

# Dye and Gassoff drafted by NHL

By DOUG BULWER

The drafting of two former Vernon junior "A" players into the National hockey league will benefit all concerned particularly in terms of money.

The NHL is the ultimate for most young Canadian hockey players and it means playing in the big time for one of several good reasons, to get paid.

For Vernon born Wayne Dye and Quesnel's Bob Gassoff, their dream of someday playing professional hockey is just around the corner when it was announced this week they had been picked up by the Chicago Blackhawks and St. Louis Blues in that order during the annual NHL draft choices.

While it could mean big pay cheques for each boy if they can make the grade it also means money in the coffers of at least two Vernon organizations.

Both the Vernon Essos (now Vikings) of the B.C. junior A hockey league and the Vernon Minor hockey association stand a chance to gain monetarily because of what is known as the Pro-Am agreement. This is where graduating hockey players who have moved up the amateur hockey ladder to professional status along the divisional trail from the home town minor hockey house, to each level of junior hockey and hence to pro ranks.

Each boy is rated by dollar value and as they become of age or too old to play junior, (20 as of Dec. 31 of any given year) the various groups who have had such a boy under their wings are thereby entitled to a portion of money paid to the Canadian Amateur hockey association from the NHL.

In the case of Dye, any money given by the Pros for his services is then allotted down the line starting with the CAHA, BCAHA, New Westminster Bruins, Vernon Essos and



**WAYNE DYE**  
... to Chicago



**BOB GASSOFF**  
... to St. Louis

finally to the Vernon minor association.

With Bob Gassoff it will be

much the same with the only difference being his home town minor group will get a share.

Both boys toiled for the Vernon Essos after graduating from minor hockey ranks then Gassoff moved up to the top tier of junior A hockey by signing up with Medicine Hat Tigers of the Western Canada Junior league and Dye went to play for New Westminster Bruins of the same league.

How much money Vernon minor hockey and the Vikings will get for Wayne Dye is anyone's guess, remembering all the while the boys must first make the grade as players.

The dollar question can possibly be explained in this way, Ernie McLean coach of the New Westminster Bruins claims his club could receive upwards of \$35,000 if all eight of the former Bruins can make the NHL.

Along with Dye on the Bruins roster last season there were seven others, Terry Richardson, Vic Mercredi (former Penticton Bronco) Bob Stumpf, Dennis Anderson, Ron Kennedy, Gord Lane and Bob Bilodeau.

While this sum may seem like a lions share for amateurs moving into the pros, the CAHA and BCAHA must first get their cut of the money pie (much more) and finally down the line to the Essos and VMHA.

A calculated guess would see the Essos getting something in the neighborhood of \$300 for each boy and maybe half that amount going into the Vernon minor groups coffers.

At any rate, it is nice to see local talent such as Wayne Dye get a chance at the big time, proving to all youngsters who have the dream in their eyes of being an NHL'er it can be done if you want to work hard like Wayne and Bob Gassoff did.