

## Warmup series split

# Junior opener Sat. features Kelowna

By DOUG BULWER

What better way to start the 1972-73 Junior A Hockey League schedule than with an identical two-game split in the exhibition series.

This is what takes place Saturday here in Vernon when defending champion Vernon Essos meet with immediate neighbors Kelowna Buckaroos in the big 62-game opening schedule of the eight-team league.

Wednesday night in Kelowna, the Buckaroos played the ideal hosts and returned the compliment given them when they visited Vernon last Friday by allowing Vernon to edge them by a 5-3 score. This of course was the same score they turned in here at Vernon.

As in Vernon, the host club opened the scoring quickly only to have the Essos come back with one of their own, allow Bucks to take the lead once more and then have the Vernon boys end the first period scoring with their second goal for the 2-2

tie at the final whistle.

Second period saw Essos score the only marker of the frame with Bucks coming back with another tying goal early in the final period followed by Essos ending the game scoring with two unanswered goals for the victory.

Right winger on the third Vernon line, Don Murdock, opened the Vernon scoring at 3:37 of the first stanza with Kenny Price and Bob Bourgonye assisting.

Second goal for the Essos came off the stick of Dallas Chappell with his wing mate Dave Caldo assisting. These boys along with centreman Ken Reid made up the second string line for Odie Lowe's attackers, with this goal coming at the 15:21 marker of the first period.

Kelowna markers in the opening period came off the sticks of Tad Campbell and Phil Blake.

Only goal of the middle period came at the 11:24 mark with left winger Greg Howe scoring from a pass by Dave Dorris.

Third period goal credits for the Essos went to defenceman Tim Sanche in an unassisted effort at the 8:52 mark with young Dave Dorris, the third string right winger scoring the insurance goal at 18:58. Ken Price at centre set this goal up.

The third Kelowna goal saw former Essos player Gord Neilson score with help from Wayne Nelson and Bruce Gerlach.

Unlike the game at Vernon, only 18 penalties were handed out, a dozen of them going to Vernon and all of them two minute minors with exception of one fight where Tim Sanche tangled with Kelowna's Wade Jowett for five minute majors.

### BIG TEST SATURDAY

With only a pair of exhibition matches under their belts, what Essos will do for their home and league opener is anyone's

guess, but it is expected they should be ready to take the Buckaroos by a solid margin.

This game as stated, comes about for Vernon fans this Saturday at the Civic Arena and with game time set for 8 p.m. should provide spectators with some excellent viewing.

Word has it coach Lowe will stay with his early choices on who works with who on his first three main forward lines, with several others ready to do their part as a number four line.

On the defensive corps, stalwarts such as Tim Sanche and Lyle Brewer, Cliff Lane and Dennis Bergeron and Eric Sanderson with Bob Marsh working together in pairs seem to be the order of the first game strategy.

In the nets, Lowe still has three netmen to choose from but it is expected he will start Mike Smithson and dress Jim

Bowman as his relief. Vernon born Ken Holland still is in there fighting for a spot and could also see some action soon.

In other Esso news, manager Vern Dye reports he has now inked a total of 14 boys to the Essos roster, the latest signees being 17-year-old Ken Price of Cranbrook (brother John was a favorite here for three years), 16-year-old Don Murdock also of Cranbrook, Ken Reid, 19, of Quesnel, Dallas Chappell, 17, of Kimberley, Dan Kuntz, 16, of Winnipeg and Greg Howe, 17, of Kimberley.

Also getting a close scrutiny are Vernon products, Martin Stein, Barry Dye, Grant Sidnick and Clay Anderson.

Game time for the Saturday league opener here is 8 p.m. and fans are urged to be on hand early for the opening ceremonies.

## Major junior hockey

# New West Bruins play here Monday

Defending champion Vernon Essos of the B.C. Junior A League will play host Monday night to the New Westminster Bruins of the Western Canada major junior league.

Word early today from the

## Mothers auxiliary report

The first meeting of the Mothers' Auxiliary for Minor Hockey took place Thursday evening Sept. 21 at the Community Centre.

Mrs. Deana Thorpe.

Vernon team manager's office say: the game will be an exhibition match between what has been stated two of the best teams in their respective leagues.

Added attraction of the game will see Vernon born Wayne Dye leading the New West attackers along with several other familiar faces from B.C. Junior A hockey ranks, such as Vic Mercredi of the Penticton Broncos of two seasons ago.

Game time for what promises to be an exciting and entertaining game starts sharp at 8 p.m. Monday. Be sure and make it a date.

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