

Extravaganza planned

Essos opener Saturday

Vernon Essos, fresh from six game exhibition series take to the ice in earnest this Saturday as they play host to Kelowna Buckaroos in the first of a 30 game home ice schedule which heralds the beginning of the 1970-71 B.C. Junior A hockey season.

Essos will be looking for a big win as they set their sites early on retaining the championship they won last year.

Their exhibition series with double games against Kelowna, Penticton and Kamloops saw the Essos fare not overly well as they dropped three, won two and tied their last encounter with Kamloops Rockets.

This series of course was planned to give coach Odie Lowe a chance to sort out a big training camp in which nearly 60 boys took part.

The game Saturday should provide local fans with plenty of excitement with the trimmed roster showing the best of the training camp, ready to do battle.

Among those to watch for in the Vernon colors this season is 18-year-old Jim Lawrence, a 170 lb. centre who originates from Vancouver. He scored five goals

and picked up four assists in the six game exhibition series.

Another excellent prospect, and out of Vernon Minor hockey ranks, is 16-year-old Ed Johnstone who has impressed both coach Odie Lowe and manager Vern Dye in every game he has played so far.

Johnstone also did more than his share in the exhibition goal scoring with four to his credit, three of them in the game against Penticton when Essos edged the Broncos 5-3 on Vernon ice. The former midget star also picked up five assists to round out his points total in the preliminary series.

Returnees to the Vernon fold this season and important members of the last year championship team, are Wayne Dye, John Price and Jim Marsh.

All three have shown early signs of being on top of the play when the season opens this Saturday.

In the goal tending department, Leo Kartchie of Vancouver seems to have settled into the first string slot well and will have excellent back-up aid from Cranbrook prospect, Wayne Price, brother to the high flying John Price.

One of the newest arrivals to Vernon is Jack Fleming of Calgary, who was sent to Vernon by Medicine Hat for a tryout as a forward.

His first appearance came Wednesday night when he joined the Essos for the game against Kamloops. Prospect of good things from this young player looks favorable and with his size and obvious strength should hold his own in any rink.

Wednesday night Essos wrapped up their exhibition series and although the game was marred by far too many fighting penalties, 17 out of 22 assessed by referee Alex Kashuba, signs of some good hockey ability on the Vernon lineup began to show.

Essos held the visiting Kamloops Rockets to a 2-2 tie after taking a 7-4 loss at the hands of the same club the night before in Kamloops.

This Saturday Vernon players indicate they will put on a good show for home town fans with the game set to get underway at 8:30 p.m., following opening ceremonies featuring MLA Patricia Jordan and team officials.

Pre-game and reserve seats for students and old age pensioners over the 30 game home schedule have been introduced at a special reduced rate with both age groups able to get a package deal for all games and

a reserve seat of their choice for only \$25.

These tickets go on sale today, Friday and Saturday at the Community centre between the hours of 10-12 a. m. and from 1-5 p.m.

General ticket sales for adult and reserve seats are also available and persons wishing to phone in their order can do so, providing they pick up and pay for same prior to 5 p.m. the day of the games here in Vernon. This deadline has been set so as to allow tickets to be available at the door an hour before game times.

Another added attraction to herald the opening game Saturday will be a street parade of players and the new Miss Esso, Heather Holmes, who will ride in convertibles with the Vernon Girls Trumpet band escorting them along main street at 2 p.m.

