

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

A call from Gary Stanley informs me that Rossland's annual Play-for-Fun hockey tournament will be taking place on the weekend of Feb. 16-17 at the arena with the usual Saturday night dance at the high school. This is always a weekend which is enjoyed by everyone and most of all by the players who take part in the usually robust but always sportsmanlike games.

As usual there will be eight teams taking part, four from Rossland, two from Spokane and one each from Salmo and Trail with the host reps the Skidders, Labatts, Al Gulf and Trend Construction. I do not have team names from the Trail, Salmo and Spokane entries.

Along with Gary the others who head up this energetic group of fun athletes are Albert Bruce, Jim Hill, Blaine McCuaig and Howie Karn.

This is always a real fun weekend so make plans now to reserve it to enjoy all the goings-on at the arena and be sure to attend the dance at the high school and mix with our out-of-town visitors. That date again is Feb. 16-17.

Saturday night's game at the arena was one of tremendous frustration for the Warriors. Though having a big share of the over-all play, their scoring attempts were thwarted by a really close-knit Nelson defence and a young fellow by the name of Dan McDonald who was absolutely superb in the Nelson net.

The Warriors did manage to squeeze one past him in the second period but apart from that one he was sensational on 48 other shots. The Rossland forwards led by Rob Martin, Billy Nazaroff, John Mac-Master and John Caron had quite a lot of chances but when they did manage to elude the Nelson checking there was McDonald with glove, skate and stick — saves that took away their best efforts.

At the other end of the rink Kenny Anderson got in front of 29 shots but was the victim of quick scores starting the game and in the third period which I don't think he ever got his eye on. Over-all I thought the Warrior defence cleared pretty well but the persistence of the Nelson forwards paid off with seven opportunities they didn't miss.

The new defenceman the team has acquired, Robin Buck from Eastern Canada, adds quite a bit of life to the Warrior rearguard. It's too bad that he and veteran mainstay, David Espenhain, are playing their last season of junior eligibility.

That hair-pulling incident in Saturday night's game was a very unsportsmanlike performance on the part of the Nelson player who paid for it with a misconduct, plus. Talking with a league official afterward I was informed that this incident may be dealt with a lot more severely when it is reviewed. It seems funny to me but this season these two teams have a record of quite a bit of the uncalled for variety of play in their matchups; it's too bad because both teams play otherwise good entertaining hockey.

"Chow" Sdao sent me along a Penticton Herald which has an article listing the players who will take part in the game against the Montreal Canadien Oldtimers. There are quite a number of the names which are familiar to us who remember the Vees when they won the World Championship for Canada.

Among them are Jim Fairburn and Don Moog who played with that team and closer to home we notice the names of Ab Cronie, who played his minor hockey in Trail, and the ever-colorful "Yogi" Kraiger, a mainstay of the senior Warriors in the days when the foursome of Kraiger, Lofvendahl, Don Fletcher and George



YOGI KRAIGER
... once with Beliveau

Ferguson were the best defence in the WIHL.

An interesting note here says that "Yogi" was at one time the co-captain of the Quebec Aces along with the fabulous Jean Beliveau. How many of you knew that?

While mentioning George Ferguson, I should mention that the burly defenceman who played some tremendous hockey for the Warriors was intending to play on the '61 Smokie team against those same Canadiens.

I don't know if his bout with the doctors in the Rossland hospital has changed his mind or not. He is on the road to recovery and doing quite well, maybe we will see his familiar figure out there on the ice again.

Another member of the foursome we get to see quite regularly is big Don Fletcher, there's one guy that sure keeps in shape; his work as a fireman at Cominco and

skiing take care of keeping that big body in pretty good condition. Any forward who didn't keep his head up had good reason to remember Don's bone-crunching checks.

Well the Super Bowl is now history and the Steelers have added another championship for the steel town in Pennsylvania, but it was not without a titanic struggle. The Rams gave a really gutsy performance and it took all the Steelers' know-how to pull it out in the last quarter. One had to feel a little sorry for young Ferragamo who had called a helluva game until that interception by Jack Lambert. All in all though, it was a pleasing spectacle for all us Steeler fans, I sure enjoyed it anyway.

The Canucks continue their slide, the Colorado win which came after the Vancouver team had a lead going into the final period would tend to lead one to believe that the team are not in the kind of shape they need to be in. Most of their recent slump has featured losses in the last-period surge by the opposition.

The Retirees' Curling Club has issued its members with membership cards in the Interior Senior Curlers' Association of B.C. This will enable its members who are paid up in club membership to take part in the Seniors' Bonspiel to be held in Nelson Feb. 19-20-21. After the good time we had in Trail on the invitational it would seem an excellent idea to do something like it again. The Nelson do would appreciate our chance.

'Til next week then!