

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

On Sunday evening I saw my first full game in the Western International Soccer League and it was a good one — worth waiting for, if you want to put it that way.

Both teams gave it all they had and the score was quite fairly indicative of the trend of the play. Trail's young team, ably coached by Bob McCarthy, who for my money is the best in the area, took the play to Rossland, and while their first goal was a result of a poor back pass to Rossland's John MacDonald, Murray Hutchinson, Trail striker, was in position to tap it home before John could reach it. Their second was a fine play, a winging pass from the right side and Al Singh, who was outstanding for Trail, drove it home from close in.

Rossland trailed 2-1 at the half, but after the second half started they evened it up quickly. The Labatts were awarded a penalty shot for a tripping infraction and Chris Cockburn, who scored all the Rossland goals, made no mistake with his shot to the corner. Chris had converted a pass from Mike Murray for his first goal from the left side and added the winner in the second with an angled shot from the right side for his "hat-trick".

Rossland actually played a much improved game in the second half. Trail had given them a bad time in the first, pressing the Labatt defence to deeds of derring-do to keep them out. The Trail defence had their chance to show their worth in the second as Rossland kept the pressure on throughout the second 45 minutes. Final score was 3-2.

Labatt veterans Gerry Martin, Joe Hughes and Armando Demidaros all gave it their best lick and Keith Chapman, a tall midfielder, was a tower of strength at his position. Up front Cockburn, Murray and John Hughes kept the Trail goalie on his toes.

The Labatts now travel to Creston on Sunday where they will meet the winner of the Kimberley-Creston match-up to see who will move into the final against the winner of the Fernie-Cranbrook semi-final game. The final game will also be played on Sunday in the Orchard City.

Talking to the members of

the Labatts after the game on Sunday evening there was a lot of optimism voiced about the coming wind-up games. We wish them lots of luck!

While on the subject of soccer, John Craven's quick goals gave the Whitecaps their win over Dallas, now we have to see if the lone Canadian representative can get by the Aztecs and Johann Cruyff, whom they have yet to score on this season, in this second round match-up.

The other Canadian rep, Toronto Blizzard, had the misfortune to be drawn against the high-flying Cosmos in round one and went down fighting.

Back home for a minute, I thought that maybe Rossland's most vocal soccer supporter, John Hughes Sr., might earn himself a yellow card from his fellow-countryman, referee Jack Fisher, on Sunday, but it was not to be. John can't sit still at a game when his beloved Labatts are playing; he roves up and down that touchline like a caged tiger.

Well, the Dingbats have done it again. On Monday evening they came out on the long end of a 23-21 score in their weekly confrontation with the Oldtimers.

To use the words of our reporter of Dingbat activities, Gail McGonigal, "Tonight was one terrific game; we were in fine form! Both teams showed great talent and stability. Although the Dingbats did win, we must admit the fight was to the finish. We won't try to name all our players but everyone pulled off one stunt or another! There is no way to describe these games — what you see is what you get."

When Gail gets going on the fortunes of the Dingbats she can wax almost lyrical. An example follows: "The Oldtimers walked, ran and slid over the Dingbats, but not without great and fiery resistance. Tonight they were confused by one of the spectators, a large and friendly stuffed bear named George wearing a ball uniform. As a mascot of the Dingbats, he is very lovable, right, Donna?"

"By the way, Viv did get the RCMP to play; her husband, Cliff! We missed our star player, Bea, we need you! Did the ball shrink, Roy, or was that a golf ball? Hey, Coon is the best player on the field, lying on it!

"Heather says it took five weeks but she finally got home! Donna struck out, and paid for her error! No brand names, but a certain rep likes our fun. Thanks Ted. Cheers!

Was Babe sleeping or didn't he see the hole in the screen? Carol, it wasn't the same without you. Agreed, Jim?

"The Oldtimers are wormed up and ready to win. They are one of the teams entered in the Labor Day tourney. You can bet the opposition will be meeting their match. Of course, we'll be there to cheer them on with our Golden City Days spirit, after all we did beat them once!" Unquote!

That once is now twice, Gail. Think you can do it again on Sunday?

Personnel on these two fighting teams are, on the Oldtimers, John MacMaster, Ron Holm, Nigger Profili, Tongo Taylor, Babe Laface, John Colenso, Ron Cunningham, Jim Bateman, Ray Scott, and on Monday someone was replaced by Cindy Bateman, who plays for the Dingbats usually.

For the Dingbats it is David Davidson, Rick McGonigal, Brian Stevenson, Jim Albo, Viv Longmen, Donna Price, Roberta Delich, Bea Driscoll, Al Lepage, Heather Ritchie and Danny Friess.

These games have to be seen to be believed, no umps, no nothing, only fun, fun, fun!

Low net and least putts were the order of the day as the Retirees, 24 strong, played the Upper Course on Tuesday. John Melvin with a 32 and Bob Walley, 35, were low net winners while four tied with 13 putts apiece — Jack Barnes, Sam Maber, Guy Morey and Gerry Thompson.

George Chuvalo commenting on his 21 years as Canadian heavyweight champ: "I'm the best heavyweight fighter in Canada and I will be the best until I'm dead seven years."

That's it for this week!