

60 games underway

# B.C. junior A hockey opens here Saturday

The 1971-72 junior A hockey season gets its official baptism in the Vernon civic arena this Saturday as the Vernon Essos begin their first of a 60-game schedule with five other teams in the B.C. league.

Already given a high rating amongst several coaches and managers in the league, the Essos hope to live up to their pre-season expectations by getting on the win trail early when they meet the Kelowna Buckaroos in the first of two games at home this weekend.

While the Essos host the Buckaroos for the first game Saturday, they come back

Monday night to meet the always strong Penticon Broncos on Vernon ice for game number two.

Game time Saturday has been set for 8 p.m. while the Monday night game has been set for a half hour earlier start at 7:30 p.m.

Meanwhile action on the other fronts of the B.C. league starts tonight when Vancouver Centennials travel to Chilliwack then return home to face Kamloops Rockets Friday night at Richmond arena.

While the Essos-Kelowna game is being played here Saturday night, Kamloops will be taking on the Chilliwack Bruins in the Fraser Valley centre the same night, then go back to Vancouver for their second meeting with the coast club on Monday night.

Pre-game reports on the Essos indicate coach Odie Lowe has his boys ready and with the exception of forward Charles Hingwing who is out with a fractured wrist, the Essos should be even stronger than in several of their exhibition matches.

Key to the success of the Essos could come from the fact they have a good nucleus of players from last year headed by such stalwarts as Jim Lawrence, John Price, Ed Johnstone and Ernie Gare to name but a few, with another strong bevy of newcomers headed by Les Salo, Cliff Lane and Bill Vernon.

In all, the percentage tabulation of ability over last years roster at this time of the season indicates the Vernon squad are running at least 35-40 percent better.

While this may tend to fool some players and fans, it should be pointed out the calibre of junior hockey is getting better each season and other teams too have been showing a lot of improvement.

This is where Kelowna Buckaroos come in, word has it they will be a real contender this season and the old rivalry between Vernon and Kelowna

## Men curlers to meet next Thursday

Attention men's curling club members and any prospective members. The annual general meeting of the club takes place Thursday, Oct. 14, at the curling club starting at 8 p.m.

All members and those interested in joining the club are asked to please attend this important meeting with several interesting items to be discussed on the business agenda.

For more information, contact Sigle Ogasawara during noon hours or any evening after 5:30 p.m. by phoning 542-4170.

already is beginning to show.

A reminder too is given that season tickets are now being sold at bargain prices and can be obtained from Vernon Billiards or Vernon Sport and Marine.

Opening ceremonies for the first game of the year will also see civic dignitaries present along with the new Miss Essos nominee dropping the puck to start the game off.

Youngsters attending the game will also get a chance to win autographed hockey sticks compliments of the Essos players.

Game time is 8 p.m., come early and be guaranteed a good seat.

## Men's volleyball tonight

Both recreation and competitive volleyball commence tonight (Thursday) at the Fulton Junior Secondary School.

Play starts at 7:30 p.m. sharp so plan on taking in this excellent sport.

Further information can be obtained by phoning the Vernon Department of Parks & Recreation at 545-0571 or 545-1361.

## Flag football underway

Boys 8 to 14 are invited to participate in flag football held every Saturday from 10:00-12:00 noon. Location is Macdonald Park.

For further information, contact the Vernon Department of Parks & Recreation at 545-0571 or 545-1361.

## SPORTLITES by DOUG BULWER

Vernon Essos of the B.C. junior A league and Victoria Cougars of the Western Canada major junior league topped off their respective exhibition series of hockey last Monday night even on the scoreboard with the tally showing a 5-5 tie.

However, if that could indicate the true picture of the game, then all would be well on both sides of the boards for both the players and the fans.

In fact this was not really the case as the fans were subjected to one of the worst fiascoes of penalty parades ever witnessed in any hockey rink.

Taking nothing away from several fine plays, particularly by the much younger and smaller Essos who led the game for the first 47 minutes of the encounter, then dropped behind until the final seconds of the game before managing to score the equalizer on a very fine play much to the delight of everyone in the rink.

As one spectator said after the game, "It was just like playoff hockey".

Only dark point of the game came with the rash of penalties which started exactly 18 seconds after the starting whistle and never ended until less than four minutes to go in the game.

Tally of penalties showed that 39 infractions were called for a grand total of 144 minutes of players sitting in the penalty box of a 60 minute hockey game.

While most of the infractions were most certainly valid, the question on many minds after the game was why were some borderline calls made and many of the obvious infractions missed? To answer such questions, could and should only come from a qualified referee and no doubt even the most experienced official would give varied reasons.

It has been often said, for those taking part in and or watching a sport where body contact is the criteria, there are different dimensions of interpretation, from the ice level in the eyes of the referee, in the minds of the players on the same ice surface and from the higher viewing level of a grandstand where spectators are seated.

Where one person will see a

part of the activity from his position and point of view, possibly another person in an entirely different spot will see the action in an entirely separate way.

In the heat of a body contact game, participants conduct themselves sometimes involuntarily as the occasion of the moment calls for such acts.

However, almost always afterwards, when they have had time to think about it would probably have done it differently.

This is not making excuses for the players concerned at the time of a unwarranted act being committed, but such an incident however innocently carried out would be construed by an official as a wrong according to the rules that are supposed to be followed.

Basically what is meant is that where interpretations of a play is being hastily made, maybe the referee himself could be wrong but he is the boss of the moment so his orders must be carried out.

It takes a person of a very high ability to act as a referee in a game and if he shows any weakness, then that person should not be put into that position to start with.

Referees are always hard to find and to criticize anyone of them is almost like saying, "let's get rid of them all," but if they are men of any degree of spirit and guts will take any or all forms of criticism in the light of the occasion and come back even better a man for it in future games.

What should be considered at all times is where an infraction of a more serious, or near borderline case occurs, what could happen to a youngster (speaking mainly of Junior A and lower divisions of hockey) in his future as a hockey player, if a report is too harshly written against such player.

Everyone realizes good referees are hard to find and for those who do this type of so-called thankless work, are really in most instances admired for their particular ability although such praise is rarely spoken aloud.

So to you Mr. Bob Kemp, lessons are still to be learned, no matter how many years of experience one has had in any field of endeavour.

## Season tickets on sale

Season tickets to 30 home games of the Essos 60 game schedule are now being sold at two popular outlets in Vernon.

Package prices for all home games shows adults will get their passes for a nominal sum of \$45, students and old age pensioners for \$30 and children 14 and under for \$10.

These tickets can be purchased right now from Vern's Billiards and at Vernon Sport and Marine with both stores located on main street Vernon.

Phone in for these tickets is also advised if a person can't make it to town, they will be put aside for you.

Season ticket holders will also have the advantage of getting the first choice of reserved seats come playoff time.

Essos directors also advise that payment arrangements could be arranged when picking up the season passes. Each instance would have to be viewed and a final decision then agreed upon by the Essos directors as to payment details.

## Business women begin curling plans

Business women curlers will sit down to the task of organizing their association for the upcoming season next Wednesday, Oct. 13 at the Vernon curling club.

The meeting has been set for an 8 p.m. start to prepare for the approaching season and to begin the registration of both last years members and any prospective members new to the area.

Application forms are now available at the Vernon Yarn Barn, Bennetts hardware or the Royal Bank.

A special welcome is accorded all beginners and they are invited to come along and acquaint themselves with all members.

For further information, contact Mrs. Ethel Dunn at 542-2716 or Mrs. Ruth Adams at 545-5631.

**MARSH WORLD** by **ANGUS SHORTT**  
Ducks Unlimited



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