

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

I have just finished reading an article in the Reader's Digest relating to the study of biorythms. The writer tries to explain scientifically why we have our good days and our bad days and does a pretty convincing job of it.

I guess there is an answer to why athletes perform so well one day and have the let-down the next. For example, the Warriors' battle to beat Castlegar on Saturday night and their complete reversal against Grand Forks on Sunday. Mind you, Danny MacFarland's superb performance on Saturday night was largely responsible for the Warriors' win on Saturday but I didn't think that the team played all that badly; the way they killed off the two-man short situations was really something else.

The second Rossland goal in that game, by Mike Oliver, proved one thing which might be the answer to the lack of offence the team is going through right now. More shots on the net could produce a lot more chances of scoring than we have seen in a long time. Mike's shot from just over the blue line may have been screened from the goalie, but it went in. Shots from both wings were whizzing by the posts, sometimes only inches short of the target, but those inches make a difference, so it follows that the more shots you take, the ratio of ones on the net will be bound to grow.

I don't think the proportion of shots taken was as big as it showed on the score sheet, but it was the ones that were on target that show there, based on the ones the goalie has to stop. It's also possible that some that look like saves are those that the netminder feels obliged to stop to avoid a possible rebound.

Anyway to get back to the subject I started on, I heard a lot of comment after the game that the refereeing was bad. Now this was the reason I stayed out in the stands on Saturday night — one can see more from there than you can from the lounge. I happen to have a great deal of respect for the crew that worked that game. Butch Bonin and Skip Ferguson did an excellent job on the line calls and Dave Murray had the game well in hand at all times. I figure he handed out a couple of minor penalties to Rossland that I

I got one report that night that I didn't think much of though. Dave told me after the game that he had been punched by a fan standing between the Warriors' bench and their dressing room. Of course he didn't know whether the party was a Warrior fan or whether he was from Castlegar. That makes no

boards has a pretty big advantage when it comes to punching someone whose attention is on something else. I would like to see someone who loses his head enough to pull a stunt like that barred from the arena for good; whoever he is, he doesn't belong in these surroundings. You really can't blame the

happening to their big brothers is having a bad effect on them — the Senior Leafs can't seem to put much together of late.

Have you noticed the amazing number of overtime games and close margin games in the KIJHL this season? It's really been fantastic the way it's been



Times columnist Harry Pepper (left) is off to the Old Country for a holiday, and the Rossland Warriors had a parting gift for him. Club manager Jim Markle gave Harry a Warrior ring in recognition of his support of the team.

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The way the Warriors were killing off penalties that night they could have been short-handed all the time and it wouldn't have made that much difference, especially the way the last line of defence was operating.

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difference though, this sort of thing can not be condoned in any arena around the country. These guys that officiate at hockey games take quite a verbal going over from boisterous fans for the pitance they receive, but physical violence is something else again.

A guy standing on solid ground and leaning over the

rink security for something like this, unless the guard happens to be right on the spot at the time that it happens; with only one man security this is nigh on to impossible.

I hear that Castlegar lodged a protest over the game on Saturday night. I have no idea what it was about; probably it had something to do with the ejection of their coach, although I thought he had it coming to him. Then again they may have protested because the Warriors' goaltending was rather too professional for their liking. Anyway, whichever it was, it

going. The Warriors have been involved in quite a number of the overtime ones and have come out on top of most of them.

Incidentally, I want to say thanks to the Warriors for the nice little memento they gave me at Saturday's game. My association with the team has been a long and pleasant one and their ups and downs have been reflected in my day to day feelings. I am very happy to have had so close an association with the fine young men I have come to meet along the way and over the years I have been writing