the 48 games played.

The final total for them came to only 151 goals against for a low average of 3.11 per game.

They just barely edged Vancouver's Lionel Trudell and Brian Giles who allowed just one more than Vernon for a total goals against of 152.

Former Vernonite, Ed Forslund and Geoff Ward also were close as they only allowed 155 goals in the regular schedule for Victoria Cougars.

For Vernon, it's on to the best of seven semi-final series against third place Vancouver with second place Victoria playing out their semis against fourth place Kamloops, who ended their regular schedule by edging Penticton 3-2 at Penticton Sunday afternoon.

Vernon and Vancouver begin their series here in Vernon Tuesday and Wednesday with game times for both encounters set for 8 p.m. starts.

Reserved seats ticket sales are now open for the public to pick them up and can be obtained at Ernie's Essos Service Station.

1934 — Ottawa franchise transferred to St. Louis. Team was called St. Louis Eagles and consisted of most of the Ottawa players of the previous season.

## B.C. junior semi-finals

# Playoffs open here Tuesday

It's B.C. Junior A playoff hockey here in Vernon starting Tuesday night.

League champion Vernon Essos open the best of seven semi-final playoff series for the Mowatt Cup by taking on third place Vancouver Centennials both Tuesday and Wednesday nights here then travel to Vancouver again next weekend for games three and four Friday and Saturday, then, providing extra games are necessary, come home for a Sunday night game, return to Vancouver and play game six Monday night with the seventh game if necessary back in Vernon Wednesday night.

All Vernon games have

been scheduled for 8 p.m. starts and pregame reserved seats have now gone on sale and can be obtained from Ernie's Essos Station.

While Vernon and Vancouver battle it out in the A series of the semis, second place Victoria Cougars take on fourth place Kamloops Rockets in the B series of the playdowns, with all their games scheduled for the same nights as in the first series.

Winners of the semi-final series then meet for the B.C. title and the Mowatt Cup. The winner also goes on to represent the province in National Junior playoffs for the Memorial Cup.

Last year, Victoria won

the Mowatt Cup with the right to meet other provincial winners, losing to Saskatoon.

Following a league playoff scheduling meeting at Kelowna Saturday, officials revealed that while the winners will go into National playoffs, the runner-up will have the honor of representing B.C. in an all-junior hockey tournament scheduled for Winnipeg as part of that province's centennial celebrations.

Apparently there will be eight teams in the tournament and will be run in a round robin playoff system with two games a day played over four days to determine a winner.

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