

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

Predicting the outcome of a sports series is somewhat akin to bringing a child into the world, some will come up winners while others are destined to be losers. Again alike, it depends on the predictor and his or her ability to guess correctly what is in the future.

There are many things which can affect the outcome of either; the way a youngster will develop and turn out to be a success or failure, the same forces have a lot to do with the way things turn out in the sportsfields and arenas of the world.

I can just hear some of my more vociferous critics, "See, he's trying to cop a plea!". Oh, well we can't be right all the time, just thought I'd try to offer an explanation. But y'know, the more I think about it the more difficult I find it to understand what has gone wrong with the Buffalo hockey team.

Didn't Scotty Bowman scream before the last series ended that he wanted a chance to play Montreal? How would he have handled the Canadiens when his team finds their hands more than full with the New York Islanders.

I have a friend who has a favorite saying which goes something like this: "The cream will always come to the top." I'm getting more in

the way of believing he's got it right. Anyway, the way things are going right now it looks very much as though the team which wound up the season on top will probably be making an appearance in the finals and that of course makes John's little maxim carry a lot of weight, it that's the way things work out.

Of course those scrappy kids from Minnesota may still upset the apple cart. Not many people gave them much chance of overturning the Canadiens but they went out there and did it and the Flyers have not proven that they are invincible yet.

It would seem that the Islanders have pretty much of a stranglehold on their matchup with the Sabres but tonight the Sabres could get it together and extend that series. I don't think the odds would favor it but it has happened before and where there's life there's hope, we're told.

Since our minor soccer season got under way there have been discussions as to whether Rossland should continue to put so many teams into the Trail district league or whether we should run a house league as we do in hockey and take the best in each division to represent us in the league.

It is a point that will

probably be kicked around at meetings when we get around to having them and it is a point which will probably draw a number of adherents as the summer progresses.

I guess it will depend on how the teams make out in their various divisions. Should they prove competitive as is, it will kill the idea before it gets really started but should the opposition prove too strong for them, then those who want to see a rep team and a house league worked into our program will have some pretty strong backing. No one wants to lose continually, it's a fact of life.

However, it is a move which would have to be given quite a bit of consideration. Our present program gives all the kids who pay their money to play the game equal rights and those picked for the rep teams would automatically receive special status. This might not sit too well with the parents who foot the bill and it would be understandable.

There are several ways of looking at it. One is, if the house league were run in such a way that kids taking part in the program were given as much playing time as they get in the ordinary way, then the rep idea might become acceptable. It would, in fact, be better for everyone if our teams could go into the Trail league on an even basis.

It is something which will take a lot of consideration and will definitely not be possible during the on-going season. From my position as president of our Rossland organization, I would like to see it thrashed out very thoroughly before another season rolls around and if it is favorably received then perhaps it could be implemented in a coming season.

In last Saturday's games played in Rossland, Blaise Szekely's Royals came out on the long end of a 4-1 score over Joe Hughes' Celts, the PeeWee II team played some good soccer and some not so good. Some really loose goaltending allowed the Royals to score two early goals and they managed to hang on as the Celtic team

improved radically in the second half and had a good share of the play.

Carl Martin, Terry Ferguson and Dallas Drake got first-period goals and a 3-0 Royal lead, Tim Mayer added to that total in the second half while Derek Mayer got the Celtics on the scoreboard.

In the Bantam game between the City and Fruitvale Phantoms clashing colors forced the local boys to divest themselves of their shirts and play bareback.

The Phantoms struck first in the opening half to go up 1-0 on Scott Mitchell's goal; in the second half Pierre Habicht carried down his right wing, worked his way into the middle and in the ensuing goalmouth scramble scored what proved to be Rossland's only goal, to tie the score.

Rusty Nelson's shot from well outside the penalty area late in the second half, which eluded Dan Ferguson's fingertips and just got under the crossbar, proved to be the winner in a very well-played game. These two teams are very well matched but I thought the City defence showed some indecision which was definitely not the case with the Fruitvale backline boys. No doubt Jack McDonald's boys will be brushing up on their defensive tactics in practice in the near future.

Among the numerous projects the local Lions club has in the works at the moment is the annual Old Glory Nite. This popular event will be held this year May 30. There will be something there for everyone, the usual Boston baked beans and sourdough bread for supper, games of chance, a choice of refreshments and dancing to the music of the "Critters".

Be sure you get your ticket before the 30th, because we have been informed by the RCMP that we may not sell them at the door. It's against the law. Lysters Clothing in Rossland and any member of the Golden City Lions have the ducats for sale, so pick them up in time, hey.