

PEPP-TALK

JULY 18/80

with
Harry
Pepper

Last Sunday evening I attended a meeting held to enlighten the people of Rossland as to what they can look for in this year's edition of the Warriors.

Chairman for the meeting was Jim Markle, who has been the Warrior manager for some time now. He was flanked by last year's coach Doug Buhr and his assistant, Tim Steinke, also present was a third member of last year's staff, Doug Hinton.

Markle opened the meeting by saying that the goal of this year's executive is to try to put the team back on the road up after last year's rather disastrous campaign. He cited figures comparing last year's expenditures and a projected budget for the coming season, and gave us an idea of special projects in mind with which it is hoped to double the non-hockey revenue.

He told of putting ads in papers in Eastern Canada and the U.S. and has already had promises from two boys in Bay City, Mich. and one from Rochester, N.Y. These boys will not be able to work up here because of the law, but some thought has been given to the possibility of getting them jobs in Northport. This has not progressed beyond that stage yet.

The second speaker was Doug Buhr who said he felt this season he was more prepared to do the job of coaching the Warriors than he had been last season. He felt that with the help he now has he is looking forward to the challenge the job offers.

He stated that a form letter will be sent to selected boys, both team members from a

year ago and prospective additions, inviting them to attend a dry-land training camp scheduled to start Sept. 8.

He stressed that the letter will be an invitation only and will in no way be a promise to anyone that he has a spot with the team. Each and everyone will have to earn that.

Ice is expected to be available by Sept. 24. The schedule this season will see the team play 20 home games plus two exhibitions. Neil Murdock, of the Warrior transportation crew, will be responsible for this year's schedule drawing.

Buhr told of having attended a clinic for coaches in Victoria recently. He said he got quite a lot out of it, among other things was a speech by the coach of Canada's Olympic hockey team, in which the speaker stressed that enthusiasm was the main ingredient for success and thinking you can achieve will help you meet your goals.

Rossland's coach said that the aim is to put the team back on a winning track, discipline is a must but first and foremost he wants his players to enjoy what they are going. He expects everyone to be on time for all practice sessions, games and trips out of town and special attention will be given to the public image of the team, i.e. dress, etc.

He also said that while at the clinic he was in contact with Marc Pezzin of the Penticton Junior "A" team, also the coach of the Seattle Breakers, whom he knows. Both are willing to send boys to Rossland from their camps.

He thanked the dozen or

more interested people who turned out, for their attendance.

Jim Markle gave an outline of the projects he has in mind to raise non-hockey revenue. There will be raffles of a barbecue grill, conducted at the Fall Fair, and possibly two others during the season, the kind to which Rossland fans are accustomed. Tim Steinke and John McMasters will be looking after these and will recruit more help as needed.

Season tickets will be sold door-to-door prior to this season. They will be available in all categories and substantial savings are possible from the wicket prices which will be \$2.50 for adults, \$2 for students and \$1.50 for kids.

A suggestion was made that the adult ticket door-to-door price be \$40. When you figure 22 home games at \$2.50, that's a savings of \$15 by buying in advance and the salesman will be right at your door. Kids' and students' season tickets will also mean savings.

Arnie Sherwood is free of the officiating task of the last couple of years and has consented to look after the program project, and will be assisted by Wayne Harder.

Offers have already been forthcoming from two different parties to produce a program similar to the one made up for the Redmen, with a change of centrefold for each home game.

The bottle draws in the lounge which Neil Murdoch conducted last season were really successful and will be continued this year.

The lounge may have an added attraction this season. It has been suggested that maybe the Retirees would be willing to open their kitchen facility for the sale of coffee and hot dogs on behalf of Minor Hockey. Talking to a couple of members of the Retirees Club yesterday drew a favorable response; more will be heard about this August 25 when Minor Hockey holds its next meeting.

Dave Adams will again be responsible for the lounge operation and will get help this year from John McFarland Sr.

Ron Honey, Terry Woodhouse and Ray Dominici will be in charge of season tickets sales.

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The club executive will be receptive to any and all ideas which will help to improve the club's financial position. They will also be looking for a few more billets for incoming players. They have some already promised but may need one or two more so if you can see your way clear let them know about it.

All in all it was a pretty interesting meeting. I will use this column to keep you abreast of happenings in the Warrior cause as they come up.