

Fans threaten to boycott

Brawling fight involves 32 players in hockey game

By DOUG BULWER
Several hundred hockey fans flooded into Vernon Civic Arena last Tuesday night to see a hockey game, and for all but six seconds of the 60-minute game, got their money's worth, but

that is where good hockey left off and stupidity reigned supreme. At 19:54 of the third period, all semblance of sportsmanship, good manners and decency to fellow man was shed in favor of

senseless and idiotic behavior by every single player that dressed for the game that night. There were 32, by the way. For those that were not able to attend, it is hard to describe what took place without first

getting a strong feeling of remorse and nausea at the pit of one's stomach. To try and describe it goes against the grain of decency. The game was supposed to be a hockey match of the B.C. Junior A level and featured the host club Vernon Essos and the visiting Kamloops Rockets. For what it is worth, the game ended in favor of Vernon on the basis of a 6-3 score.

The game was called with only six seconds to go because a series of fights broke out that took over 20 minutes to subside and then only because a few cool heads had to pull and push players from the ice surface.

be impressed upon them by the seriousness of what they are involved with in playing for such a team. The Essos operation in the eyes of the players could be a stepping stone for a successful career. This is the level pro scouts watch and from here many players move into full time salaries.

boys on the team start grooming themselves before going into the streets. A clean shirt and tie and tidy clothes, jeans or otherwise, would be nice to see plus a jacket suitable for the moment.

being, the rest of us will soon let you and the silly little boys who fight on the ice have it all to yourselves, then you can turn to each other and beat your own brains out.



B.C. Jr. 'A' hockey standings

TEAM	To Nov. 2, 1971						
	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pts.
1 Penitcion	10	8	2	0	49	32	16
2 Vernon	9	6	3	0	46	33	12
3 Richmond (Vancouver)	12	5	6	1	41	54	11
4 Kamloops	10	3	4	3	39	40	9
5 Chilliwack	10	3	4	3	35	33	8
6 Kelowna	8	1	5	2	27	45	4

TOP 10 PLAYERS TO NOV. 2, 1971

	GP	G	A	Pts.	Pen	PIM
2 Bruce Atfleck (Penitcion)	10	5	15	20	2	4
3 Ernie Gare (Vernon)	9	7	11	18	6	29
4 Les Salo (Vernon)	9	9	7	16	3	14
5 Bob Nicholson (Penitcion)	10	6	10	16	5	12
6 Jerry Holland (Kamloops)	10	11	4	15	22	
7 Wayne Dye (Vernon)	9	9	6	15	11	67
8 Don Gorman (Vancouver-Rich.)	12	5	10	15	4	8
9 Jim Lawrence (Vernon)	9	3	12	15	5	18
10 Ken Gassoff (Kamloops)	10	3	11	14	8	54

NOTE: Due to score sheet of game between Chilliwack and Penitcion at Chilliwack on Saturday, Oct. 30 not as yet being received by the statistician as of this date, Nov. 3, 1971, further information cannot be listed, however, above stats are correct according to information received by telephone.

DOUG BULWER, Vernon, B.C.

CHILDREN WATCH
To the viewers of this uproar, many of them young children in the 8-10 age bracket from the Lumby, Mirror Hockey Association who were at the game as guests of the Essos, it was a disgusting sight.

Picture, if you will, young men on the doorstep of so-called manhood, pawing at each other and where they couldn't throw a punch at an opponent, tried to scratch their faces with bare fingernails or pull and tear each other's sweaters.

In one instance, two opponents hung on to each other's arms, too exhausted to do much else than try and tear the sleeves of the other's underwear. A ridiculous thing to observe for the onlooker and if it weren't for the stupidity of it all could have been viewed with some humor if one were able to see it that way in the light of the moment.

In all, 53 penalties were called in the game for a total of 422 penalty minutes, a fact really not worth mentioning but quoted in the hopes both players and management will let something sink into their memories and never be repeated again.

EXCUSES APLENTY
It is doubtful, however, the adults concerned with running the teams will take this advice

to stop to think a moment, but it both the players and team operators stop to think a moment, this is what will happen.

If the present feeling of many fans will be carried out, this is what will happen next Saturday when the Essos host Penitcion Broncos.

These past few months, the executive or owners, whatever one wishes to call them, of the Essos have been working and looking to the public to support the team in attending hockey games.

They have said and are asking the public to support their team because the dollars paid by the fans goes toward the team operation, cost of which runs into many thousands of dollars annually and without spectators, there just isn't any money.

There are some teams in Canada and possibly in the B.C. Junior A League who could operate without a single fan in the arena because they have financial backers but let's not fool anyone here in Vernon, there is no such circumstance.

POINTERS NEEDED
What is the answer then? Just this, players who don the uniform of the Vernon Essos had better be given a few pointers on all the facts at hand.

In the first instance it should

Looking toward the management factor of a team operation, it is about time someone took a hold of certain matters such as issuing some form of order to the players as to their behaviour of the ice.

EVERY PLAYER is a mobile advertisement to the team, their actions off the ice are being continually observed and what or how these boys do on their free time is a reflection to the team operation.

It could be suggested, the

It would seem that any boy wishing to represent the Essos as a playing member should also take on the added task of living up to what young hockey players see in them, IDOLS of what they would like to be some day themselves as clean living but good sportsmen, not a bunch of brawling hoods who live by force and beleaguering others.

To the young fans and adults too, those that is, who like to see fights, start growing up and start acting like decent human

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National softball to be upgraded

By BOB FERGUSON
There was a time when a ball, a bat, a collection of kids and a corner lot added up to instant entertainment — a softball game.

Today, however, the formula's changed somewhat. A ball and bat are still essential. So too are the kids. But in too many areas the corner lots a lot harder to come by. Even the game's achieved a sophisticated air. Through the efforts of the Canadian Amateur Softball Association

12 national champions contesting the world championship in Manila, the Philippines, next year.

The 1973 Canada Summer Games will feature a junior women's title event while the 1975 Pan-Am Games will include softball as a regular event. The C.A.S.A. is involved too in the Caravan '71 project currently touring Southern Ontario. As part of the community of 43 nations playing softball in Canada ranks among the leaders. But all goes for naught

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