

## League leaders

# Victoria Cougars in town Saturday

Vernon Essos put a two game winning streak on the line Saturday as they host league leading Victoria Cougars in what could be one of the most crucial games of the year for the Essos.

For the most part, the league has been wide open with the Cougars having it all their own way in the first half of the season while the Essos have been merely average in both play and in wins and losses.

In four meetings with Victoria this year, the Cougars have the edge in the win column having defeated Vernon twice while the other pair of games have ended in ties.

The first meeting Oct. 11 here

## Isobe gets first shutout

It would seem an established fact that no team is going to run away with first place in the White Valley Hockey League.

Each team seems to share in its wins and losses, and last Sunday night was no exception.

In the 7 p.m. game, the Lumby Royals proved too much for the Golden Banners by outscoring them 9-2.

The second game saw goalie Gord Isobe pick up the first Jaycees shut-out of the year. The final score of that game, a fantastic 11-0 win over the Lavington Shamrocks.

## Hubby-wife keglers meet Sunday

Bowling buffs are reminded there is still time to register for the second annual husband and wife five pin tourney which takes to the Lincoln lanes this Sunday afternoon.

The four game, total pin tourney begins sharp at 1:30 p.m. and officials indicate there will be a good turnout this year as the local keglers vye for the big Vernon Five Pin association trophy.

Entry forms are still available at Lincoln Lanes but officials ask that they be filled out quickly as the entry list is now filling fast.

in Vernon, both teams battled to a 2-2 tie, Oct. 31 at Victoria, it was the Cougars 4-3 over the Essos. Then on Nov. 21 back in Vernon, the Victoria boys really drove it into the Essos by a 13-3 drubbing. Back at Victoria Nov. 28 Vernon put on one of their better shows of the year and battled through a 1-1 tie with the host club.

With a tie and two wins and a single loss since new years day, and now into the second half of the season, Essos must begin to put together more consistant

victories if they wish to maintain any form of entertaining hockey for local fans and at the same time show everyone that come playoff time, they will really be a tough contender many hockey experts think they can be if the desire is shown.

The game Saturday night could be a real indication of what the league will end like and who will be the next B.C. champions.

Game time is 8:30 p.m. with pre-ticket sales starting Friday.

## Essos pickup two players

The arrival of a pair of husky 18-year-olds from Medicine Hat Tigers may be what the Vernon Essos have been looking for.

"There is no doubt we have been lacking in depth for most of the first half of the season and with the arrival of forward Bryan Smeland and Don Dirk on the defencive line, we just might have that combination we need to pick up on the win column," said Essos manager Vern Dye Wednesday.

The prairie boys arrived in Vernon by bus early Wednesday morning as part of the working agreement with the Medicine Hat Tigers of the tier one junior A league in the Western Provinces.

Vernon had previously sent goalie Leo Karchie to the Tigers and from all report is there to stay and in return, the Essos picked up the two players.

Smeland is a native of Medicine Hat with eight years background as a top rated player in the minor hockey program there. He stands 5'10" and weighs in a 180 lbs.

Dirk was born and raised in a small town 86 miles north east of Medicine Hat called Empress. He has played in the minor ranks for the past 10 years and last year was impressive as a defenceman with the senior town club there. He stands 6'1" in his stocking feet and weighs 180 lbs. also.

Dye was unable to confirm early today whether the two players will be in the line up

against Victoria here Saturday night.

"Coach Odie Lowe had a good look at them Wednesday in practise but we won't make any decision for a day or two as to when they will start.

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