



**Another goal coming up**

Vernon Essos of the B.C. Junior A League came through with a double success story over Kelowna Buckaroos in a twin bill exhibition hockey series by taking the Begatia City boys by scores of 10-5 and 8-1 Thursday and Friday of last week. Essos were kept busy last week with five games of a pre-season warm-up series against three Western Canada Major Junior teams and the pair of Kelowna matches. While Essos didn't fare too well with the three WCHL squads, they did show local fans they will

be a real contender in the upcoming 60 game schedule of the B.C. league. In the above photo, the action is centred around the Kelowna goal mouth as two veteran Vernon players, Ed Johnstone (left) in white jersey, and Ernie Gare, extreme right, put the pressure on net minder Ian McCrimmon and a pair of his defencemen. Tonight the Essos wrap up their exhibition series when they host the Victoria Cougars of the WCHL in Vernon Civic Arena. Game time is set for 8 p.m.



**Behind the mask is Mike Smithson**

Vernon hockey fans can expect to see a lot of one of their own home-grown boys in the form of 17-year-old goalie Mike Smithson this season as this youngster begins to live up to pre-season predictions as being one of the best players to come out of this area in a long while. Smithson has been a standout goalie in recent exhibition games against the much bigger Western Canada Major Junior teams and in the two games against Kelowna Buckaroos, stopped them cold with some fantastic manoeuvres while doing the net minding chores for the Vernon Essos. While Essos team officials have yet to release names of their goalies for the up-coming season, it is almost a sure bet Smithson will easily fill one of these coveted positions. Mike stands 5'9" and weighs in at 170 lbs. and is a grade 12 student here in Vernon.



**Exhibition hockey**

**Stars edge NOHL champs**

The six team North Okanagan hockey league got off to an auspicious start Sunday night as the loop staged it's annual all-star versus last years championship winner Winfield Raiders exhibition match at Vernon civic arena.

Final score saw the Stars come through with a 6-1 victory but the over-all picture of the game indicated the league will be off to a good start two weeks from now when they officially open their 18 game schedule on Oct. 17.

The Stars ran up an 8-0 lead in the first period, scored another unanswered single in the middle frame then added two more to the Winfield Raiders only goal of the game in the final period. Jack Howard for the Stars led

the scoring with a pair of markers while adding an assist. Other all-star goals came from Al Rogan, Don Jakes and Graham Elliott.

Single marker for the Raiders came on a breakout effort by Ron Armstrong who went up the ice alone in the final period to beat net minder Ed Forslund, a former Vernon and Victoria Junior A, ace goalie.

The following is the NOHL schedule for the coming season which includes all 18 games being played in the Vernon arena. Providing the new Armstrong ice can be put into use by Christmas holiday time, the league will extend their series to an additional six games to be played at Armstrong in the last half of the season.

**NOHL 71/72 schedule**

North Okanagan Hockey League schedule 1971-72 at the Vernon Civic Arena.

This year teams: Winfield Raiders, Vernon Merchants, Armstrong Cougars and Head of the Lake stampede

OCTOBER	JANUARY
17 Vernon vs Armstrong	2 Armstrong vs Winfield
20 Winfield vs Head of Lake	9 Head of Lake vs Vernon
24 Head of Lake vs Vernon	9 Winfield vs Vernon
Armstrong vs Winfield	Head of Lake vs Armstrong
31 Winfield vs Vernon	16 Vernon vs Armstrong
Armstrong vs Head of Lake	Winfield vs Head of Lake
	23 Head of Lake vs Vernon

**Home grown boys begin to shine**

Vernon Essos are already being rated the team to beat in the upcoming 60 game schedule of the B.C. Junior A League.

This is not a local observation as none other than Joe Tennant, coach of the Kamloops Rockets has gone on record to make the prediction.

Tennant was in Vernon Saturday night to watch the Essos take on the Calgary Centennials of the Western Canada Major Junior League and his quick observation was based on the good performance the Essos put on against the much older and more experienced Calgary squad.

