

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Last week I missed the deadline for this column and I heard about it from some people who apparently look for it every week, however I do have a reason.

The phone calls for me to look at various roofing jobs was getting just too much for this late date in the year and I was putting in long days trying to get those I had promised, completed. This list still grows, but now I go on the premise that you can only do so much, so I just say if there is time I'll get on it and leave it at that.

Next, I would like to congratulate Doug Buhr on his taking over the reins of the Warriors. Doug faces quite a task and maybe for a while the word to offer him would be sympathy; but Doug has broad shoulders and an apparent desire to do what he can to help the kids in our town to the best of his ability. His talent for the job is an unknown quantity at this time, but a lot of experience will no doubt stand him in good stead.

The one thing that I do think there is little doubt that he has is a wealth of enthusiasm, and it certainly seems to be infecting the kids who are giving out like never before, one outstanding example is that of Mike Oliver, the big Warrior centre was often accused last season of lackadaisical performances. But no one who has watched him perform this season can doubt that Mike is giving it 100 per cent plus at this time.

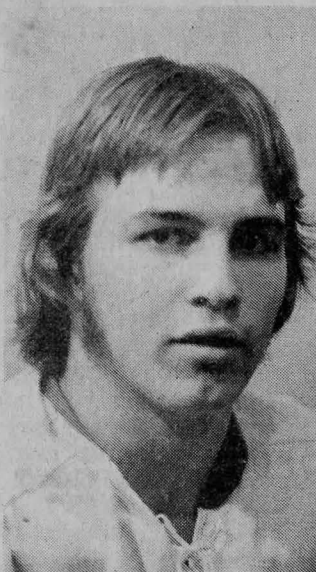
There are others, too. David Espenhaia, a young fellow who has been in hockey limbo for three or four years when he could have helped the Warriors' cause, is back now and operating on all cylinders. Dave is going to be among the better rearguards in the league when he gets his bearings.

Peter Corrado is another kid who is beginning to develop some of the skills needed behind the blue line, where his size will loom large as he improves his other capabilities. I thought that Peter gave a really good account of himself in the game against the Smokies last Friday night.

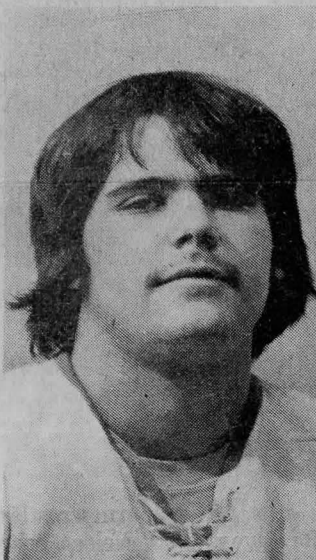
Just when he was beginning to really make his presence felt on the Warriors' attack, young Tommy Haley is cut down with an injury which

weather and his presence was missed in the last couple of games. Mark Rusten and Bob Drake give a gutsy performance every time out; neither is a giant, but they make up for it in heart. Four comparative newcomers to the team, Rob Harasin, a big kid, will take time to become acclimatized; Roger Handley is making some good moves and Gord Armsihaw and Chuck Lavorato are going to help. One question, where were Pat Lavigne and Dale Bailey? Both seemed to be ready to play.

Whether it is Doug Buhr's presence, or whatever, I sense a completely different attitude in the Warriors this season and I don't think it's going to be too long before something is going to fall into place for the team because of it.



DAVE ESPENHAIN



PETER CORRADO

performances. But no one who has watched him perform this season can doubt that Mike is giving it 100 per cent plus at this time.

There are others, too. David Espenhaia, a young fellow who has been in hockey limbo for three or four years when he could have helped the Warriors' cause, is back now and operating on all cylinders. Dave is going to be among the better rearguards in the league when he gets his bearings.

Peter Corrado is another kid who is beginning to develop some of the skills needed behind the blue line, where his size will loom large as he improves his other capabilities. I thought that Peter gave a really good account of himself in the game against the Smokies last Friday night.

Just when he was beginning to really make his presence felt on the Warriors' attack, young Tommy Haley is cut down with an injury which may see him sit on the sidelines for some considerable time. Those knee injuries are really the bane of a young hockey player's life. Tommy certainly looked pretty downcast in the room after Friday's game.

Two newcomers to the Warriors this season both operate behind the blue line and Jim Nagaroff, big No. 7, is really impressive. For a 16 year old he plays the game like a guy who has been at it for years and the size of him is really awesome. The other newcomer to the Warrior ranks is a rangy youngster, who, while not flamboyant, is pretty effective back there. His name is Ron Lauriente. He's from Castlegar and I remember his dad, Mike, from the days when he played softball back when I was on the executive of the Trail league.

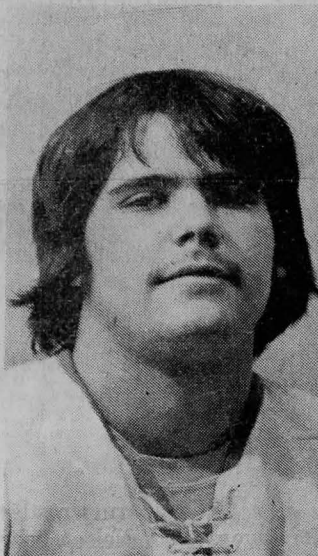
I think when the defence really jells it is going to take some of the pressure off the shoulders of Hoss Drake and Doug DeGans, the two goalies who have taken quite a baptism of fire in the early going of the current season.

Meanwhile, the attack has usually been able to muster enough goals to win a lot of hockey games, but the opposition has really been terrific. There are a lot of kids on the firing line of the Warriors who can put the puck away. Besides Oliver, there are Caron, MacMaster and Billy Nazaroff, who are a threat every time they get the puck in the enemy zone; and every one of them is covering his checks well enough.

The Warriors have been without one of their most effective sparkplugs. Rob Martin has been under the



DAVE ESPENHAIN



PETER CORRADO

On the local curling scene, I want to mention that a meeting of the Retirees Curling Club has been set for Oct. 24 in the Curling lounge for 7 p.m. I believe there is a hockey game that night, a rescheduled one with the Border Bruins, so everyone can take it in after the meeting.

The reason for the meeting is two-fold, to make arrangements for the coming season and also to schedule an opening for the drop-in centre. A lot of people have been wondering when this is going to happen, and it is up to the RCC to take some action on this matter.