

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

A new year, a new decade, who knows what they will bring us? I heard a guy on TV yesterday reporting on the outpourings of a so-called prophet and if his report is to be taken seriously the inhabitants of this planet might just as well start preparing to cash in their chips. However, he did end on a cheerful note when he said, to wind it all up, "You know, prophets have been known to be wrong."

Prophets of doom have been peddling their wares, have been forecasting the end of it all, long before the ken of our oldest citizens. If they had been right in some instances we wouldn't even be here now, so I guess we'll do what we have done in the past and take it all with a grain of salt.

Enough of this talk of disaster. From what we saw on the tube on New Year's morning, amateur hockey in Canada may be about to get a real shot in the arm. The Canadian Olympic hockey team's victory over the Czechs by quite a comfortable margin shows that we can expect a return to the days when senior amateur teams from this country, like the Penticton Vees and the Trail Smoke Eaters, carried our colors to victory in the big world tournaments. Perhaps that is being a little presumptuous, but at least we seem to have taken a step in the right direction by putting together this group of athletes to represent us in the big one at Lake Placid. It seemed to me that the under-staffed teams in the NHL would like to have a chance to grab on to some of these young men.

Then again, maybe I've got the wrong slant on this. Of the European teams that come over here on some of these exhibition jaunts, some seem to prosper while others fall flat on their faces. Isn't there a possibility that we might be being given the treatment. When it comes to the big ones, the Soviets, Czechs, Swedes and now even the Finns show

Warriors play and was really impressed with the showing of the team as a whole. It would almost appear that the growing pains they have suffered all season, are beginning to straighten themselves out and they are finding that they can play comfortably with one another.

If the Warriors can survive a season like this one, when just about everything that can happen to a team has happened to them — coaching changes, internal flare-ups, terrible lack of fan support and the key injuries — yes, if they can survive, they could come out next season prepared to do a real job. Their rookie crop will be pretty stable and the talent that's there is unmistakable. After the two games against Trail and Castlegar, this team of Warriors has nothing to be ashamed of.

I don't know what the feelings of the majority of Canadian fans is with regard to the surfeit of college football we have to put up with on the tube over the New Year holiday. I only know that personally, I could gladly pass on a lot of them. The only thing is nowadays the Canadian stations are cluttered with them too. Can you imagine an American viewer watching a football game between UBC and U of Calgary? I can't, I have no feeling whatever as to who they name the No. 1 college team in the nation, I couldn't care less. The millions of fans who attend the seemingly never-ending parade of college football games must find something entertaining about it but to yours truly it's just a bore; I'd get more kick out of a two-hour stint of Three's Company or Mork and Mindy.

On Friday it's back to the fray as the Retirees swing back into action after the Christmas-New Year break. So far this season our curling has been great, the turnout by

will lead. We probably won't create any havoc in the end result by our efforts, but I'll bet we'll have fun. I can't think of any guys I'd rather go with.

This year we spent both the big holidays at home. Christmas we were alone but on New Year's Day we had company, good friends who enjoyed what we had to offer and a few very pleasant hours spent in convivial company is what makes a holiday what it's meant to be.

I imagine we will be hearing some details about the up-coming Play-for-Fun tourney to be held, I understand, in February. Another event I would like to go and watch this year is the Pontiac Cup races at Red Mountain. Would you believe, in all the years I've been around here, on only one occasion have I ever been to watch an event up there. That was way back when the jumping was held across the road from the Reservoir, and I mean that is way back. I think I'd enjoy it.

From a national sports magazine, comes this one which for my money rates as a gem. Serge Savard, Canadiens defenceman, after playing against Hartford and Gordie Howe: "He didn't show me anything new. All our guys have been playing like 51-year-olds this season."

Till next week, then!

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Then again, maybe I've got the wrong slant on this. Of the European teams that come over here on some of these exhibition jaunts, some seem to prosper while others fall flat on their faces. Isn't there a possibility that we might be being given the treatment. When it comes to the big ones, the Soviets, Czechs, Swedes and now even the Finns show up with those well-oiled machines that seem to run like clockwork, while we have been striving for the right combination by putting together teams of stars who seldom seem to jell when it comes down to the nitty-gritty.

By keeping this team together we could maybe re-establish our good name in hockey. What has been done so far seems pretty good to build on. It would appear to be good sense, sorta like the saying about the family that plays together, this one would be in reverse, the team that stays together, plays better together, over the long haul.

While on hockey, I can say that for the first time in a long time I went to watch the

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On Friday it's back to the fray as the Retirees swing back into action after the Christmas-New Year break. So far this season our curling has been great, the turnout by the curlers has been well above average and the competition has been keen. Over the holiday we received an invitation from the Trail Retirees for a visit on Jan. 14 and I for one hope it is accepted. We participated with a lot of them on the golf courses this past summer and the occasions were always pleasurable experiences and I would expect the ones on ice would be the same.

I don't know how many members from Branch No. 14 will be going to the Legion Zone bonspiel in Nelson in February. Our rink is the only one on the board so far; Norm Harry will skip, I'll play third, Cleve Cowland will be second and Bruce Ackerman

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