While the Essos didn't win this particular game, they did keep the visitors honest, holding them to a one goal difference in the first period, then allowing only two goals each in the next two periods for a 6-1 final score.

Earlier in the week Essos did find the victory trail as they easily downed Kelowna Buckaroos by scores of 10-5 and 8-1 in a pair of Thursday and Friday night games.

In five games a total last week, Essos dropped three games and won two for a good average considering the quality and quantity of games played in five straight nights.

Pleasing aspect of the Essos performances so far is the way they are beginning to jell as a smooth working unit and for the 500 odd fans who saw the Calgary game Saturday, this fact held true for a fine game to watch.

So far the Essos are combining several of last years roster with several new faces, including nine local graduates of Vernon minor hockey.

As if to answer many questions in the past why hasn't there been more Vernon boys play on a team of such high calibre, the Essos management has obviously tried their best to give all Vernon boys a fair shake at making the team.

So far this year, nine local boys have seen action in the current exhibition series and it looks like as many as seven of these local youngsters will make it for many of the 60 games scheduled for each team in the B.C. Junior A League.

High on the list of favorites so far is the outstanding performance being put forth by 17-year-old goalie Mike Smithson up from Midget ranks of the Vernon Minor Hockey Association.

Smithson has been almost brilliant in the nets for the

Essos as he takes turns with last years first string netman Wayne Price.

Saturday night is just one good example as he faced a very tough Calgary Centennial squad and when the encounter was all over, pushed aside 37 shots, many of them almost sure goals by the best of any hockey standard.

The six goals he did allow were of the honest type by hockey terminology, and Calgary had to really earn them. They certainly were not give-away or cheap goals.

Smithson of course was not the only man on the ice as other Vernon home grown players also did stellar work. Good examples were Ed Johnstone playing up on the first string right wing position, defencemen Bob Powell and Lyle Brewer and forwards Jeff Shirley, Wayne Murdy, Doug Wiften and Wayne Dye.

While the Essos have used the best offered from the Vernon area, other tryouts in the Vernon camp deserve to be mentioned such as veterans John Price, Ernie Gare, Jim Lawrence, Dave Neil and Glen Walton.

Along with the returnees from last year, newcomers Bill Vernon, Les Gordon, Neilson, Ken Reid, Bob Marsh, Dennis Bergeron, Charles Hingwing and Cliff Lane, have done excellent preliminary work.

Of particular worthy mention is 15-year-old Cliff Lane, a husky 190 pound defenceman from Burnaby.

This young man never played above bantam division before

**Juvenile soccer results**

- DIVISION ONE  
WOCO Condors 5-Celtic 2  
Rovers 3-Celtic 0
- DIVISION TWO  
Red Barons 4-United 1  
Armstrong 4-WOCO Hawks 0  
Red Barons 0-Rangers 2
- DIVISION FOUR  
WOCO Falcons 1-Ravens 1  
Wolves 14-Jets 0  
WOCO Falcons 6-Jets 0  
Coldstream 1-Wolves 4  
Wolves 6-WOCO Ravens 0
- DIVISION SIX  
G'hoppers 0-Coldstream 5  
Cougars 1-Tigers 6  
Coldstream 4-G'hoppers 1  
Tigers 13-Cougars 1

he came to Vernon and already has made his presence felt as a blue-line patroller.

For those who watched the Essos all last week, you will remember this young blond haired fellow, wearing big number 23 on the back of his jersey.

It is unlikely side-line experts of the game of hockey in this city have ever before been so unanimous in choosing this young man to be the most likely to produce the best defensive action ever witnessed here.

"He makes all his moves with such sure and pure skill, he can't help but make rookie of the year awards and most

certainly will be an all-star select, if he keeps improving the way he has these past few days," said one grandstand expert.

As a whole, the Essos are really going good and tonight at the civic arena could just prove it once and for all before the league opens next Saturday as they take on the newest entry into the WCHL, the Victoria Cougars. Game time has been set for 8 p.m.

Overmature trees may decrease in useable volume each year because more rot than sound wood is being formed.

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