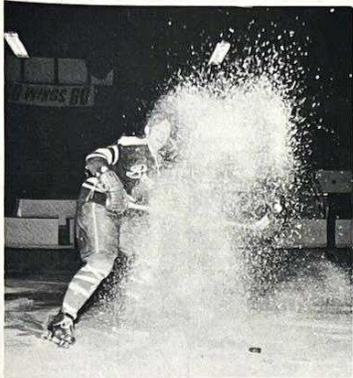
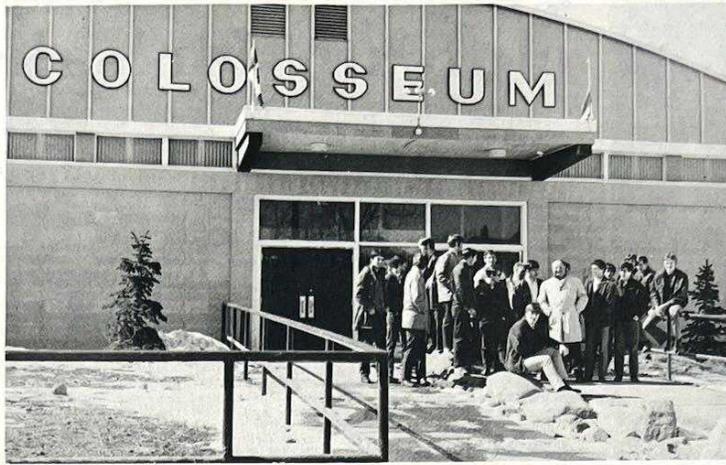


Memorial Cup series in review



Penticton Bronco

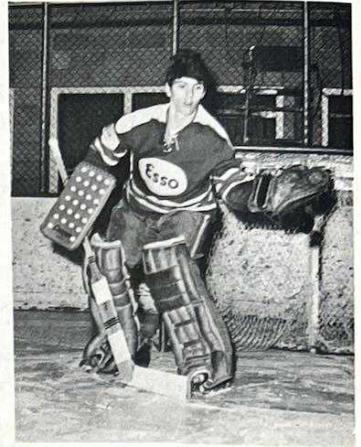
Penticton's own Dwayne Pentland donned the Vernon Esso uniform for the Western Canada junior A series with Weyburn Red Wings. Dwayne is a valuable member of the Penticton Bronco team as a blueline defender and during the past hockey season was team captain for the peach city club.



Weyburn sports arena

The colosseum in Weyburn Saskatchewan which houses that prairie city's ice rink is a new building by most standards, erected just 10 years ago mostly by volunteer help. The building looks very smart from the outside and the interior has many and roomier facilities for concession bars and dressing rooms. One major factor however, is the lack of modern ice cleaning equipment. Vernon Esso team members were somewhat taken back

when they discovered that ancient 45 gallon drums mounted on bicycle wheels was the only method for resurfacing the ice between periods of hockey games. In the above photo the Essos gather in front of the arena following a morning workout while in Weyburn for the Interprovincial junior A playoffs for the memorial cup last week.



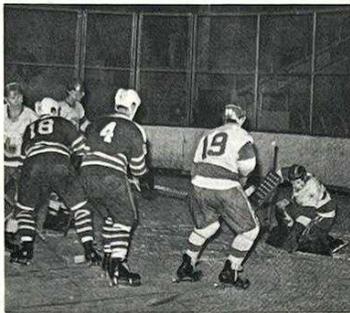
Centennial netman

Vancouver Centennial first string goalie, Lionel Trudell was one of Vernon Essos coach, Odie Lowe's choices as a back-up netminder for Gary Osborne in the out of province junior A competition with Weyburn Red Wings.



Hail the trumpeter

White bearded Weyburn Red Wing fan brought along his trumpet to lead the Saskatchewan hockey fans in fanfare encores during the series in the prairie city.



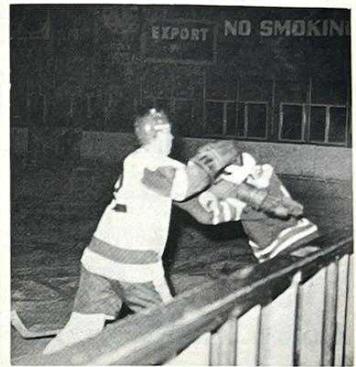
On the attack

Bob Craig, number 4 and Gordon Merritt, number 18 in the dark jerseys, speedy forwards for the Vernon Essos, were typical hard workers on the Vernon team this season. In the photo, they can be seen working their way in on an opposition goal mouth.



Goal mouth action

Vernon Essos won the B.C. junior A championship this season mainly on plain determination to win hockey games. One of the smallest groups in the seven team league, Essos were highly penalized for being aggressive but as the above photo shows, other teams knew how to dish out the hard checks too.



