

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

With summer 1979 now behind us and, in one man's opinion, the most beautiful season of the year upon us, things that come foremost into the mind of a person who pens one of these, primarily concerned with, sports columns, are, the World Series, hunters and their bags, the CFL progression towards the Grey Cup and hockey training camps.

Such mundane matters as putting up the storm sash, repairing the long-neglected roof of the house and finishing that flooring job on the front porch will just have to take a back seat until all our assessments of the various sports events to come have been dealt with.

The Montreal Expos' search for their first-ever National League pennant has been dealt a severe blow during the last couple of days by the team they have to beat, the Pirates from Pittsburgh. Losing by one run and then in extra innings, it seems to me, have a much more demoralizing effect on a team than any other type of loss, especially one like the Expos who have seen their lead overtaken by the Pirates and have come back to recapture the top spot again. They know they are going to have to win to keep contact with a team which has a history of terrific tenacity when the chips are down.

The Expos, even should they lose, should not be ashamed, they have a terrific ball club as thousands of loyal fans will attest, and they are definitely not out of it yet.

The only news of "hunters and their bags" I have at this time comes from Laurie Aaltonen, better known as

"Tubby". Laurie is the proud possession of one of the first elk to be harvested from the Christina Lake herd, transplanted some years ago from the East Kootenay.

Tubby's son-in-law, Paul Bunn, was the lucky recipient of one of the five permits awarded to hunt one of the now around-300-strong herd. Tubby went along as Paul's hunting partner and they were rewarded with a 568-pound animal while hunting in the upland area to the right of and above the Paulsen Bridge. You can bet that some of the buttons flew out of Tubby's vest as he related this adventure. "Good shooting, fellas".

After Sunday's debacle in Edmonton and the reaction of the Lions' Vic Rapp to the Eskis rubbing it in a little by scoring another touchdown with seconds to go, I would be inclined to think that the Lions are going to have to realize that they might as well be resigned to trying to hold on to second place and hope the luck of the draw may see the Edmonton squad matched against someone else who may be able to knock them off in the first round of the playoffs.

When you get six tries for a touchdown inside the five-yard line and can't bull it over there's got to be something you haven't practised hard enough on; either that or the opposition has a real desire to stop you. If the Eskimos continue to play the way they played Sunday it's going to take more than cry-baby tactics to faze them.

The Lions will face a vastly improved Argonaut team on Sunday and this game will

tend to show if they can get over a humiliating loss and bounce back or whether it is going to have a lasting effect on them.

I haven't had a look at the Warriors in training camp yet but reports have it that things are looking good, the ice is going in now, lines were being marked out yesterday on around a ¼" of ice, so we can look forward to the team's first exhibition towards the end of the month.

Next week I will have put in some time railbirding and may have a few names to bandy around as to the players to watch in the coming season.

The Canucks' coach, Harry Neale, seems pretty satisfied with his troops at their camp in Powell River. They are essentially a young team and they seem to have reported to camp ready to go. Reports have it that the occasional fisticuffs in scrimmage are not bothering Neale too much so I guess he figures the guys are just letting off steam.

Locally, I have two announcements to make. First, the Golden City Lions Club has decided to discontinue its birthday calendar drive for one year. The season is now running late and rather than have a repeat of last year's letdown it was decided to shelve it for a year and re-open the issue early next year in the hope it would take off again as it did in the first effort a couple of years back.

The boat people are due in Rossland in the near future. If you can help in any way, transportation, etc., would you like to contact Mim Castle at 362-5777 and let her know what you have to offer.