

# Vet Future Looks Bright Rookies Playoff Stars

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The Woodstock hockey season is finished for another year but talk still centres around the possibilities for next season.

Senior "A" will probably be back despite poor fan support during the past season and Navy Vets are definitely planning operation for 1968-69, although it isn't known for sure under what classification.

Vets had a good season, losing only five times during their 32-game season. Playoffs started off well as the Woodstock entry ousted its rival from Ingersoll in five games and won the first game of the finals against Paris Mounties. But luck ran out and Mounties came through and ousted Vets in six games.

## ALMOST EQUAL

Vets were highly favored to repeat as league champions — but the Paris victory can't be considered a real upset. The runners-up handled the pennant winners on a fairly even basis during the schedule, winning three of eight games.

The main downfall for Vets was their inability to play well in the Paris arena but all Inter-County teams — with the exception of Ingersoll Mar-

lands — experienced the same problem before the biased Paris fans. Marlands managed three wins in four visits to the Paris icebox.

Paris' 8-3 win over Vets in the third game in Woodstock set the stage for the Mountie championship, making it necessary for Vets to win at least one game on foreign ice. It was almost an impossible task against the fired-up Paris crew and, judging by play in the series, the better team came out on top.

## STRONG ATTACK

Mounties' scoring was their main weapon against Vets as they erupted for 28 goals. Their defence played steadily although Vet shooters counted 22 times on goalie Rodger Ingram, who played well but didn't handle the number of shots that Vet goalies were forced to stop.

The Woodstock defence didn't play up to par and goaltenders Art Fraser and Ken Kitching were forced to cover up on Paris breaks time after time.

Besides the netminders, forwards Gary Thorne, Gary Pooley, Don Izzard and Gene McLaren played well. Thorne paced the attack with nine goals in 11 playoff games. Pooley was an all-round standout in post-season play — with

six goals and seven assists — and Izzard and McLaren each counted two goals and added eight assists.

Things look bright for the future with youngsters Dave McLaren, Jim Wilks and Bill Thomas all playing steadily in the playoffs. Coach Don Izzard has at least 13 players still of age for next season, forming the nucleus of a strong team, whether junior "B" or "C".

Goalie Fraser, defenceman Brian Shelton and Terry Rutherford and Pooley are likely to be lost next season unless there is a change in the age limit at the OHA meeting next month.

## PLAYOFF STATISTICS

	G	A	Pts	Pim
Pooley	6	7	13	9
Thorne	9	3	12	4
Izzard	2	8	10	16
G. McLaren	2	8	10	24
Slater	4	5	9	2
Jones	3	4	7	4
Carter	1	6	7	26
Sobeski	3	3	6	8
Fitzgerald	2	4	6	12
Thomas	4	1	5	0
D. McLaren	3	2	5	26
Murphy	0	5	5	43
Rutherford	1	3	4	10
Wilks	0	2	2	0
Shelton	0	1	1	9

## GOALTENDERS

	GP	GA	SO	Avg	Pim
Kitching	5	13	21	0.394	5
Fraser	5	23	20	0.353	6