

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Once again I failed to get out to Red Mountain this past weekend to witness a sport which I have seen lots of on TV but not live since way back when I went to watch the jumping at the old jump site across from the reservoir.

I had hoped to get out there to the Pontiac Cup races but several things cropped up which prevented it; a trip to Trail Thursday, the visit by the Trail Retirees which consumed most of Friday and an unexpected visit from an old friend on Saturday, all contrived to shatter my hopes of making it out to the ski lodge.

The events got good coverage in the papers and on local TV, which they rightly should, so I didn't miss out entirely, but they tell me that it's pretty exhilarating to be on the spot to witness the thrills and spills of such highly rated performers as were out at Red this past weekend.

Anyway to get back to a sport which has been occupying a lot of my time lately and will continue for the balance of this week. Tuesday we wound up our

regular schedule with a couple of playoff games made necessary by ties happening in the regular competition. Phil Bateman won out over George Dyson to capture the final competition, a rotation affair, which they had tied with 7-1 records.

Tonight will see our season windup party where the members will engage in points curling, an annual meeting, eating chicken and fixings, and have the usual sociable hour or two bending their elbows. Everyone who has spent the winter curling on our club seems to be in agreement that the past winter has been an outstanding success story and are looking forward to inviting their friends to come along and compete next year.

A few adjustments will be made at the meeting, no doubt, some new blood will be injected into the executive, which is always welcome and necessary.

I have heard rumors that a call may be made for some of our more adept curlers to conduct a school for the newcomers who would like to know what the game is all

about before deciding whether to join or not.

It has been a real good sign that most of our newer members this winter have shown a real desire to better themselves at the game, have been the most constant in their attendance and really got behind the club to make it go.

Then, on Sunday, comes the Legion One-Day 'Spiel, an annual event to which curlers from Trail, Fruitvale and Castlegar branches are invited to take part in the one-day festivities. Always a day of fun from every angle, it will be the last gasp of the curling season at the Rossland Arena for '79-'80.

During the past weekend some 64 local curlers took part in a mixed 'spiel in which some 32 games were run off in the space of about 14 hours on Saturday evening and Sunday. Divided into two classifications "A" and "B", the two sections alternated all day Sunday after each played one game on Saturday night and the whole thing operated quite smoothly. A late supper and dance followed the proceedings Saturday night and I'm told that quite a number of the revellers didn't get to bed until quite late Sunday morning.

One of the guys in this category upon showing up for his game on Sunday, looked rather weather-beaten. Upon being asked why he didn't take something to ease the pain, he said he tried to take some Alka-Seltzer but the bubbles made so much noise it made him feel worse.

Topping the field was the Tom Feeney rink with 27 points, based on one for each end won and two for a win. Tommy also won the "A" section over Ted Wiltshire (25 points) and Jimmy Albo with 23. In the "B" section it was even closer, with Angus Popplewell edging the Arnold Vanness rink by one point, 25-24, and the Ivan Bell rink just one point back.

Prizes were all of the liquid variety, ranging from rum and gin through wine, this time, the first ever. I happened to be part of a winning rink, the luck of the draw and what was to be expected for

partners, Angus Popplewell, Irene Dunlop and Irene Martin and I have to thank them all for their much-needed support which resulted in us surviving a terrific licking at the hands of the Jack Malchow rink to hang on to first place in the "B".

On the evening of the 19th I attended an annual party to which I have been invited for quite a number of years now. It is the annual windup for all the minor hockey players and their coaches and while it is always probably the noisiest party I attend during a year, I always enjoy it.

The presentation of prizes for the various categories followed a sumptuous repast, put on by the mothers of the kids, and a few remarks by guests at the head table.

This year's awards went to Derek Kelly in the novice group, Martin Plut of the Atoms, Jamie Stewart in the Pee Wee Tier 2 group and Danny Castle of the Pee Wee, Tier 1 group.

There were four awards to players in the Bantam group, Kenny Drake, Lorne Edwards, Dan Ferguson and Tom Mitchell being the deserving recipients; in the Midget group, the Most Improved player was Fred Christensen and the winner of the Kneest family trophy for the Most Sportsmanlike player was Doug Phillips.

This corner would like to congratulate all the boys named above for being chosen the top performers in their classes but we do not want to pass by the others who had to struggle through another season without much recognition.

Rest assured we appreciate your efforts, so keep up the good work, there's always another year and as Junior coach Doug Buhr told you in his remarks, there will always be room for the hard workers on the Warriors. That's something to work towards, isn't it?

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With the upcoming removal of the ice from the main arena floor the Rossland Redmen will be strutting their stuff in preparation for the coming season. Publicity man for the club, Roy Grant, tells me they have quite an array of new faces to parade for the lacrosse fans this summer.

Let's hope they help the Redmen to a really successful season in 1980. This town has always appreciated good lacrosse and has seen many starry performers come and go over the years. Maybe we are on the verge of another spectacular run, we shall look forward to watching what develops.