

Well, it's that season of the year again, it's the time when we like to say "All the best" to all our friends and associates from over the years. This column has proved to be an excellent medium for me to do just that. During the 52 weeks of the year I get the chance to air my views on a variety of matters, mainly in the sports vein, but I'm not pinned down to this and have tried to make a practice of espousing anything which I consider is going to benefit our city and the surrounding area.

In the process I have met and made friends of quite a number of different people. That they don't always agree with my point of view doesn't matter too much, I'm ready to listen to any arguments then evaluate them on what I think are their merits. Arguments all have more than one side and all should have a right to be heard.

At the present time there are at least two lines of thought on the progress or lack of it, of our hockey team; one side of the argument takes the stance that the coaching of the team at present is not strong enough while the other says it isn't so, that the coach is antagonizing some of the players by adhering to a line that if you don't want to go all out for the club then you are better sitting on the bench or even staying home.

Talking to and listening to both sides I find both arguments have a certain basis in truth. I think personally that the club is still suffering from the rebuilding blues, from what I've been told when Lloyd McLellan had the club there were those players who couldn't accept his sometimes cutting criticism in the room but continued to play for him because of his acknowledged know-how of the business of coaching. When he stepped down the club had to look for someone else. I've been told that the original choice for the job, Dave Limacher, who had excellent references from his work in various sports coaching jobs, needed only a few exhibition games to prove to himself that he had opted for something he couldn't handle to his own satisfaction.

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

OK, enter Doug Buhr, with only his playing background to his credit. For my money, Doug showed a lot of intestinal fortitude to accept the job, faced as he was with a mixture of boys who had played for McLellan and apparently gave it their best effort for him and a bunch of youngsters who had to start from scratch.

Watching the Friday and Saturday night games against Creston and Cranbrook I have come to the conclusion that my own opinion, for what it is worth, is that it's not the coaching or the systems that are to blame for the Warriors' sad showing this rebuilding season, but the mental lapses of the players that is to blame for their own downfall.

In the Cranbrook game, against a big well-drilled team, there were numerous times when there were two and three players battling one Colt player for possession of the puck right out in front of "Hoss" Drake and in a lot of those cases the Cranbrook player would come up with the puck and get a clear shot on goal.

"Hoss" came up with some of them but you can't stop 'em all; it happens to the pros when your defence gets muddled up. In kids so young it's nothing to be ashamed of to have a let-down in the tough going and if they learn something from it that's one helluva plus, I think.

I've heard various players maligned for not giving it their all, and one is that same "Hoss." How anyone can say that about a rookie goalie who has had the first-line job forced on him by circumstances, playing behind what up to now has been the most porous defence in Warrior history, is more than I can fathom.

I only hope that the team will start coming together in time to make the playoffs but it is a pretty vain hope right now; you could almost say it would have to be a miracle.

Still on hockey but taking a different tack I talked to Chief



**ARNIE SHERWOOD**  
... justifiably proud

Referee Arnie Sherwood Monday morning regarding the officiating in the KIJHL. Arnie is, I believe, justifiably proud of his corps of officials and he tells me that a lot of the improvement in the officiating can be attributed to the establishing of the area supervisors, Jerry Green in the Spokane area, Dave Murray in the West and Carl Johansen in the East. These people attend as many games as possible and if problems arise they are right there to help correct the situation as quickly as possible.

He told me the unfortunate incident at Nelson a while back has resulted in the suspension of Terry Maglio and Grant Saliken of Nelson and Ian Douglas of the Warriors until Jan. 4. They will also be absent when the teams meet in a back-to-back series Jan. 18 and 19. Arnie feels that the league governors by their prompt action in cases in point have gone a long way towards cleaning up the game as far as the KIJHL is concerned.

Rules enacted in the league, Arnie thinks they are firsts in the CAHA, mandatory five-minute penalties for slashing, cross-checking and high sticking and the automatic one-game suspension for three fights or misconduct

penalties, have really helped to clean up a previously impossible situation.

Arnie encourages club coaches to bring any problems they may have to his notice. He says his door is always open to them and to date a number have taken advantage of his offer; he also thinks fan attendance is on the upswing at junior games, a fact which pleases him highly.

The Retirees' curling club held its Christmas party in conjunction with the Ladies' club and again it was an unqualified success. A lovely meal and a good choice of refreshments were produced and taken care of and there were four-end curling games featuring mixed teams from both clubs.

Two rounds of preliminary games were run off and then the eight survivors battled for the prizes, Fanny Albo and her rink of Rich Watkinson, Fran Zanussi and Tom Mitchell came out on top with Joan Feeney and her cohorts Arnie Vanness, Leanne Paul and Jim Mauchline second; Dorothy Fines with Norm Harry, Beryl Davis and Jack Hook took third spot and Marge Burnett with Dave Tweed, Jean Cormack and Ernie Brown came in fourth.

On behalf of the Retirees I would like to thank the women for their efforts. You know sometimes I think we can learn a lot from them about curling, too.

One note which does not strike a happy chord has to deal with the actions of the Cranbrook team in their dressing room after Saturday night's game. Vandalism on the property was uncontrolled by those people in charge of the team and a bill for damages will be forwarded to the club. It is a sad commentary on a team which performed so well on the ice that they have to resort to this sort of tactic in the dressing room.

Now to all my friends throughout the Kootenays I want to wish one and all the very best for the Christmas season and throughout the 1980s.

God bless you all.