

Exhibition game will reveal all

All eyes turn to Vernon Civic Arena Tuesday night as the 1969-70 edition of the Vernon Essos Junior A club take to the ice in force with muscles flexing as they take on perpetual rivals, the Kelowna Buckaroos, in an exhibition match that could answer a lot of questions for hockey fans from both centres.

"This isn't going to be an ordinary game as far as exhibitions are concerned," said Essos manager Vern Dye over the weekend.

"Both players and coaching staff of the Bucks have been shooting off at the mouth lately about the type of team we have. Mind you, they are well known for this type of thing, but this year, because they have been forced to use Vernon ice for practises, we hear them more often and naturally much louder, so coach Odie Lowe and I felt there was only one way to disprove their unsolicited opinions and that was to challenge them to a pre-schedule game and put them back in the league cellar where they ended up last year and of course, where they will be again this season," said Dye.

Confidence in this year's edition of his team, has also given coach Lowe the inclination to shoot down any ideas the Kelowna crew may have about where the Essos stand.

"We have the size and plenty of ability and there is only one place to prove it and that is on the ice," said Lowe.

"Kelowna have always had the steam, but it only comes from the mouth and guys like Orv Lavell have pretty short memories, particularly about my playing in the old senior loop here," concluded the Vernon coach.

Odie Lowe's remarks followed apparent statements made by assistant Kelowna coach, Orv Lavell, over the weekend when he

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OKANAGAN

questioned Lowe's ability to coach a team when as a player himself he could not hold his own.

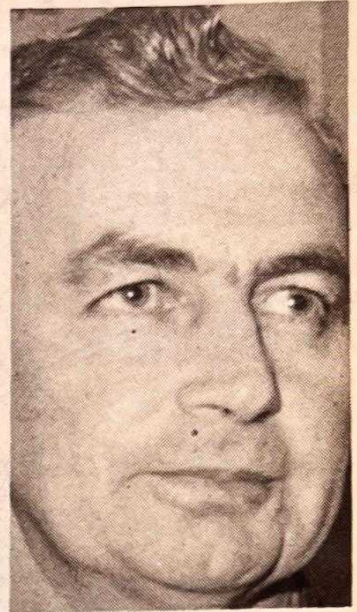
Lavell also apparently made the boast that Kelowna really didn't have to play Vernon in an exhibition match to prove a thing, because the Buckaroos would take six out of the eight games scheduled against Vernon during league play this season.

The Vernon officials seemed to get in the last word however, as they went on record to offer Kelowna some of the tryouts that didn't make the Essos roster.

"They weren't quite good enough for our streamlined roster, but I know several of them are a lot better than what Kelowna are trying to make do with," said Lowe.

Even Vern Dye got in a parting shot, saying, "Their whole team is reflected in the type of management they have, Scotty Angus, Buckaroos manager can't even walk across the ice without falling and cutting his head open, poor fellow, the whole team will be wearing a mess of bandages when we get through with them," said Dye.

Game time for what



VERN DYE

... gets last word.

sounds like a definite grudge match has been set for 8 p.m. and word has it that many Kelowna fans will also be on hand to cheer on their team.



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Pro clubs end series with tie

By DOUG BULWER
Salt Lake Eagles 4
Seattle Totems 4

Perhaps it was only fitting Salt Lake City Golden Eagles and Seattle Totems should end their exhibition series in a tie, but that's exactly what they did Sunday afternoon at Vernon civic arena, coming through with a 4-4 tie.

Both clubs, members of the professional Western Hockey League, had previously won a game against each other in the three exhibition series.

Last Wednesday, Salt Lake played host to the Totems and came away with a 7-3 win, then Saturday at Kamloops, the Seattle crew came on strong to edge the Eagles 6-4.

On Sunday, Eagles started the ball rolling early in the first period as Dave Rochfort scored at the 29 second mark on a two-way pass from Bob Kabel and Bobby Schmautz.

Eagles moved ahead 2-0 at 9:24 of the same period, this time rookie Ted Hodgson banged the puck past goalie Don Head from close in after Dale Conrad and Lyle Bradley set him up.

It was 3-0 for the Eagles just over a minute later as they took advantage of a

penalty handed out to Ron Bradley of the Totems for charging. This time Dale Conrad did the honors as he picked up Lyle Bradley's pass to beat Head easily.

Totems were not to be outdone however, as they also took advantage of a power play situation when Eagles Guy Allen went off for an interference call.

It was Ray LaRose for Seattle at 16:24 with Marc Bouleau and Tom McVie assisting, to end the first period scoring with the Eagles holding a good lead of 3-1.

As in the first game, the fast pace of the opening period slowed somewhat for the sandwich session and at times the play looked rather ragged with only one goal being scored.

It was 9:21 of the period when Art Stratton picked up a pass from Dwight Carruthers and went for the tally and to narrow the score going into the final period to 3-2 in favor of Salt Lake City.

The third frame had a very slow start and it wasn't until 12:34 before either team could find the mark with Eagles moving ahead 4-2 on a goal by Greg Jopling assisted by Bob Schmautz.

That lead was narrowed to one goal however when Totems started to put on the pressure and within 23 seconds Bob Courcy found the mark with help from Dwight Carruthers.

Keeping with their new found strength, Totems really went to work and at 14:55 of the final frame it was a tied hockey game.

Ron Barkwell got the honors on this one along with Howie Heggedal who assisted.

Seattle took the lead in both penalties and shots on goal, picking up six of the 11 called, including a 10-minute major to Ray LaRose who got caught swearing at the referee. Totems outshot Salt Lake 34-26.

Following the game, Salt Lake City closed out their training camp here and all the members of the club scattered across the country for a week's rest before returning to their training chores back on their own ice.

Seattle returned to Kamloops where they will continue their training sessions before moving back to the coast where they will undergo several exhibition matches prior to the league opener on Oct. 11.