

Resume victory trail

Vernon Essos take hockey opener here

By DOUG BULWER
Vernon 8-Kelowna 6



ODIE LOWE
...pleasing start

Vernon Essos 8-6 win over Kelowna Buckaroos in the opening game of the B.C. Junior A hockey league was like delving back in history.

Playing before over 900 home town fans, Saturday night, the defending B.C. champions looked sharp in the early minutes of the game as they struck quickly and hardly looked back.

A year ago on the same date, Oct. 3, Essos took on the visiting New Westminster Royals and walked away with a similar opening day victory. They then went on to take the B.C. title and the Mowat cup for the first time since the 1955-56 season when the Vernon Monarchs under the guidance of coach Sarge

Sammartino brought home the silverware.

Looking a little further in the record book, the Essos are only the third Vernon team to ever win the B.C. title, in 42 years, the first time it was during the 1952-53 season when Bud Anderson led the Vernon Juniors all the way to the championship. Saturday night, Essos took a 4-0 edge in the opening period,



ED JOHNSTONE
... only 16

but allowed Kelowna to out-score them 4-3 in the mid frame, and 2-1 in the final 20 minute session with Vernon going on to take the important victory by a two goal margin.

Large crowd

For the large crowd on hand, the game was all anyone could ask for an opener to a partisan throng, as the new edition of the Essos took every situation in

their stride, from setting up and carrying out good play-making moves, to using good defensive manoeuvres when the moment called for them.

Probably the big question in everyone's mind before the game was how the almost new roster of players, with only four returnees from last year in the lineup would make out.

As the score indicated, they did alright. As a matter of fact, there were only two players from last year playing, in the personages of Jim Marsh and Gordon Merritt. Both Wayne Dye and John Price were sidelined for the game with ankle injuries suffered in pre-season exhibition matches.



LEO KARCHIE
... stellar job

Vernon starts
Vernon started their first period scoring spree off in good style as they took advantage of a power-play situation with Kelowna defenceman Greg Fox sitting out a hooking penalty. This opening goal came at 6:54 with team captain and blue line patroller, Jim Marsh carrying the puck into centre ice, passing it to left winger Dave Niel who in turn put it on the stick of Rob Taylor on the other wing with Taylor beating Kelowna goalie Ian McCrimmon from close in.

Five minutes later it was husky third string centre man Jack Fleming doing the second goal honors as he teamed with defenceman Merv See and wingmate Mike Roach to go in for the goal. This goal coming at 11:39 of the initial period.

Only seconds apart
Vernon's third and fourth markers of the period came within seconds of each other as the clock began to close out the final minute of play.

At 19:14, Ernie Gare, Jim Lawrence and Rod Cox teamed on a three-way effort to light up the score board for goal number three with Gare doing the final trick, then 13 seconds later and almost from the face-off, second string centreman Gordon Merritt took a relayed pass from Ernie Gare to go in for the fourth and final goal in the period.

Early second period action saw Vernon take advantage of another power-play situation after Kelowna's Craig Einfield was sent off for tripping.

The penalty came after only 46 seconds had gone by on the clock and four seconds later it was a 5-0 game with the Essos sitting on top. This goal came when Jim Marsh moved up to the point and banged in a long drive after centreman Jim Lawrence had taken the face-off draw.

From this point on however, Kelowna found their own head of steam and by the halfway mark of the period had narrowed the scoring gap to only two goals difference.

At 2:54 Ron Andruff scored on a three-way play with Ken Weninger and Larry Keating assisting. Two minutes later it was Kelowna once more with Jim Wilkinson and Dan McCarthy teaming up to take advantage of a Vernon penalty.

Jack Fleming was caught on a hooking infraction at 4:08 of the mid frame, and 34 seconds later he was back on the ice with Kelowna marking up goal number two.

At 11:29 Kelowna added their third goal of the period and game when Charlie Huck, brother of Fran Huck of Canadian National fame, swooped in with Dan McCarthy. Essos by this time were definitely on the defensive as they tried desperately to get a drive of their own going, which they did finally at the 13:27 mark.



JIM LAWRENCE
... four assists

Rookie scores two
This time it was Vernon's own Ed Johnstone, a 16 year old rookie straight out of midget ranks who made it 6-3 in Vernon's favor. He teamed with Jim Lawrence and Dave Niel to go in on goalie Ian McCrimmon. Just over a minute later, 14:36 to be exact, it was Johnstone again with Lawrence and Niel setting him up going in to widen the scoring gap for the Essos at 7:3.

Kelowna however, were not satisfied to let things stay that way as they put on their own spurt and came up with goal number four to end the second period scoring.

This time it was Craig Einfield going in alone to beat Vernon first string goalie Leo Karchie on a screen shot when the Vernon defence failed to clear the puck properly.

The final scoring action came in the final 20 minutes of play as first Kelowna scored then Essos found the mark with Kelowna ending the scoring in the game. At 4:11 it was Ken Weninger teaming with Ron Andruff and Greg Fox to score for the Bucks. Vernon then rounded out their nights goal effort with a good display of team work on the part of Jack Fleming and Vernon native Doug Wiffen, Fleming set Wiffen up with a perfect goal mouth pass with Wiffen swooping in to score his first ever Junior A league goal.

This goal came at 12:36 of the period after both teams had failed on several good tries earlier.

Final goal

The final goal of the night came on another power play with Kelowna taking advantage of the odd man after Ed Johnstone was sent off for tripping.

