

On three wins

Vernon takes series lead

By DOUG BULWER

Vernon 6 Vancouver 2
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Vernon Essos have taken command of their semi-final series with Vancouver Centennials in the A section of the B.C. Junior hockey playoffs.

The Essos spotted the Coast crew a pair of wins last Tuesday and Wednesday here at home then proceeded to show why they are this seasons pennant winners by coming back with three straight wins, two of them on Vancouver ice Friday and Saturday and the other here before 2,306 home town fans Sunday night.

Essos started back on the victory trail Friday night in Kerrisdale arena by trouncing the Centennial club 6-2 with Gordon Osinchuk paving the way with a pair of markers and singles from John Price, Jack Marsh, Wayne Dye and Lawrence Quechuk.

Vernon took the first period on goals by Price and Marsh, allowed Vancouver two replies in the middle frame on goals by Murray Swales and Ray Todd then came on very strong in the final session to score four unanswered markers for the win.

Gordon Osinchuk was the big gun in the final 20 minutes of play as he scored a pair

with Wayne Dye and Lawrence Quechuk doing the singles honors.

In this game, Esso netman Gary Osborne, was the big gun on the squad as he performed outstanding feats of goal tending, coming up with spectacular moves to thwart Vancouver offensive drives in each of the three periods.

The first and third period were all his as he effectively shut the door on the host club as they tried everything to put the rubber past him.

His stellar performance seemed to give the players up front that much more confidence and they backed him up by scoring six goals.

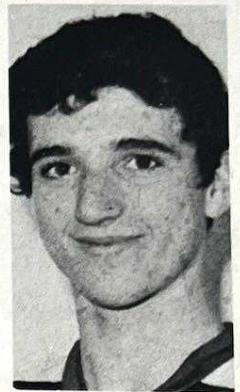
Saturday night, it was all



GARY OSBORNE
... earns shutout



BOB CRAIG
... scores hat trick



JOHN PRICE
... Mr. 'Wire'

Osborne night as he again put on one of the prettiest shows in the nets observed for a long time as he completely blanked the Centennials.

As in the first game, he pushed aside 32 drives, many of them earmarked as tallies, but, for some fantastic moves on his part, from robbing clean breakaways to cutting off screen shots, Vernon may have been in trouble.

At home Sunday, Osborne again held his own allowing only two past him one in each of the second and third periods and with another four goal performance by his teammates, was able to come through with another well earned win.

Saturday night was also a big night for Vernon's Bob Craig who seemed to be everywhere, his forechecking was something to behold as he time and again came up with plays that kept the Coast club off balance in their own zone.

Craig then polished off his nights work by scoring two markers in the middle frame and adding his hat trick of the night at the mid-point of the final session.

Craig also picked up an assist on Wayne Dye's marker for a big four point night.

Wayne Dye also complimented Craig by assisting on all three of his goals to also come up with a big four points.

Another comer on the Vernon Club was Gordon Osinchuk, who not only tallied a pair of goals in the Friday game, but came through with two assists Saturday night and adding another Sunday night.

At home Sunday, three power-play goals highlighted the Essos victory as John Price opened the scoring at 9:13 of the second period with help from Bob Mayer and Lawrence Quechuk, while Keith Nordin was off for interference.

Wayne Dye then came up with another of his very hard slapshots to move the Essos ahead by two goals. This goal came at 15:36 mark and saw Gordon Osinchuk and Al Wahlstrom do the initial playmaking.

Vancouver then ended the second period scoring by notching a goal of their own by Lloyd Bittner with help from Murray Swales at 19:49.

Essos came out strong in the final period and started the ball rolling at 2:54 as Lawrence Quechuk picked a corner after John Price and Jack Marsh set him up. This was another power-play effort as Vancouver played a man short when Murray

Swales sat out a holding infraction.

Nearly four minutes later it was Wayne Dye taking advantage of the power-play as he came up with his second goal of the night with help from Bob Craig and Bob Mayer. This goal was scored at 6:31, a minute after Ken Love was sent off for high sticking.

Vancouver then came through with their second and final marker when Alex Dick scored with help from Tom Rieley, to round out the scoring at 17:18.

Vernon now head back to Vancouver for game number six of the best of seven series and holding a one game lead with a victory at Vancouver tonight or a final game here in Vernon Wednesday night giving them the right to meet the winner of the B series where Victoria Cougars and Kamloops Rockets now hold an even two win, two loss record in four games played so far.

Vancouver evened the series up by whalloping the Rockets 10-1 at Victoria Sunday night.

ICE CHIPS

Gary Osborne indeed has been an inspiration to the Vernon Essos in the recent three game stint and from this corner proved himself by coming through while under pressure to give the Essos the incentive for a big come-back after going down two games to open the series.

Bob Craig also has been a big factor in the Vernon Play as he comes out strong each

turn he takes on the ice and does his part and sometimes adds a little more.

Probably the most beloved character on the Essos team at the moment is that Cranbrook boy who wears sweater number 11. Fondly called 'Wire' by his teammates because of his very unruly and kinky curled hair. John Price has to be another of the unsung heroes on the roster this season.

His never ending chatter in the dressing room and good humored quips to everyone including coach Odie Lowe makes for many light hearted laughs.

