PEPP-JALK

with Harry Pepper

The first thing I would like to do this week is to say "thank you" to every member of the 1979-80 Warriors, from coach Doug Buhr down to the youngest rookie. There were many youngsters used this season as coach Buhr sought to put together a successful team, in vain.

Despite a somewhat less than auspicious season during which the team probably established a new record for goals against, I, along with a number of other members of the faithful, could not help but admire the spirit displayed by a large percentage of those who found themselves clad in the red and white livery of this year's Warriors.

They had flashes of real entertaining hockey, like the part of the third period in their final game when they banged in four goals to put themselves back in the game at the time. To a true hometown fan these are the things that make all the setbacks easier to suffer.

There will be some of the boys departing because of age limitations and we shall miss them all, as we missed those who have gone before them. There will still be a limited source of potential candidates to fill those gaping holes left by the departing boys who have always given it their best.

During the presentation ceremonies between the second and third periods on Saturday night I was particularly impressed by the recognition by the executive of two boys, who, in a year of adversity, never failed to give it their all for their team and for the entertainment of their fans. These two, one from Castlegar and the other a native son of our city, Billy Nazaroff and David Espenhain, richly deserve their accolades. By saluting these two boys I do not wish to demean the roles played by the others; anyone in a true fan's position is almost certain to have favorites and these two boys won me over by their truly herculean efforts on behalf of their team.

used what they had, never hesitating to wade right in where the going was the toughest.

I got quite a kick out of an anecdote related to me one night recently by Robbie's dad, Bill. One morning, after one of the Warriors' bigger setbacks — 15-3 I think it was —when Robbie came down to breakfast, his dad asked, "How was the game last night?" Robbie's answer, "Oh it was a real goalies' duel," shows that these kids of ours do not exactly let adversity get them down too badly. I think it's a pretty healthy attitude for kids of this age.

So, once again, I would like to say "Thank you, Warriors" to everyone, management, trainers, coaches, players and the few faithful fans for the past few months of entertaining evenings spent in the arena.

Our next hockey entertainment will be on tap this weekend at the arena when the Fun hockey players open their two-day tournament on Saturday morning at 8 o'clock. Readers of The Times sports pages will have seen the lineup for the opening round of this competition. You can bet that the games will be loaded with action of the kind you have been looking for with the emphasis on playing, not fighting. The officials will crack down on any chippy stuff, it has no place in fun hockey anyway, so we should see lots of you there.

One added innovation this year will be that the kitchen in the arena lounge will be open at 7 o'clock on Saturday and Sunday morning to take care of anyone who needs a bite to eat before the first game. I was so informed by Greta Cox and Jean Dunstan who will be juggling the coffee and sandwiches for you all.

During the past weekend the Ladies' Curling Club held its annual Winter Wonderland bonspiel. Twenty-eight rinks from the East and West defeating the Florence Frew rink from Trail. Elsie Shorthouse and her rink from Trail defeated the Dawson rink from Grand Forks in the 'B' event, and in the 'C' it was Rossland's Gert Sandulescu who was victorious over the Treby foursome from Grand Forks.

Sherri Lyon of Castlegar led her rink to a win over Arlene Dyson of the host club in the 'D' competition and the lucky recipients of prizes in the draw conducted throughout the 'spiel were Louisa Paolone of Trail, Gudrun Thompson of Cranbrook, and Rossland's Albert Krest.

Everyone had fun and will be looking forward to next year's repeat of a real good show. It just goes to prove that while you may beat them occasionally on the ice, you will have to dig pretty deep to beat the Rossland Ladies as top-notch hosts.

This week the Retirees finished play in their third competition and Angus Popplewell squeezed by Norm Harry and Phil Bateman to take the trophy. These three skips will be meeting head-tohead in a playoff to decide which two rinks will journey to Nelson for the senior playdowns next week, Angus will have George Dyson at third, Gil Besso second and Jack Hook lead on his rink. Phil will have Dick Cotton, Russ Broughton and Arnold Vanness in support. Norman will enter the playoff with Rich Watkinson, Cleve Cowland and Tom Mitchell, his rink may be revised should he gain one of the Nelson spots.

The next competition is rotation all the way and will continue until the middle of March.

Also on the curling agenda is the ever-popular Legion One-Day 'spiel. Legion sports director Sam Keith has presented a brand new formula for this day's fun in late March and it promises to be another big success.

Upcoming events in the local branch are a pool

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Some of the boys will add some weight before another season rolls around - Robbie Martin and Bob Drake can both use some extra. I was often amazed at the way they hesitating to wade right in where the going was the

toughest.

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A Montrose rink skipped by Sharon Ripplinger was the winner of the 'A' competition,

from Trail. Elsie rink Shorthouse and her rink from Trail defeated the Dawson rink from Grand Forks in the 'B' event, and in the 'C' it was Rossland's Gert Sandulescu who was victorious over the Treby foursome from Grand Forks.

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Upcoming events in the local branch are a pool tourney, already under way, and a petition among branch members to decide an important question of branch management.

Then there was the termite who walked into a pub and asked. "Where's the bartender?"

Another Edworthy gem!