

PEPP-ALK

with
Harry
Pepper

I don't know if you realize it or not, but something struck me the other day about something which appears in The Times once a week and something which I personally look forward to reading. They are the weekly reports from the various recreation departments in our area.

The Castlegar and Rossland editions mostly appear on the same day and Trail's and Beaver Valley's could show up on any day, but the thing which struck me about them is the wealth of information contained in them. They are mostly concerned with what is being offered by their various bodies in the form of recreation of any and all types. Of course, those originating in the arenas where most of the recreation commissions are headquartered get a lot of play because those are the things that furnish the commissions with the returns from the original investment of recreation dollars.

One thing I like about them is that they are written in a folksy manner which I think tends to bring the writers and their readers closer together right off the bat. People who read them are definitely not looking for anything sensational, rather they want to know what is being offered by the commissions to all and sundry to justify their existence; without these weekly reports everyone would be pretty much in the dark as to what goes on in the battle for survival, as the

recreation commissions can easily turn out to be a whipping boy for their bosses, the various boards or councils which dictate just how much operating leeway the recreation people are going to get.

Talking about information gleaned from these reports, I noticed that this past week, Babs Bouchier, who does an excellent job for the Rossland body, is directing our thoughts to the formation of a new executive body for our minor soccer program.

When minor soccer started in Rossland some years back, I was quite close to it for some time, but as I watched its progress I became convinced that it was in capable hands and I, like a number of others, took the attitude that seems quite prevalent in society today — if someone else is willing to take up the challenge, let them have it.

I don't know the exact makeup of the present RMSA executive, but I would venture a guess that quite a number of them are long-time members and understandably feel the tedium of their long tenure in office.

There are a number of people in town with enough soccer background to do a job to see that the good work which has been done to forward this popular sport in our area has not been in vain. When the proposed meeting date is announced, as it has been promised it will be, it would be nice to see a good-

sized meeting with lots of available people to fill a slate prepared to do their bit for a pretty good cause. I'll be there and I have the time to use now, so I hope you'll join me.

When we first started Minor Soccer in Rossland we had a nucleus of players who had come from the school program and these boys formed a juvenile team which pretty well dominated their division for some time. Some of those boys are now playing on the senior Labatts team, but we are beginning to see our kids in the other categories beginning to more than hold their own now. It is a sign that the groundwork done by those on the coaching lines has been well conducted; we can all say thank you to these people for a job well done.

It will be interesting to see what is going to happen to the senior team in the coming season. The loss of their playing coach was a real blow. Who they will get to fill his shoes remains a moot point. Yes, it will be real interesting to watch what transpires in the coming season; the all-round competition is getting stronger as the years go by with the constant supply of aspiring players coming out of the minor program around the country. The momentum for soccer is strong and getting stronger — let's hope it is maintained.

Another sport, which is now

having a rebirth in our town, is lacrosse. Last year a move was made to lure some help for our Redmen from coastal points where there has been a surfeit of good lacrosse players for some years. Playing as they do in one of the top lacrosse leagues in its category in the country, the management feels our local boys would gain a great deal from the experience of the people from the coast. We shall see what happens when the Redmen swing into action this summer.

As was expected the current Castlegar-Trail series in the KIJHL playoffs is beginning to look as though it is going to develop into a real dog-fight before it is over, two well-matched teams who could go right down to the wire before it is decided.

The first two games were comparatively comfortable wins for the respective teams on home ice, but the third was a different story. Tied up in the late going it remained for former Warrior star centreman, Mike Oliver, to break the tie and give Trail the 2-1 advantage in the series.

On last thought: Seems strange to be that the B.C. Senior Hockey League are into the last stages of their playoffs while the WIHL are only now beginning theirs.

With the two leagues meeting in the Savage Cup showdown, someone is going to have to wait quite a while. I wonder if this is calculated or just happenstance!