

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

After these many years I am going to be active in the soccer movement in our city and it gives me a good feeling.

Last week, on Thursday evening and again on Saturday morning, I attended registration exercises at city hall for the movement and was well pleased with what I saw going on.

Thursday evening John Habicht and I took the particulars of some 70 kids who came to join and Saturday morning I got help from John's wife and his son Pierre. This time we ran the count to some 123 kids overall and there were one or two who took forms and said they would turn them in at John's home.

On our Saturday morning session we had a visit from a Clyde Moore who signed up his kids and told us he was living in Trail at the present time but would be moving to Rossland in June. He and his wife both have had considerable experience in the soccer field up at Fort McMurray and other places in B.C.

Up there, from what Clyde told us, they have initiated a six-man system for the Mosquitos which allows the wee ones to get in more field time. From what he explained to us, this is one category in which the rules regarding coaching are fairly flexible as the coach is allowed on the field to act in any capacity he sees it, coach, trainer, father-confessor, referee or general morale-booster.

The kids play on a restricted field, Clyde tells us, so two games can proceed at once on a regulation soccer field, one in each half, playing crossways.

From what we gathered on Saturday, the Moores will be a welcome addition to Rossland's soccer family. It's not too often that we get an offer of this kind of specialized help with experience built in.

Most of us might have had soccer experience but we had to learn the niceties of the technical aspects of running a program. Welcome, Moores, to Rossland. I think you'll

candidates as regards the various categories, but I do know that there are a preponderance of youngsters in the two pee wee categories. Bantams, I believe will be in adequate numbers and there are quite a bunch of Mosquitoes; Midget and Juvenile are non-existent in the present program, which we share with Trail and Beaver Valley.

One thing about the program which we all agree upon is the urgent need for monitoring personnel. Coaches, assistant coaches and referees, are needed urgently, in order to run the program satisfactorily. We really need these people, so, if you are willing to give a hand to help your own kids and others enjoy themselves, give either John or myself a dingle. John's phone is 362-5637 and mine is 362-5205.

If you have rudimentary knowledge of the mechanics of soccer, you could become very valuable to us; even if you haven't there are a number of ways we could put you to work helping out. This game does not require too much equipment but it can sure use the people to help make it go.

We don't have a large executive but if we get the help we need, it will be adequate and not unwieldy.

Schedules and playing times should soon be forthcoming from the various leagues we well be participating in, so watch for them in your schools or on the various billboards around town. We'll get the message to you one way or another.

When you talk about activity in sports on the local scene, you don't have to look much further than the gent I have mentioned in my report on the soccer picture. John Habicht is also very active in the fun softball movement, a member of the executive of Rossland's super-active Fun league. He seems to blossom when the weather begins to look like spring, anything that smacks of fun in the sun is right up John's alley.

He tells me that softball will be starting, like soccer, in

our own annual Slo-Pitch tourney, which this year will be played at an earlier date (I haven't heard the reason for the change yet) plus the various Slo-Pitch tourneys we send representatives to around the province.

This arrangement has apparently proven satisfactory to the Fun players and it seems to be working very well. It would be quite a burden on any group to handle the whole production, league schedule, playoffs, etc. plus the ever-growing number of tournaments.

How did you like my forecasts of the preliminary round in the Stanley Cup playoffs? Seven out of eight correct ain't bad! All aglow over my success, I have to step out on the proverbial limb and call them the way I see 'em in the quarter-finals.

This time I'm not going to try to explain my reasons for my picks, just call 'em and let the chips fall where they may. That way I may get my hair full of sawdust, but anyhow, here goes.

Montreal over Minnesota despite Lafleur's absence, Philadelphia over the Rangers, this may be a tough series, Buffalo over Chicago, the long series could work in the Sabres' favor and if Boston plays like they did in the final game against Pittsburgh, they will advance over the Islanders.

From over in the Okanagan, Chow Sdao has sent me clippings from the Penticton Herald telling of the Knights series with the Red Deer Rustlers in which the B.C.-Alberta section of the Centennial Cup playoffs was decided in favor of the Alberta squad in four straight games.

From what I read in the clippings the Red Deer squad didn't do anything to win friends or influence people in the Penticton arena. From coach John Chapman on down they showed very little that would endear them to a losing club's fans. Chapman apparently hassled the officials

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Word will go out through the schools as to our next move on the soccer front. Once the snow goes we shall be starting to move and with the weather the way it has been for the past few days, that should not be too long.

I didn't go into detail with John on the disposition of

candidates as regards the various categories, but I do know that there are a preponderance of youngsters in the two pee wee categories. Bantams, I believe will be in adequate numbers and there are quite a bunch of Mosquitoes; Midget and Juvenile are non-existent in the present program, which we share with Trail and Beaver Valley.

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He tells me that softball will be starting, like soccer, in May, just as soon as the fields are in shape will determine the exact date. The Fun organization looks again to another big season.

This organization is unique in one respect. There are two separate executives, one runs the league, while the other handles all the arrangements for tournament participation,

our own annual Slo-Pitch tourney, which this year will be played at an earlier date (I haven't heard the reason for the change yet) plus the various Slo-Pitch tourneys we send representatives to around the province.

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We who have seen Penticton coach, Marc Pezzin, in action, know that he isn't a model of decorum in the box, so I tend to think it was a pretty interesting series on the whole.