

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

That's the way it goes in this business, some weeks the things one has to write about would take up twice the usual space, while on others there's not enough happening to warrant writing a column. This week is actually a little above the average for Rossland.

By the time you read this the contingent of Slo-Pitch people will be on their way to the big tournament in Kamloops trying to get back at the Kats for winning the Rossland tourney earlier this summer.

Last weekend the Fun League people, who belong to the same group as the Slo-Pitch, held their season-ending playoffs. The prize for the winner of this event is a very impressive-looking trophy known as the Joe Issel Trophy and was won this year by a team known as the Uplander-Scrap. In the past I believe this team was called Wise's Scrap and later took on the name of Super-Scrap. Now, maybe, that Super is a

special name for the team in the Slo-Pitch tourney, anyway, most of the same players play on both, so you can take your pick, I guess.

They beat the Payless team in the final game in a real close for the trophy and the Roadrunners, Orwell Hotel and the Rossland Hotel followed in that order.

The people who passed along the information on this event stated very emphatically that their organization does not hold with the idea of picking a long list of MV performers, but they added that for his extraordinary performances throughout the playoffs, special mention should be given Pete Bouchier.

They also added that a very special vote of thanks should be tendered to the big redhead, John Habicht, and his wife, Odile, for their contribution of preparing and serving food and drink during the event out at Centennial Park. These two people did a helluva job, I'm told.

All games in the tourney were closely contested, the only fly in the ointment being the fact that not enough people showed up to watch the games. Next year the Fun people hope to have a little better accommodations for viewers; at present there's not much relief from the blazing sun out at Black Bear

park.

Well, the Redmen got off on the right foot in the playoffs against Armstrong as they won both games here on the weekend and now need a win in one of the two games in Armstrong this weekend in order to take the best-of-five series.

This would lead them into a series of games in Victoria on the weekend of Aug. 16-18. The four best teams in the province will meet to decide who will represent B.C. in the final series for the Canadian championship in Owen Sound, Ont., later in the year.

I'm not sure of the format but according to coach Allen, a team from North Shore will probably accompany the Redmen, if they win the present series. From the mainland, a team from the Upper Island plus the host team from Victoria will battle it out to see who will go east.

In the series with Armstrong, to date, it has been the heady play and accurate

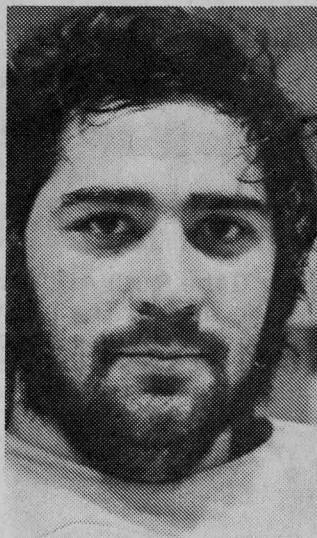
shooting of Allen that has been a big factor in the two victories.

In Sunday's game his five straight goals in that wild third period must be a record of some kind, coupled with John's performance, the aggressive play of Walt Christianson, Peter Janssen and Jeff Eder on offence and Brian Jack and Kenny McDonald on defence, not to mention the gutsy performances turned in by the guys whose names don't always find the sports pages, some of whom were playing hurt, too.

I specially want to mention one lad whom I think must rate some special kind of word for his contribution to the team. He doesn't get to play too often but he takes his warmup exercises along with the rest and is always ready if needed. I'm talking, of course, of Greg Stein, the black-bearded lad who is back-up to Bill Thomas in the Redmen net.

Thomas is a pretty fantastic netminder and playing in his shadow doesn't give his backup too many chances to show his stuff, but the few times we've seen Greg he has done his job well and truly.

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There are one or two in the company who haven't exactly retained their slim, athletic figures but they seem to manage and since it's all in fun no one minds a little miscue once in a while.

I think if the poet who wrote "A Comedy of Errors" had seen one of these performances, his work would have reached a new dimension.

The people who take part in this outrageous frolic are to be congratulated for doing something they enjoy and which must give them a lot of satisfaction. Among those participating are Donna Price, Zula Laface, Joyce Woods, Cindy Bateman, Roberta Delich and Sharon Schuck, on the female side, while on the other side are guys like Babe and Rudy Laface, Bernie Fourt, Jim Bateman, Jim Albo, John McMasters, Dave Tweed, Ray Scott and Timmy Laface.

I know this isn't all of them and as I get to know who the others are I'll give them word here and there. The faces and team rosters change with the weather so you don't know whom you're going to see next week.

It really doesn't matter what the score is, it was tied at 2-2 the last time, as long as Roberta continues to throw those high teasers and Ray sprays his throws to first around like an erratic lacrosse player, it will be