

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

We said it would be a big one and sure enough it was. The Rossland Annual Slo-Pitch Tournament officially opened Friday and started in earnest with four games Saturday at 8 a.m. and wound up with a flurry of excitement Sunday evening after the winners had been determined and the trophies distributed.

The Rossland Slo-Pitch tourney, as it is constituted today, was first held in 1975 and has been an unqualified success ever since. Talking to co-ordinator Ken Dixon Tuesday morning, he mentioned that one of the prime reasons for the success of this effort is that everyone connected with it gives unstintingly of their time and effort to make it go the way it does.

Kenny Dixon and Cam Jensen are the top guys in the organization and take responsibility for all that goes into the tournament and what comes out of it. The really outstanding trophies which are awarded for the winners were put up by these two young men and bear their names.

The main one is really something to behold, standing almost three feet high overall, it is really a work of art.

Anything attempted of this scope has to have a lot of effort from everyone concerned, the people who prepare the four parks for play and keep them in shape, the women who handle the concession booth, the people who cooked that marvellous stew which was the main ingredient of the meal which

it were won this year by Merv Jensen's Kam Kats who nudged out Rossland's Roadrunners in the final game. They had stayed in the winner's bracket all the way through the tourney and were never beaten.

Since 1975, when Rossland Beersteiners won out, the trophy has moved around considerably; in '76 a Vancouver team took it home, in '77 Rossland Super-Scrap won, to keep it here, '78 saw it travel to Calgary with the Animals and in '79 the B.A. Rollers took it west to the Okanagan.

As stated previously the Kam Kats are led by a former Rossland boy, Merv Jensen, one of four sons of retired Comincoan, and a member of our Retirees' Curling Club in the winter, Gil Jensen. Mervin put in some time in the outfield for the currently dormant Caplanos, when they were winning championships regularly, and has since taken up residence in Kamloops.

Another former Rosslander, Beres Drake, also performs for the Kam Kats and Beres was the Kam Kats pitcher in the final game which won them this year's tourney.

An interesting note on the Jensen boys is the fact that three of them play on three different teams. Brian is playing with the Calgary Animals, Cam for Rossland's Super-Scrap and this year, Ross was a member of the umpiring staff. He formerly played with Cam of the Scrap team.

The team that the Kam

Jack Molyneux, who was a pretty good athlete in his day, too.

Jack goes along on all the Roadrunner trips. Up in Vernon he has a pet name. Wouldn't you know it! They call him "The Eighth Dwarf."

As I write this we are all looking forward to the big lacrosse game tonight, Wednesday. I hear Babs has found her record of Waltzing Matilda, so the Aussies will have an appropriate greeting when they trot out on the floor at the Rossland Arena tonight.

Soccer, of the minor variety, is over for the

summer. The kids will swing back into action when they return to school, to play out the remainder of the schedule and the playoffs.

And to finish up, we have news from the field hockey world, girls variety. Girls picked from the Rossland area to represent Zone I in the B.C. Summer Games, are Resa Bouchier, Tanis Bouchier, Christine Bouchier, Heather Bouchier, Dianne Bartsch and Barb Barry.

Zone I extends from Grand Forks to the Alberta border, so wouldn't you say that Rossland has a fair representation.

effort from everyone concerned, the people who prepare the four parks for play and keep them in shape, the women who handle the concession booth, the people who cooked that marvellous stew which was the main ingredient of the meal which was available Sunday for anyone who required sustenance. Then there was the umpiring corps headed by Jim Schuck and game coordinator Sam Keith.

Also taking a pretty important part were four guys who are no longer able to run fast enough to reach first base unless the ball is hit out of the park. Formed last year, this group consists of Chuck Harkness, No. 1 Joe, better known as Joe Thalman, No. 2 Joe, who answers to the game of Gyte, and one other guy whose name eludes me for the moment. They are the people responsible for handing out the liquid refreshments in the arena Saturday and Sunday.

Each team gets an allotment after every game they play, so there are a lot of arms dipped into the icy tank, a profession known as "pearl diving," to service the needs of thirsty ball players and their fans.

This year the roster of teams consisted of four from Rossland, Super-Scrap, Roadrunners, Payless and the Miners, a combined Trail-Rossland-Castlegar team representing B.C. Tel. The lone Trail entry were the Cominco Firemen, Enderby sent the Outfitters, from Calgary came Brian Jensen and his Animals, three entries from Vernon and five from Kamloops, one of which took home the top prize.

The top trophy and the personal trophies that go with

different teams. Brian is playing with the Calgary Animals, Cam for Rossland's Super-Scrap and this year, Ross was a member of the umpiring staff. He formerly played with Cam of the Scrap team.

The team that the Kam Kats beat for the title has a long history of near misses, guys like Jon Holm, John Habicht and "Skip" Ferguson are long-time members of a team which has come so close on many occasions but has yet to win the big one.

Who knows, maybe the Roadrunners will return the compliment and win in Kamloops. Don't forget, their mascot and chief rooter is none other than 84-year-old