

PEPPER-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Two events of the past week which I was privileged to attend were the hockey game between the Czech (under 18) juniors and the Grand Forks Border Bruins and the invitational curling sponsored by the Trail Retirees Curling Club. Both were thoroughly enjoyable and while I have taken part in the curling before it was the first time I had been able to see a young international hockey contest in real life. Take it from me it's a lot different than watching it on TV.

Arnie Sherwood and Doug Gray, who were referee and linesman respectively for the game, picked me up and we had a nice leisurely trip to the 'Forks, arriving there about an hour before game time. By that time the seats, at \$7.50 per, were pretty well full and people were beginning to fill the standing room. The people of Grand Forks are really happy with their team this year and they sure showed it for this game. They got their money's worth, three excellent periods of hard-hitting hockey as good as you would want to see anywhere.

The Bruins broke in front with two early goals by Rick Kolner and Todd Rasmussen at the expense of the Czechs' starting goalie, Norovsky. After Rasmussen's goal the Czech management lifted Norovsky and replaced him with Furbacher. This was around the five-minute mark of the first period and it was past the half-way mark of the third period before they succeeded in denting his armor with a shot from Randy Maxwell on which Furbacher was really well screened.

The Czech players are a bunch of pretty big boys who certainly know how to handle themselves in the heavy going and there was plenty of this in the well-handled game. While the Border Bruins gave up 10 goals along the way they were by no means outclassed on the over-all play, they gave out as much of the heavy work along the boards and in the corners as their visitors. It was really fan-pleasing action and the thousand plus fans really

with Precechtel who is among their top scorers. I see where the last-named scored three goals against the Kelowna Buckaroos of the BCJHL.

Of the Border Bruins, the goalie who played the second and third periods, Troy Hankin, was not to be blamed entirely for the six goals that eluded him. He was spectacular on two occasions as the fast-breaking Czech forwards broke in on him alone.

Craig Redmond made some of his patented rushes and in the closing moments had at least four excellent chances but missed with his shots when he had the goalie beaten. Rick Kolner and Randy Maxwell played well for the Bruins too, and the whole team was above the standard of general run of play in the KIJHL.

Sherwood, Gray and Ron Passmore handled the game well, penalties were kept to a minimum and by the end of the game Arnie was beginning to make his sign language understood by the European youngsters. We all got a chance to meet the players at a complimentary supper in their honor at the Grand Forks Legion. All in all I'd say the whole bunch are a fine, upstanding group of excellent young athletes.

I heard that the Bruins were backed in their venture by some big money, I guess they had faith in their fans and they certainly weren't let down. A few crowds like that would certainly boost the Rossland Warriors' morale.

The other event of interest was held Monday in the Trail Curling Club with well over 100 veteran curlers enjoying themselves with about five hours of curling, a great lunch and some free drinks to go with it.

The occasion was the visit by eight Castlegar five-man rinks and six Rossland teams to contest the 14 Trail rinks that made up the opposition. It was a day of socializing, vying with old acquaintances for the better shots out on the

ice and reminiscing of past bonspiels, golf games and things which we retired people find so much a part of our lives these days.

Among the people I ran into were Fred Bailey, an old chum from my soccer-playing days, Fred told me he considers himself the busiest curler on the old-timers roster. He certainly looks good, almost good enough to turn in a half-hour chasing a soccer-ball. John Melvin, a gent whom we see quite a lot of on the Rossland course in the summer, played opposite me in our curling game as part of the McLaren rink. John was my supervisor for some years during my sojourn on the Hill and a gent well-regarded by everyone of us who worked under him.

Pete Murphy and Ernie Mills were on hand along with Bob Milne, all of whom worked on the Zinc side while I was there. These are only a few of the dozens I said "Hello" to during the day. Big Paul Seymour, who was playing lacrosse way back when I came to this part of the world was there, his big jovial grin as large as ever; another old-time lacrosse addict, Jack "Foxy" Wilson, who used to be one of the cogs in the big CPR yard crew on the hill before he blew out his signal lamp for the last time, was along to participate in his favorite game. Jack proved a good host as he was the only Trail rink to lose to a Rossland rink; his final shot was real gem and would have tied his game with Norm Harry but travelled a couple of inches too far.

The Rossland Legion held the installation of its newly-named executive for both branch and LA at a party Saturday night where a night of socializing and dancing was enjoyed by a large gathering at the branch clubrooms on Washington Street. The new branch executive is composed of some veterans and some new faces and all expect to be quite busy for the next 12 months.

That's it for this week, we'll be back.

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One facet of the Czechs' play which I really liked was the long pass and the fast break from just inside their own zone and their ability to control the puck in their own end. Unlike the game played by most Canadian teams, these guys aren't afraid to pass the puck back into their own end if it means better control.

Names of the Czech players don't really mean much to us but there was really some outstanding talent exhibited by some of them. I thought a big defenceman by the name of Suchanek was an outstanding example as were forwards Ruzicko, Jurcisin and a fine playmaking centre by the name of Kejba along

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