

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Rossland's Annual Slo-Pitch Tournament for 1979 is now history, most of it was played under threatening skies on playing surfaces that were by no means ideal, despite extensive work done by the super-active committee to make the conditions playable.

A total of 35 games were scheduled over the two-day tourney, out of these one was defaulted, as Calgary's Animals, last year's winner, lost an 8 a.m. game to Vernon's ANAF. The report had it that they were held up in Trail for some reason and missed their deadline.

They had dropped their first two games, to the eventual winners, BA Rollers from Vernon, and the Sno-boys from Kamloops so their default sidelined them in defence of their title.

On their way to the final game the Rollers were unbeaten. After taking out Calgary in game one, they knocked off the Outfielders from Enderby, also on Saturday, then ran up three straight wins on Sunday to take all the marbles, beating Kamloops Kats and two Rossland aspirants to the title, the Road-Runners in the semis and the Orwell Scrap in the final game.

The Scrap team had to do it the hard way as they lost their first game to the Fortune Bakery team from Kamloops and then beat Vernon's Big 4, Rossland's Nuggets, Vernon's Claudes Radiator and the Outfitters to advance to the final against the Rollers.

The tournament was hotly contested throughout despite the over-all unfavorable conditions. The weather man certainly wasn't on his best behavior on Sunday, but most of the games were close and it seemed to me who were on the job of serving up the refreshments, that the spirit of the teams was certainly of an especially high standard.

Pearl-diving is a rather chilly job; it depends on the way it's done and it seemed that this year we had it down to a science. Borrowing some of Super-Valu's milk crates we were able to hand out each team's allotment at a moment's notice, utilizing the time between games to fill the crates with the required quota and clean the tables after the departing teams. Free coffee for those who wished for it was there, hot all the time, and lots of free pop for the youngsters. Food was available from noon on Sunday and it too was dispensed free of charge.

Chuck Harkness and the Legion's No. 1 and No. 2 Joes, Thalman and Gyte, plus yours truly, got quite a lot of compliments for our handling of the refreshments but it makes a long day from 9 a.m. to the end of the cleanup, 4:30 on Saturday and 7 p.m. on Sunday, but it can be quite pleasant when people are appreciative of your efforts. We met, as always, a heck of a lot of pretty nice people.

Most of them agreed it was a real good tourney and said they would be back again next year.

I think I can speak for Chuck and the two Joes when I say thanks to all the people who showed their appreciation. This goes for the visitors and the committee members too so we'll look forward to next year, too.

To the organizers, headed by Cam and Kenny and their wives, you people do a heck of a job. This is one of the reasons it is such a good weekend, enjoyed by everyone who will spread the word of Rossland's hospitality far and wide.

Next weekend our city will get another chance to welcome a lot of visitors as we swing into the annual Golden City Days celebration. The scope of this effort is quite a bit greater than the past weekend on a per capita basis and if as much effort is put into this as we have just witnessed then it too will be a rousing success story.

I understand a few snags have been encountered in the preparations, hopefully, they will be resolved without dampening the over-all picture of our big celebration. Despite a determined effort by the contractors it does not look as though the roof on the arena will be complete by opening day, so we'll just have to pray for good weather and hope our prayers are answered.

The city of Vancouver's sports enthusiasts are having what appears to be their best summer ever. Led by the

Whitecaps all the city-based teams, Canadians in baseball and the Lions in football, are showing their mettle and the fans are really eating it up, long queues of ticket searchers are the result of the city's contending teams in all the major summer sports. Now if the Canucks can become a legitimate contender in the NHL, Vancouver can really have a banner year in the sports world.

The feat of the Whitecaps in knocking off the Cosmos in their home park has to rank as one of the super achievements of recent years. Now they have to handle the Tampa Bay Rowdies in the same fashion to take it all in a sudden-death match-up against the other last year's finalist.

By the way, one of the Vernon Slo-Pitch players lost a brown velour jacket either at the banquet on Saturday night at the High School, at one of the playing fields or at the Arena; it has stripes on the sleeves and a zipper front, Dennis O'Ferrall would appreciate its return, it can be sent COD to Box 193, Vernon, B.C. or notify me at 362-5205 and I will make arrangements to forward it to him.

It was almost a rainout at the upper course on Tuesday morning for Retirees Day, seven golfers were present and Walt Gerrand turned in a low net 34 for a ball and Al Turner got one for being an average golfer. Let's hope the weather will co-operate for next week.