

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

With the soccer season, like summer, nearing its end, one of the teams in the Trail and District Minor Soccer League is really experiencing a rebirth, if you could call it that.

Jack McDonald's Rossland Bantams had a very so-so first half of the season, but since they started back in early September these kids have just been flying.

Jack made some adjustments to his lineup, moved his goalie out to become a sweeper and tried another boy in goal and the move has paid off. First, it

was a 3-0 triumph over Fruitvale out in the valley, then a 5-2 win over West Trail in Tadanac; then on Friday night on their home field in a steady downpour the boys came up with a 1-0 win over the always powerful Warfield team.

Later this week they were scheduled to go up against East Trail, hoping to keep their record intact. With the playoffs soon to be under way the boys are really beginning to find themselves and hope for a successful windup to their season.

While on the subject of

soccer, we watched as the Vancouver Whitecaps, last year's NASL champions, fiddled with their lineup throughout the season and got knocked out of the playoffs in the first round. Talk about a lesson in futility! That was the story of the Whitecaps in 1980, while once again the mighty Cosmos, led by the scoring heroics of Chinaglia, are at the top of the heap.

Meanwhile, news from the Old Country tells me that Ipswich Town is experiencing another fine season, thanks to the addition of a couple of Dutch players they have added during the off-season. The team from the East Anglian town, near which I spent my boyhood years, who have previously won the league championship and the FC Cup, have started the season with a real spurt and at present rest in top spot in the First Division.

Once again the Rossland Arena is geared to the winter sports and the Warriors' 1980-81 season kicked off on Thursday evening with an exhibition game against the Junior Smoke Eaters. This year's edition of the Rossland team has been working out under Coach Doug Buhr and his assistants, Dave Murray and Doug Hinton, for over three weeks now and are beginning to look like they mean business.

The first cuts were made after Sunday's scrimmage and there will be more to come. It's something that no coach likes to do, but with the rules dictating that you can only have so many players on the roster, it resolves into a fact of life.

Some 30 players are left at present, five of whom are goalies, four of them are working out while the other is sidelined by injury. One of these boys is still young enough to play in the midget group for a couple of years and will in all probability go back there with a possibility of call-up if needed. Hoss Drake is looking sharp and if he gets the support out front which was sadly lacking last season, he could have a real good year.

A couple of back-up candidates, Sid Harry and Greg

Lee are also looking to get a spot on the team. Harry, a local youngster, looks right at home, while Lee, out of Yakima, Wash., looks like a prospect; he may take time to adjust to his new surroundings.

Six defencemen were tried on Sunday. If size has anything to do with it, the Warriors won't be short-changed. Rick Woodhouse, Peter Corrado, Rick Ponton, Jim Nazareff, Mike Bolton and Dave Foyle are all in the large category. Ponton and Bolton are from the Okanagan and Foyle is in his first season out of minor hockey; the other three are holdovers from last year. They all appear to be working well together in their respective duos.

Billy Nazareff is back again, looking sharp as ever, and actually looks a little bigger. On Sunday he worked between Rob Martin and Mark Rusten — this could be a real threat once they get working together.

Marty Lizotte, also from the Okanagan, worked with Tim McNulty and John Caron, both of whom played in 79-80. Bart Camaratta came here from Bay City, Mich. and was working with Allan Simm and Murray Walters, both of them up from the minors; Simm showed us some nifty moves on Sunday. Terry Halisheff is from Castlegar and worked with Peter McLellan and Brian Edwards. McLellan, son of former Warrior coach, Lloyd, is not big, but he makes up for it in enthusiasm, some good moves too. Both he and Edwards are rookies.

Five youngsters up from the minors are still working hard for a spot on the team. They are Kenny Davis, Kevin MacMaster, Terry Martin, Danny Ferguson and Marcel Lavigne. Holdovers from last year, Bob Drake and Dale Bailey, were not on hand Sunday, one working and the other sick.

Well, now we shall have to wait and see what develops. There is some size and developing talent in this year's edition of the Warriors, enough to make us forget last season's sorry performance if they can get it together.