

## Junior hockey

# Excessive fighting spoils exhibition game

By DOUG BULWER

Over zealous . . . over anxious . . . spell it anyway you like, but a group of young hockey players in an attempt to impress their coaches and team management and thereby gain a spot on the team roster left nothing more than bruised backsides for 400 odd fans who were forced to sit through a three hour . . . no that's not fair . . . a two hour and 55 minute hockey game last Friday night at Vernon Civic Arena.

Billed as an exhibition match between perpetual arch junior A league rivals, Vernon Essos and Kelowna Buckaroos, the game left nothing more than dented impressions for spectators who watched a barrage of seemingly chippy plays turn into fisticuffs and the eventual banning of several players from the encounter.

However, as the game was only an exhibition match where Vernon coach Odie Lowe and Don Cully of the Buckaroos were testing the ability of their charges, spectators didn't have

to stay if they didn't want to and even if the refereeing left much to be desired, the game didn't really mean that much except as stated, to the coaches, who are looking for the best combinations of player lines to start this weeks 62 game schedule of the B.C. Junior A Hockey League.

Through it all, the game that is, several bright spots of player ability did appear and while Essos did lose the game goal scoring by a 5-3 margin, many on the Vernon roster did give the impression they could hold their own in the upcoming season.

Coach Lowe maintained his lines, when someone wasn't in the penalty box, and the first string forwards, centred by Ken Reid with Greg Howe on the left side and Dallas Chappell on the right, were by far the best skating and puck control trio with the third line of Ken Price at centre with Bob Bourgonye at left wing and Don Murdoch at right wing a very close second best.

The second line of Dan Kuntz at centre with Dave Caldwell and Ken King were also not bad to watch while they lasted. Kuntz headed for the showers at 19:16 of the first period after he and Ken Weninger of Kelowna exchanged toe to toe blows, were broken up once, only to go at it again for a pair of game misconducts.

Vernon's fourth line also deserve some word of merit with John Koketlo at centre, Barry Dye at left wing and Dave Dorris on the right side. These boys however really didn't play that much together as they found themselves moving up to the other lines to replace those who found themselves on the sidelines.

Vernon defensive corps also looked like they had been playing together for a while with Tim Sanche and Lyle Brewer quite impressive as first stringers. Others working in pairs were Cliff Lane and Dennis Bergeron. Both these boys could earn all-star honors this season. Third defence line was made up of Eric Sanderson and Bob Marsh and with a little time could be the first stringers, particularly Marsh.

The game scoring saw Dan Kuntz open for Vernon on a power-play at the 2:53 mark of the first period only to have Kelowna come back to tie the game at the 7:12 mark of the same period.

This goal came off the stick of Archie McKinnon with two Vernon boys sitting out penalties.

Kelowna then came back to take the lead for the rest of the game a minute later with McKinnon getting his second goal, then Bucks moved another goal up at the 16:24 mark, this time a man short themselves.

Vernon came back with the final goal of the period and only 15 seconds later when Marsh banged in a sizzler from a pass-back by Barry Dye from the corner.

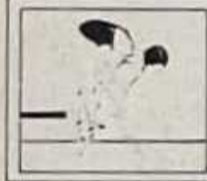
Second period saw each team score singles with Murray Hanson for Kelowna and Dave Dorris doing the third and last goal scoring for the Essos.

Kelowna wrapped up the game scoring in the third period with Tad Campbell finally pushing the puck past a sprawling Jim Bowman after he had set aside three quick shots.

Bowman had taken over from Mike Dorris who had seen net minding duties in the second period with Mike Smithson starting the game and doing the first 20 minutes.

All three goalies were never really pressed although they did share in 38 saves with two Kelowna net men stopping 28 shots that came their way.

Essos travel to Kelowna Wednesday night for another exhibition game with the Bucks then open their league schedule here Saturday night with the same Kelowna crew with game time set for 8 p.m.



## Sports Sounding board

By BOB FERGUSON

Sports history has been written into the books in the past few weeks which may never be duplicated. In the case of the tragic incidents in Munich with the cowardly murder of 11 Israeli athletes by the sick-minded Palestinian militants one would hope not.

Such action has triggered countless cries of "ban the Olympics" from equally feeble-minded persons. A move of this nature would accomplish nothing. Violence, unfortunately, is a sign of our times. It just happened the stage upon which this heinous drama was played was the Olympics. If not there these warped fanatics would have found another arena in which to play their grizzly act.

Ban the Olympics? To what avail?

In concept they still stand as the greatest single athletic spectacle in the world. Certainly there are ills to be overcome and a possible revision of the concept may be in order.

Maurice Allan, chef de Mission of the Canadian contingent in Munich offered several suggestions including abolishing the Olympic Village concept.

"It's no longer an Olympic Village," he said. "It's an Olympic City. Maybe the time has come to house the athletes by sports rather than by countries. Maybe this would bring us closer to the Olympic ideal."

Regardless of the mechanics one thing is very apparent. We, as Canadians, better shuck our

the past that we're more or less a travel agency. We don't want to feel this way any longer. We want to help co-ordinate the various sports federations."

If the COA takes this approach one can't help but wonder what interesting conflicts might occur between Sport Canada — the government body whose aims appear to be on the same course — the Sports Federation of Canada and the COA. I just hope the infighting doesn't interfere with the ultimate goal.

Competent observers believe Canada is capable of producing top calibre athletes but most point to a glaring lack of qualified coaching as a major stumbling block.

"We have fair coaching in general," Allan asserts, "but what have we produced?" If we don't have the expertise we have to look outside during the next four years.

"We must move in the next few months or other countries will have swept up the good international coaches that we may need to help us. We should have the best for the next four years."

One need look no further than hockey for proof of this statement. While we've sat about confidently eulogizing our professional players and their mentors the Soviets, for example, have been developing talent and solid coaching techniques. The fact they are highly successful has been made most dramatically in the current Russia-Canada hockey series.

Sure, our minor hockey program is extensive but so is the Soviet system. Where we are in basics. We are