Johnstone had just nicely seated himself in the penalty box (13:18) when Kelownas team captain Doug Manchak worked the puck past Karchie with help from Charlie Huck and Greg Fox. The goal coming at 13:27.

Big pointman for the Essos was centre Jim Lawrence on four assists with linemate Dave Niel picking up three assists also.

Leading scorer of course, was Vernon rookie Ed Johnstone who scored back to back markers.

Price-Dye absent

An important factor not to be overlooked in the game was the absence of two of the Essos most experienced forwards, Wayne Dye and John Price. Last year their effectiveness was invaluable to the Essos in going all the way to the championship and this year even better things are expected of them.

As mentioned earlier, they did not dress for the opener because of ankle injuries and at

first, concern was shown with them not being able to dress.

Coach Odie Lowe now feels with these two in the future lineups and the way his team worked without them for the opener, all of his young charges should be something to reckon with in the remaining 59 games of the schedule.

Goalie praised

Particular praise was given to Vancouver born goalie, Leo Karchie who did a stellar job in the Vernon net. Although he was not kept as busy as his opposition netminder, Ian McCrimmon, Karchie pushed aside 19 drives that came his way with McCrimmon stopping 27.

In penalties, Vernon allowed Kelowna to take the edge with the Bucks being assessed seven and Essos taking six on calls by referee Alex Kashuba.

Scoring summary:

First period—1. Vernon, Taylor (Niel, Marsh) 6:54; 2.

Vernon, Fleming (See, Roach) 11:39; 3. Vernon, Gare (Lawrence, Cox) 19:14; 4. Vernon, Merritt, (Gare) 19:27. Penalties—Fox (Kel.) 5:36; McCrimmon (Kel.) 6:06; Roach (Ver.) 15:55. Second period—5. Vernon, Marsh, (Lawrence) :50; 6. Kelowna, Andruff (Weninger, Keating) 2:54; 7. Kelowna, Wilkinson (McCarthy) 4:42; 8. Kelowna, Huck (McCarthy) 11:29; 9. Vernon, Johnstone (Lawrence, Niel) 13:27; 10. Vernon, Johnstone (Lawrence, Niel) 14:36; 11. Kelowna, Einfield (unassisted) 18:05. Penalties—Einfield (Kel.) :46; Fleming (Ver.) 4:08; Andruff (Kel.) 10 min. Misc., 13:06; Larson (Kel) and Fleming (Ver.) 16:41. Third period—12. Kelowna, Weninger (Andruff, Fox) 4:11; 13. Vernon, Wiffen (Fleming) 12:36; 14. Kelowna, Manchak (Huck, Fox) 13:27. Penalties—Johnstone (Ver.) 13:16; See (Ver.) and Fox (Kel.) 16:11; Cox (Ver.) and Andruff (Kel.) 5-min majors 18:30.

Additional
Sports

MLA officiates at first game

The defending B.C. junior A hockey champions, Vernon Essos opened their doors for the new season last Saturday on a winning note, defeating visiting Kelowna Buckaroos 8-6 before more than 900 fans.

Pre-game ceremonies saw North Okanagan MLA, Patricia Jordan, officiate for the opening by bringing greetings to a successful new junior season from the government of B.C. and then dropped the puck between team captains Jim Marsh of Vernon and Doug Manchak of Kelowna to get the season officially under way.

Mrs. Jordan was also given a bouquet of roses by the new Miss Vernon Junior Esso,

Heather Holmes, who will represent the team at all official functions and at the same time vye for honors in the Miss Silver Star contest which gets under way soon.

Other dignitaries also at centre ice for the official opening were Essos club vice-president Bill Roth and Vernon minor hockey representative Dr. H. E. O'Brien.

The group were piped onto the ice by three members of the famed Vernon MacIntosh pipe band while earlier in the day, all members of this year's team were paraded along main street in open convertibles with the Vernon girls Drum and Bugle band leading the way with marching music.

Jr. hockey score board

Opening games of the B.C. Junior A hockey league over the

Committee 71 needs tennis supporters

Attention all tennis players... The Vernon Centennial committee needs your help. The group have organized a meeting for all those interested in playing on Vernons own up to date courts.

The meeting has been set for Tuesday Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Clarence Fulton junior secondary high school (Polson Park) and officials are hoping for a large turnout of supporters.

Information will be outlined at the meeting of what the committee intends to formulate as to plans for the construction of such courts and they urge anyone with enough interest to be on hand.

Tennis buffs are asked to come along with a friend or partners and give the idea a big boost.

At Kamloops the same night, the host Kamloops Rockets dumped visiting Penticton Broncos 5-4.

In Saturday night fixtures, Vernon Essos defeated Kelowna Buckaroos 8-6 and at Chilliwack, Vancouver Centennials whalloped the new league entry Chilliwack Bruins 6-1.

Sunday night at Victoria it was Victoria Cougars over New Westminster Royals by a score of 5-3 before 1,200 fans.

Next games for the junior loop will see Chilliwack travel to Vancouver tonight, and Victoria go to New Westminster Wednesday.

Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have set aside some 70 game preserves, national parks and sanctuaries.

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Attention: TENNIS PLAYERS

The Vernon Centennial Committee needs your help.

Organizational Meeting

of all those interested in playing tennis on our new courts on
October 6, 7:30 p.m.
in the cafeteria at the
Clarence Fulton Jr. Secondary School (Polson Park)

Find out why these courts will be the finest in the Valley and why we need your help.

Contact others... bring a friend or partner.

'71 Centennial Committee