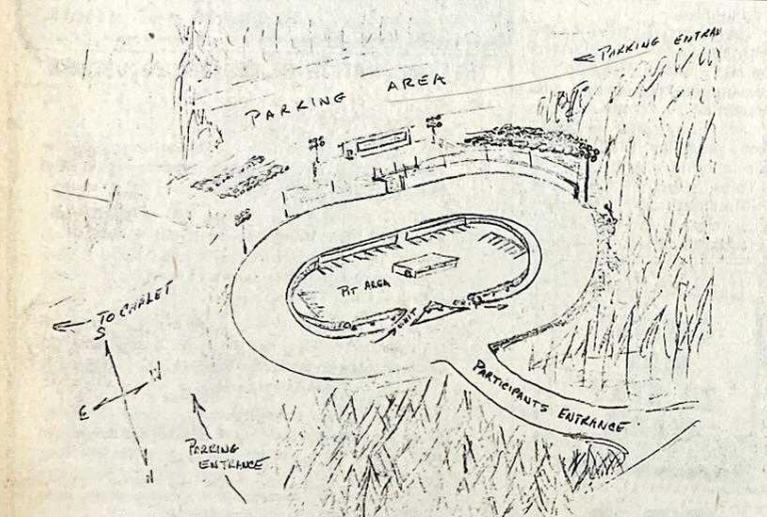
On the ice surface his good natured ways turn to a demon on skates as he time and again slides through towering defencemen, swivelling his slim hips in and out of tight corners to set up plays that bring applause from those who watch him.

It's nice to pick out individuals for their own style of play but actually everyone on the Esso roster are showing their best with almost every man out taking his turn at bringing home the laurels of a job well done.

1935 — St. Louis dropped out of the League leaving the membership at eight teams.

1938 — Montreal Maroons retired from the N.H.L.

1941 — New York Americans changed name to Brooklyn Americans.



At Tillicum Valley

Stock car raceway to be built here

Okanagan track racing association today announced plans for a 3/8 mile Stock Car oval in Tillicum Valley.

The dirt track that hosted the 1969 B.C. Snowmobile Championships will now be paved and finished off for stock-car racing.

Okanagan Track Racing Association members and visitors will race on a regulation 3/8 mile oval, with pavement 55 foot wide, corners banked to 15 per cent and the 280 foot straightaways banked at 4 per cent.

A complete and modern lighting system will enable competitors to race on Saturday evenings. Exit and entrance on to the track from the pits will be paved.

Grandstand seating for spectators will be erected on the south side of the oval, just behind the flagman and the start-finish line.

Spectators will be protected by a four foot high cement wall with a wire mesh fence above this. Concessions and washroom facilities to be located under the grandstand.

The terraced slopes above the oval will provide parking for approximately 1,000 cars. Expected grand opening

(weather permitting) will be May 23, 1970.

Competing cars throughout the year are expected from the B.C. Interior, Prince George, Vancouver, Victoria, Northern United States and Alberta.

Okanagan Track Racing cars will consist of two classes. Modified Stocks (formerly called early lates), and the "Super Cars", B Modified.

Superstock visits from the

West Coast are expected periodically throughout the racing season.

Owners of Tillicum Valley are Sandy and Molly Boyd and Neil Williams who are working in conjunction with the association.

Wayne Hickson, of the O.T.R.A., winner of the most sportsmanlike club member trophy for 1969, has been appointed Manager of the oval to be known as Tillicum Raceways.

Game banquet draws near

Once again the time has rolled around to the annual Vernon Fish and Game Club banquet and dance.

Each year, the club ushers in spring with this unusual and always enjoyed treat by offering a dinner menu containing such wild fare as venison, moose, elk, bear, cougar, salmon, trout, duck, pheasant, goose and often a few gourmet delicacies of rattlesnake, beaver and porcupine.

The meat for this occasion has been generously donated by the members of

the club, and as they often have to work darn hard to obtain this meat, it is quite a personal sacrifice.

This year, due to the difficulty of acquiring enough meat, the club is indebted to many other sportsmen and our conservation officer, Alan Frisby. The meal, which would whet Graham Kerr's appetite, will be ably prepared by the National Hotel's chef, Serge Danis.

During the after-dinner break, there will be the usual raffle of merchandise donated by the merchants of Vernon. This is always an enjoyable time as the abundance of prizes is sufficient to ensure a winner for about every three people present.

The club extends its grateful thanks to all the very generous people who donated

Gordon Skinner
 Shop Now
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Record reached by Vernon boy in coast swim

Peter Hrdlitschka of Vernon has broken a Canadian swim record at Vancouver.

The Vernon youth, a member of the Vernon Kokanee Swim Club swam the 100 metre breast stroke for boys 13 and 14 in a record time of 1:15.5 at the annual Canadian Dolphin International Spring swim meet at Percy Norman Pool in Vancouver last weekend.

He broke the old record which stood at 1:15.9.

Peter was only one of three Vernon swimmers on hand at the meet. Also there from Vernon was Terry Miller and Brad Shirely a pair of fine swimmers in their own right.

Word on the record breaking event was sent to Vernon late Sunday with more information being passed on as soon as the group returns home.

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