

# PEPP-JALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

The news was released this week that three Rossland Warriors had been chosen by West coach, Gerry Quiring, to play in the annual East-West game in the KIJHL. The boys chosen are all deserving of the chance to play in the big game, to be played this year in Creston Jan. 5.

For Mike Oliver if will not be a new experience as he has been there before, but for Bob Drake and Billy Nazaroff it will be something new. These two boys are about as close as you can come to being the complete hockey player in the Junior "B" category, the kind of help you need when you are wanting to win the big one. Skating, checking and the ability to put the puck in the net are what a coach looks for when he is picking his all-star team and I think Gerry has done the right thing by picking these three. As I have said before, Mike has not had his best season thus far this year but his uncanny ability around the net coupled with his size make him almost a mandatory pick for a one-game shot like this.

Bob and Billy are real diggers, tireless workers both and on a team which is sporting a poor won-lost record they stand out and I think they will give Gerry an honest game. It's just the way they play it all the time,

power to make the club a successful one and it is quite plain to see that they have done their job well. The team has been the success story of the WIHL from the angle that we see when we study the league statistics and standings. It is plain to see that, from a competitive standpoint, the Smokies are a pretty classy aggregation, a bunch of guys who have been put together by a coach who handles his job pretty well. These guys must be happy in their job as hockey players to give up their time to supply entertainment of a pretty high standard in what must seem to a lot of them, a thankless task.

Over the years, the hockey fans in this area have griped about not having a competitive team and have stayed away from the games for that reason, but today's edition doesn't leave much room for this kind of griping. So what is their reason for staying away now.

Seat prices for senior games are high all right, but that's no argument nowadays, when everything else is soaring. Could it be that the variety of entertainment now available is too great a strain on the public's allotment for things to do for relaxation? I've thought a lot about this and it's the only answer I can



MIKE OLIVER

lot of time, sometimes as much as a couple of nights a week, if you are in enough of them. Then there is the TV and the cozy armchair where we can watch pretty high class sports events, again good for a couple of nights a week; add a night for shopping with the wife and you don't have too much time left on your hands for anything else.

In days gone by it was a movie and a local hockey game, plus a club meeting one night a month and lots of people walked to these events. Nowadays anyone running an

of credit for their effort, a better break from the local populace, like filling the arena seats for the Smokie games would be a reward they have coming to them. They've certainly done their share and what they are getting in return must make them feel they are bucking a pretty big proposition.

Let's hope the situation will change for the better, the chance seems remote but it is the only thing that can happen that will make the Smokies a paying proposition and get them out of the financial bind they are in right now. When you have a good team and they are doing a job and you still have to beg the fans to come out, you are faced with a pretty grim situation.

But keep trying, Rick, maybe some kind of a miracle will happen to straighten things out. I don't think anyone envies you, your job is indeed a big one and you have to be a pretty big man to handle it, more power and luck to you.

Coming up early in the New Year will be the Annual Play-for-Fun hockey tournament. I talked to Albert Bruce the other day to see if any dates were available yet but they haven't set up anything yet. As soon as they do he'll let me

fun, these guys really enjoy themselves.

In closing I'd like to offer my congratulations to a good friend, Ken McBride, for his success in the recent table tennis tourney. Ken was a partner in the team which won the men's doubles. Well done, Ken, and while I'm at it a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you in case I don't get to see you before then.

Not exactly in season, but pertinent just the same, Lee Trevino, golfer per-

excellence, says: "There are two things not long for this world — dogs that chase cars and pro golfers who chip for pars."

'Nuff said.

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Bob and Billy are real diggers, tireless workers both and on a team which is sporting a poor won-lost record they stand out and I think they will give Gerry an honest game. It's just the way they play it all the time, either or both could stand out, might even turn out to be the star attraction.

There are quite a lot of others on the Warriors who merit the chance but this is a young team and a lot of them may get their chance in the future.

While on the subject of the Warriors I would like to offer my congratulations to one of my favorite Warriors of all time, the "Mighty Mite" of some years past, Tommy Stanton. Tommy and his wife, who now live at Golden, are proud parents for the first time, I want to say I hope everything goes just the way they want it to.

The letter to the editor by Rick Basso, Smokie president, in Tuesday's paper points up a number of facts that I don't think were quite as well understood by a lot of hockey fans in this area as they could be. I think we could be quite safe in saying that the hockey fan of the present day is not the same breed of cats as the ones who used to swarm into the local arenas in days gone by.

The appeals for help to get Smokies out of their financial problems is apparently falling on deaf ears in a lot of cases. As Rick pointed out, the players on the team have done everything in their

away from the games for that reason, but today's edition doesn't leave much room for this kind of griping. So what is their reason for staying away now.

Seat prices for senior games are high all right, but that's no argument nowadays, when everything else is soaring. Could it be that the variety of entertainment now available is too great a strain on the public's allotment for things to do for relaxation? I've thought a lot about this and it's the only answer I can come up with. People in this day and age are finding out that they have too much to do in the line of what to do with their spare time. Membership in local social clubs takes up a

week, if you are in enough of them. Then there is the TV and the cozy armchair where we can watch pretty high class sports events, again good for a couple of nights a week; add a night for shopping with the wife and you don't have too much time left on your hands for anything else.

In days gone by it was a movie and a local hockey game, plus a club meeting one night a month and lots of people walked to these events. Nowadays anyone running an athletic team with the idea of making it pay is bucking pretty tough odds. It's just the way it is.

I wish Rick and his cohorts lots of luck, they deserve a lot

things out. I don't think anyone envies you, your job is indeed a big one and you have to be a pretty big man to handle it, more power and luck to you.

Coming up early in the New Year will be the Annual Play-for-Fun hockey tournament. I talked to Albert Bruce the other day to see if any dates were available yet but they haven't set up anything yet. As soon as they do he'll let me know and I'll pass it along to you. This is a really worthwhile show and in years past has drawn pretty well; the games are played at a fast and furious pace and it's all in