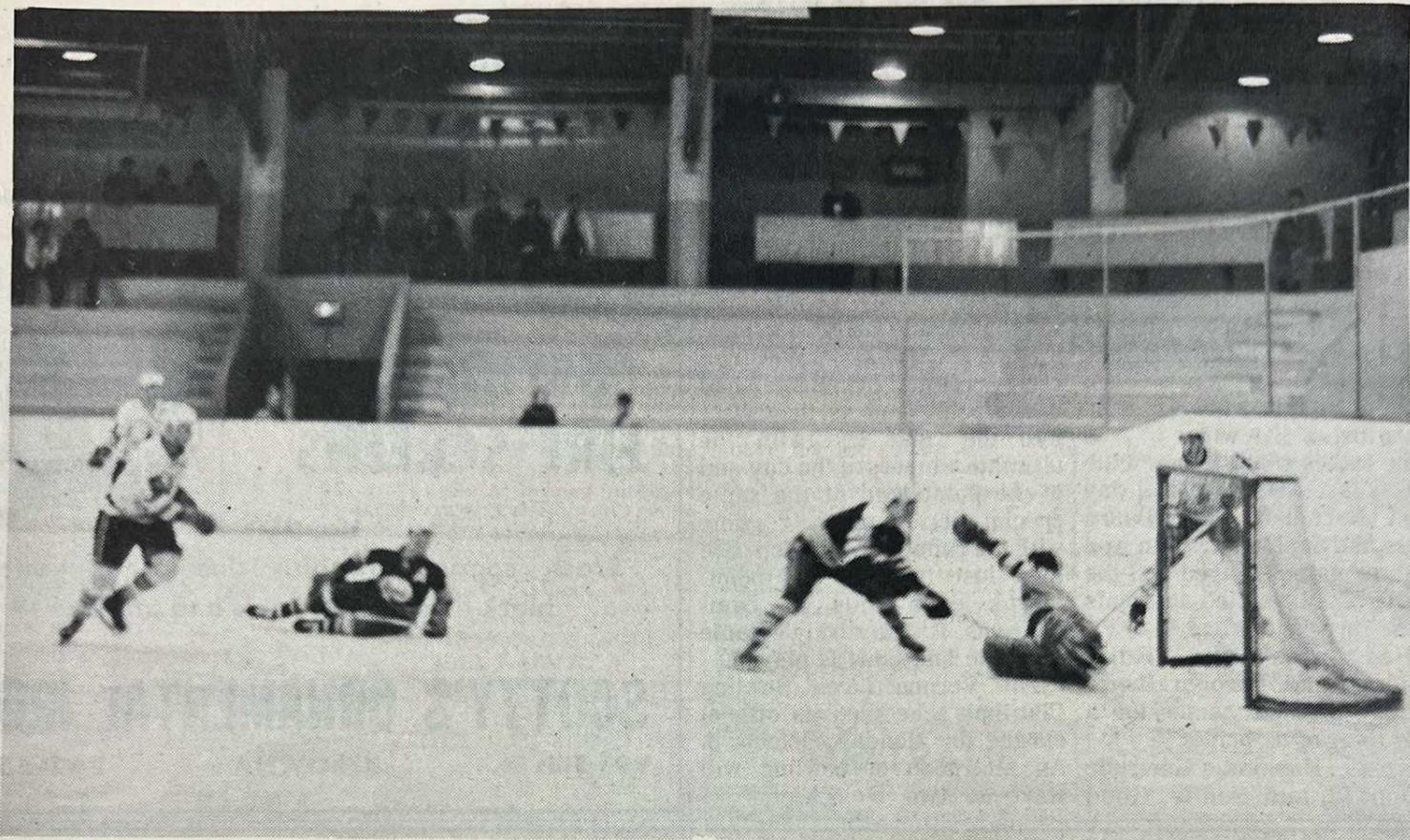
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High torque engine for speed
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60 game schedule starts Saturday

Vernon hockey fans can expect great things from their B.C. champion junior A team this winter as coach Odie Lowe and Manager Vern Dye send their boys onto the ice this Saturday for the first game of the year when the Essos play host to the Kelowna Buckaroos at the Vernon civic arena. Both Lowe and Dye have worked hard

the last few weeks in screening prospective players for this years edition of the Vernon team and if all goes well the fruit of their hard work will be borne out in exciting and entertaining hockey for Vernon fans this season. In the above photo, Essos show off some of their drive while playing against Kelowna last week in exhibition hockey.