

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

The Rossland Redmen started their quest for better things in the lacrosse circles of the province by showing a lot of early-season class in

two exhibition games against a very worthy opponent over the weekend.

The Calgary Shamrocks, who provided the opposition

in the two games, lost to the Redmen by scores of 9-5 and 20-15 but proved themselves to be no early-season exhibition pushovers as they gave and took the hard knocks right along with the Rossland team.

On the Saturday night the goaltending at both ends was superb. Rossland's newest acquisition, goalie Bill Thomas, a 21-year-old marvel from Victoria where he has won MVP awards in the last two seasons while playing junior with the Victoria McDonalds, was a standout, blocking all but five of the point-hungry Calgary forwards' blasts, both from close in and from way out.

Calgary's goalie also put up a creditable showing but he was overshadowed by the outstanding performance by Thomas. When you can hold a goal-scoring wizard like John Allen to two goals, you have to have something going for you.

John broke out in Sunday's game with an 11-point effort, seven of them his specialty goals. I didn't get to see the Sunday game as I was slugging it out in the Birchbank Charity Golf tourney on the early spring's hottest day.

They tell me, however, that the newcomers to the

Rossland club put in another excellent showing and were once more ably assisted by those holdovers from the '79 Redmen.

I can say this, that anyone who got to watch the weekend games will be hungry to see more of the same. They will get that chance May 24-25 weekend, when the Armstrong Shamrocks are in town for the league opener as far as Rossland is concerned.

This corner would like to wish John Allen and his merry men an excellent season. From what I saw on Saturday night and from Allen's enthusiastic comments after the game, plus his projection for the coming season's activity, I can only say I'm impressed with their chances.

Soccer-playing youngsters gamboled all over Jubilee Park on Saturday last while yours truly got himself one whale of a sunburn. My forehead hasn't finished peeling yet but despite my discomfort, it was a great day for the kids, from the 5-6-7-year-old Mosquitoes to the 14-15-16-year old Bantams, plus any fans who came to watch them cavort.

Brainchild of co-ordinator John Habicht, the mini-tournament turned out to be a

success from any way you want to look at it. The kids had fun, their prospective coaches got a change to see what kind of prospects they had for the upcoming season and everyone connected agreed that it had been a good day.

Starting at 9 a.m. with a Pee-Wee I game between the Pirates, coached by Bob Hubert Jr. and Pierre Habicht, and the Eagles who were handled by Gary Tomljenovic in the absence of coach Jim Johnson, Shane Dixon scored the only goal in a 1-0 Pirate victory.

At 10 it was the Mosquitoes' turn and some 25 prospects were on hand to try out. Divided into two teams, the wee ones were managed by Vera Penner and ably and vocally assisted by Brenda Smithson and Roy Grant on the field.

The Lions romped over the Canadians by a 5-0 score, Brian Merritt, a real digger, scored three times while Lyle Feeney and Jason Simpson added the others.

Stephen Howes, a Bantam player, refereed both games.

In the Pee Wee II game at 11, Joe Hughes' Celtics dropped a 2-0 decision to Doug Schneider's Rovers in a game refereed by Blaise Szekely, with Chris Walker and

Darren Albo getting the Rover markers.

At noon in a Pee Wee I game, Bob Hubert's Pirates found themselves up against a real scoring machine as John Cormack fuelled at the fire power for Shay Kelly's Raiders in a 3-0 win. The stocky youngster was really impressive in his goal-scoring performance; John Habicht officiated in this one, exhorting both teams to their best efforts while doing so.

Back with Pee Wee II at 1 p.m., Blaise Szekely's Royals turned back Joe Hughes' Celtics 5-0 with Terry Ferguson with two goals, Ross Tweedale, Ken MacArthur and Dallas Drake doing the Royals' scoring. Stephen Howes was back to ref this one and the next game.

At two in Pee Wee I, it was another Raider win as Gary Primeau, John Cormack and Craig Sinclair scored for Shay Kelly's boys in a 3-1 win over the Eagles. Matthew Jackson got the lone Eagle marker.

At three, in the final Pee Wee II game the Royals with Terry Ferguson and Dallas Drake splitting four goals gave Blaise Szekely's kids a 4-0 win over the Rovers. John Habicht took charge of this one and the wind-up game between some Bantams, over-age Bantams and some of the bigger Pee Wees.

In the four o'clock matchup the score was tied and in a shootout the team composed of all Bantams won 3-2.

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In the four o'clock matchup the score was tied and in a shootout the team composed of all Bantams won 3-2. Scoring goals in this contest were Bob Hubert, Chris Doerkson, Doug Schneider and Terry Karenko.

As I said before it was a great day for the kids and forecasts a good season ahead.

On Tuesday night I was invited to go along with the Uplander Hotel team to Fruitvale to help umpire their game with the Fruitvale Hotel team in a Trail Commercial League fixture. It was a pleasant trip. I haven't done much of this in the past few years and it was a change.

The Fruitvale boys, with Marv Womacks doing some pretty nifty pitching really went to town on the Rossland nine to the tune of 13-2; George Feraiff was the loser.

These guys are under no illusions about their calibre, they just go out there, do their thing and really enjoy it while they're doing it and in the bull sessions after the game.

OK, Charlie, I know you just loved that Islanders win over Buffalo, but the series is still a best-of-seven. Who knows, you may have the last laugh yet.