'Bruins won but can do better' says Munro

By DOUG BULWER

Pre-game favorites, Estevan Bruins lived up to expectations as they came through with a 3-0 victory over Penticton Broncos in the first game of the best of seven Western Canada Junior "A" semi-final playoffs for the Memorial Cup.

The game, played before 2,975 spectators in Vernon civic arena Wednesday night indicated the towering strength of junior hockey in the prairie league as the Bruins gave the impression that they were not really pressed by the B.C. and Alberta champions at any time.

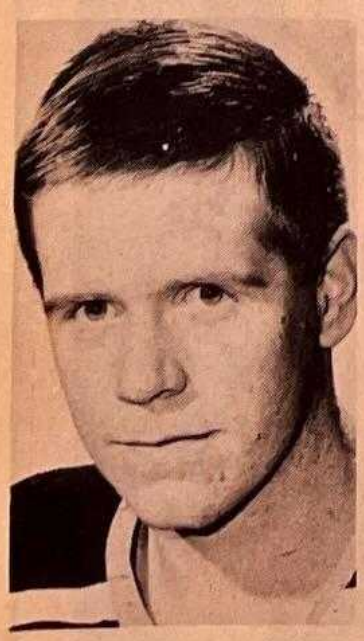
Boston Bruins prospect, Jim Harrison, formerly of Kamloops, paced the Estevan club to victory with two goals while the single came off the stick of Dale Hoganson who also picked up an assist for his night's work.



JIM HARRISON
... scores twice.

Estevan started off quickly with solid forechecking tactics and excellent skating prowess to dominate the game from the opening minutes of the match. However, Penticton surprised a good many fans by holding their own until the final moments of the first period when the Bruins scored their first marker.

Estevan's first goal came at the 19:53 mark of the initial period when stalwart defenseman, Dale Hoganson drove a hard shot into a mass of players jammed in front of the Penticton net with the shot deflecting off the upper body of Harrison and sliding under the legs of goalie Wally Denault who looked as if he was off balance on the play.



DALE HOGANSON
... assists and scores.

Estevan came on strong early in the middle frame, to notch their second goal with only one minute showing on the clock. This time it was Dale Hoganson who found the mark as he drove another hard shot that wobbled in the air and over the right shoulder of Denault who gave the impression of a ducking motion. Hoganson was given the goal on an unassisted effort.

The third goal and final marker of the game at 12:09 of the mid-period came when Harrison picked up a pass from Garry Braun to beat Penticton import Wally Denault.



GARRY BRAUN
... also assists.

In shots on goal statistics, Penticton kept pace with the prairie club, shooting 32 times to Estevan's 35 times, but Bruins' manager, Scotty Munro said later, "Penticton were lucky if they got six really good shots at Gordon Kopp in the nets for my club."



GORDON KOPP
... Bruins goalie.

Estevan also led in the penalty department, picking up six of the eight penalties called by referee Roy Lamore of Port Arthur, Ont. One of these was a five minute major to defenseman Roy Atcheynum who was caught spearing Tom Serviss.

After the game, Scotty Munro expressed his displeasure in the way his club played, saying that they did not play hard enough.

"We should have widened the score several times over and I am very disappointed in the way my boys played," said Munro.

This morning Mr. Munro broadened and corrected his statement of last night when he said "If this is the best hockey in B.C., then they are about 90 years behind the times."

"What I said last night is correct except that I didn't use the term 90 years, but did say and I stress again, hockey here is a long way behind and I am not being smart by saying this. The Bruins played terrible, yet they still won, but the score should have been higher," he continued.

"These two teams belong in two different leagues and they are, as far as I am concerned. The CAHA are wrong in conducting the present playoff system the way they do. There has to be two leagues, a double "A" or major, whatever you want to call it and a lower league on the standard you have in B.C. at the moment," he said.

"The present system used by the CAHA in holding back a player until he is 20-years-old is also very wrong. The present expansion of the NHL is proving this. If a player has the ability to move up then he should be allowed to do so. Members of the press should be hammering away at this all the time, but the trouble with most writers is that they will not repeat or quote what fellows like me have to say."

"I have got Junior "B" teams that can play as well as Penticton or teams like the Fort William club. I don't say Penticton can't beat us, but if they do, they won't have a chance against one of those eastern clubs. Those guys out there play for real and I'm mad about the fact that my club is being held back and forced to play this lower standard with the chance it will do us more harm by making us soft to the high quality those teams in the east can display," Munro said.

Second game of the present series goes again Friday night here in Vernon with the next three games set (if necessary) for Estevan.

1968 commercial softball schedule

Monday, April 29th — Vernon Labatts vs Galbraiths
Tuesday, April 30 — Art's BA vs Hall's
Wednesday, May 1 — Telephone vs City
Thursday, May 2 — Vernon Labatts vs Kal Tire
Monday, May 6 — Galbraiths vs Art's BA
Tuesday, May 7 — Hall's vs Kal Tire
Wednesday, May 8 — City vs Vernon Labatts
Thursday, May 9 — Galbraiths vs Telephone
Monday, May 13 — Telephone vs Vernon Labatts
Tuesday, May 14 — Kal Tire vs Galbraiths
Wednesday, May 22 — Hall's vs Telephone
Thursday, May 23 — City vs Galbraiths
Friday, May 24 — Kal Tire vs Art's BA
Monday, May 27 — Telephone vs Kal Tire
Tuesday, May 28 — Galbraiths vs Vernon Labatts
Wednesday, May 29 — Art's BA vs City
Thursday, May 30 — Kal Tire vs Hall's
Monday, June 3 — Vernon Labatts vs Hall's
Tuesday, June 4 — Galbraiths vs Telephone
Wednesday, June 5 — Art's BA vs Kal Tire
Thursday, June 6 — City vs Hall's
Monday, June 10 — Kal Tire vs City
Tuesday, June 11 — Hall's vs Galbraiths
Wednesday, June 12 — Telephone vs Art's BA
Thursday, June 13 — Vernon Labatts vs City
Note: First team mentioned is home team.

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The senior baseball circuit gets under way this weekend after several weeks of thorough workouts for those teams in the Okanagan Mainline Baseball Association.

Kamloops, Penticton, Kelowna and Vernon will once again make up this year's league.

The openers this Sunday will be played in Penticton and Vernon with Kamloops and Kelowna supplying the opposition respectively.

This year's edition of the Vernon Luckies will be sporting many of the top stars of the past including Reg Main, one of the top hurlers in the league, Gord Nuyens, a regular behind the plate, Russ Keckalo, who has held down trouble along the first base line for a number of years, Ivan been juggling between this and second base with hopes that an effective combination can be made for the start of the season.

As far as outfield goes, there is some top talent on the line in Howie McNeil, who may be George Nuyen's answer in a backup to Reg Main on the mound, also Vern Monk who has lasted well on the mound before and his strong arm may be also effective in the field.

Ken Pollen, stalwart junior hockey defenceman, could be the solid picture in the outfield this year at almost any position, plus, of course, Brian Stephens, Rick Monk, Chuck Bell and Perry Romeo. It