Extra entertainment

Added entertainment for Weyburn fans was a few sessions with fists as tempers flew several times between the Vernon Essos and Weyburn Red Wings during their Junior A memorial cup playdowns in Saskatchewan last week. In the photo Vernon's John Price (right) didn't do too well against a much heavier Gary Leppi a pickup player from the Regina Pats.



Action on the ice

Hockey action this past season in the Junior A league has given hundreds of new fans a better prospective of what the young men in uniform can provide in the sport of hockey. Vernon fans in particular gave the B.C. champion Essos plenty of good backing and was much appreciated by the players.

Photos by
Doug Bulwer



Thirst quencher

Probably the most under-rated player on the Vernon Essos roster this past season, particularly in league play was netminder Gary Osborne, Osborne however more than proved himself in the semi-final and final series with Vancouver and Victoria and then did a stellar job although swamped by Weyburn's superior skating and shooting ability in the inter-provincial series with the Red Wings. In the photo, Osborne hoists the Mowatt cup, emblematic of B.C. Junior A hockey supremacy to take a refreshing drink of coke from the coveted cup.



Sizzling drive

Vernon Esso team captain Bob Mayer proved many times this past season why he was one of the best defenders on the ice and why too his hard slap shots at opposition goal mouths most often beat the defending goalies.



Reinforcements answer call

Answering the call to fill the gaps in the Vernon Essos lineup for the Weyburn series was from the left, Alex Dick and Neil Murphy of Vancouver Centennials, Vernon Coach Odie Lowe, Vancouver goalie Lionel Trudell and Penticton defenseman Dwayne Pentland. In the photo, coach Lowe goes over some of the plays with the new players during a skating practise at Weyburn last week.



Country sojourn

Members of the Vernon Essos didn't get much of a chance to see the surrounding countryside in the Weyburn district of Southern Saskatchewan during the playoffs in the prairies last week. However, some of the boys braved the extreme cold weather for a quick look see and are pictured above looking over an abandoned farm tractor of obvious ancient vintage.

Junior A hockey club up for sale

By DOUG BULWER

As was expected, the Vernon Essos hockey gear was hardly dry before the back room talk on the future of the club began to pour out and into the street.

For several months word has been out that the Vernon Minor Hockey Association would be putting the Essos club up for sale at the end of the current season and now apparently unconformed reports indicate this group is about to do just that.

There isn't any doubt in anyones mind, particularly for those who follow hockey, that such a situation would come about.

Word has it that an un-named group has already put up a retainer sum of money to buy the club and that several more parties are just a little more than interested.

Be as it all may be, to operate the Essos hockey club is more complex than a good many people realize and with expenses on the increases each year, dollars are going to be the big factor in the operation next year and for many years to come.

This past season, thanks to solid fan support, the Essos, as far as is known at this point, came out in the black but not without a few headaches to those concerned with running the club.

In order to come up with a competative club, players from other centres had to be brought in, their schooling in most cases had to be looked after and accommodation had to be found.

Reason for the outside help to stock the roster is obvious, there just isn't enough players of Junior "A" calibre to be found in this area.

Too bad we all say, but Vernon came through with the B.C. championship for the first time in the leagues history and it took players like John Price from Cranbrook, B.C., Gary Osborne from Kamloops, Barry Bleakley from Whitehorse, Yukon Territories, Bob and Dale Craig from Surrey, and Jack and Jim Marsh from Quesnel to name but a few to aid in the cause.

From Vernon there were a couple of boys such as Bob Mayer and Wayne Dye who played a major role in the success of the year but without the outside help Vernon would have been nothing.

To make Vernon competative in a fast improving league, out of town help is a must whether local people like it or not and if these boys are going to continue to be brought in, then dollars are going to be needed to look after them.

Costs for room and board are staggering and a calculated guess would give the room and board price per boy in the neighborhood of over \$175 per month, then they must have a little spending money for incidentals such as tooth paste and other needs to make the monthly bills over a period of at least seven months run nto several hundreds of dollars.

This is where fan support comes in and in order to keep the fans coming then good style hockey is very important.

The Vernon Minor Hockey Association is not geared for such an operation, with all directors and members ordinary working class people and not able to spend the many hours before and during the hockey season to cultivate a good team.

As a matter of fact, from this corner, these people are not capable of running such an organization of the Essos magnitude because of their limited knowledge in hockey matters. This is being proven by the shortage of qualified players coming out of minor hockey ranks.

The exception to the rule is men like Vern Dye and Odie Lowe who have been closely involved over the past several seasons and have learned in some instances by bitter experience what is involved in running a club of such present proportions.

A good example of what they have learned came about with the Essos winning the B.C. championship and then going into Memorial cup playdowns with Weyburn, Saskatchewan.

Many things have been learned through this experience and both men now have a large storeroom of knowledge on how to operate a Junior "A" club.

What ever happens to the Esso operation, the new owners would be short sighted if they didn't retain the services of at least these two men.

The first cash register was made on the order of a clock; it had one hand which indicated dollars and the other cents.

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