

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

The Fun tournament held in the arena this past weekend was indeed one of the better-handled events we have had for a long time: the timing was well arranged and closely adhered to, the officiating was well done and the play was of the kind that makes for excellent watching, fast and furious with the absolute minimum of chippiness in evidence.

It always amazes me that these young people can take the kind of battering that they do and come up with a grin and maybe a slap on the rear for the guy who put them down. Possibly it's because I never did play hockey that it so amazes me but I guess it's one of the things that kids who adapt to the game learn early, that you take it with a grin or you are not going to be a hockey player at all. You notice that facet of the game to the utmost when watching these guys who play the game for fun.

Of course, the people who run this annual tournament do not go in for picking all-star teams or most valuable players. Picking the most sportsmanlike player would be an almost impossible task because if you don't put that part of the game at the top of your list you could never participate in a tournament of this nature.

It is a well-known fact that you are not going to earn any great deal of reward, money-wise, for your efforts, but I'll bet that the little trophies the winners of this tournament receive for their efforts are a really treasured memento of those people who earn them.

The boys who run this tournament have never failed

to show their gratitude for the help they receive from the people who dig in to give them a hand with the on-going organizing and I think I speak for all the Lions who assisted in the various tasks allotted to us this year.

I did not get to the Saturday night dance this time around but the Lions who did the bar and serving tasks up there tell me it was an excellent organizing job that made it another really successful event, right on line with the over-all picture.

The people responsible for the tournament, Gary Stanley, Albert Bruce, Howie Karn, Sam Keith and Jim Hill are among the executive members who take on the brunt of the work entailed in lining up the teams, officials, drawing up schedules, etc. They are doing a helluva job and deserve a vote of thanks from all the people who enjoyed this year's action. It was really a great job.

As I said before, the timing was excellent. It could have been fouled up had it not been for the excellent co-operation of the arena staff, from Al Carriere on down through Desi, Mel, Ray and Jim. Everyone pulled his weight to see that there were no hitches in the mechanics of the draw and as far as readiness of ice was concerned, it went like a well-oiled machine.

I would like to thank the people whom I recruited for the various minor officiating roles from our Lions club and others who volunteered to help. From the Lions we had Ken Stanton and Jack Cox, our old reliables on the clock and scorekeeping, who were relieved by Fred Cragg, "Spud" Martin and Alfie Albo, Maurice MacArthur and yours truly.

People who put in time as goal judges were Arnie Lindgren, his wife July and their son Darrel, Larry Lavigne and his son Ron, Kenny LaFace, Gordy Stanton as well as Albert Bruce and Gary Stanley. Also helping out in the box were Isobel Burbridge and her daughter Trina who worked as a team and did a real fine job. Thanks, everyone!

Four Lions did a job up at the school and according to

KIJHL or WIHL, were Dave Murray, Vince Profili, Bill Savinkoff, Tommy Fagan, "Skip" Ferguson and Bobby Sherwood. It's good to see this sort of officiating, it really helps things out.

Of the tournament itself, I can't say enough, the games for most part were pretty well evenly contested; while a couple of the dozen played were mismatches, this was not the general rule.

The team representing the Spokane North Division Muffler was a little over matched in its games against Rossland's Freddy's Bakery — Valkyrie Heli — ski team and their compatriot team from Spokane, the Newman Lake Bombers. They had their moments but I thought it was their goaltending that prevented them from suffering more than they did, it was good despite the double-figure scores against them.

Salmo Sharks played both their games against Rossland opposition and lost them both but not before they put up a real battle. Rossland Labatts and the Newman Lake team played the most games, four each, met in one of the best games in the tournament in the "B" final with the Labatts winning out.

Silver City 69ers, the ultimate winners over-all beat the other Trail rep, A-1 Gulf, in the "A" final and took home the Steve McFarland Memorial Trophy, put up this year in memory of Steve, himself a Fun player in all sports over the past couple of years.

The Rossland Skidders and the FB-VHS team were the other entries who took part in the tourney and both performed well. The calibre of the players participating in this tourney may not be up to

the top junior or senior standards of this area but what they lack in that area is more than made up for in their willingness to get in there and dig.

It makes the games have that appeal to all those watching, makes it easier for the average fan to identify with the players. That sort of rapport was very evident in the mixers that took place in the lounge after every game.

So long for now, see you next week.

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Four Lions did a job up at the school and according to all reports it was a good one. Don Holmes, Alfie Albo, Lloyd Karenko and Henry Lotecki were on duty there and we thank them for the job they did.

The officials on the ice, organized by Arnie Sherwood, were on top of things all the way and kept really good control. All of them I spoke to were agreed that the calibre of play made the games a pleasure to work. I'm not going to say that I may not miss one or two in naming them but don't feel badly because everyone of you did a real good job. Among them, most of all top officials of the

were mismatches, this was not the general rule.

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