

A trip to the East Kootenay is always something to remember, especially when you travel with Neil Murdoch. When you travel in this fashion you never have to worry about your welfare, it's just like All-State, you are in good hands.

The past weekend was spent in the company of the Rossland Warriors. The boys didn't add any points to their league standings but they earned a lot of respect to their image in the East Kootenay. Sure, they lost both games on their trip but they never quit.

They knew when they went in there that they were going to run up against two of the teams which could cause them a lot of trouble. They got it too. This Sparwood-based team, they call them the Elk Valley Raiders, play the game in a very physical fashion.

The game Saturday evening was not one of the best-officiated games I have ever witnessed. The officials allowed the game to get out of hand and they never did get it under control.

Tempers on both sides were running pretty high and the consequent result was a game which left a lot to be desired as far as fan enjoyment was concerned.

Sure, the Sparwood fans enjoyed it, naturally they would. I actually believe the team is trained to use the heavy end of the game in the intimidation process and their fans eat it up. In such a case, you need a firm hand on the game and that was definitely not in evidence Saturday night.

The Sparwood Arena is a spacious building though the

Rossland. We stopped in Cranbrook for a Chinese smorgasbord, that's quite a combination of nationalities, ain't it? As I said before, when you travel with Neil it's comfortable, so we got home safely and in good time.

Two or three important notes to wind up this week. Karen Lecuyer called me the other night to pass along some information regarding an organization called Trail Community Action. Nov. 21 in the Cominco Arena this organization will promote an Old-Timers Hockey Game with the proceeds to go to benefitting low-income families in the direction of helping these people enjoy the recreation facilities available to people in a better financial position in our area.

We would like to say that this sounds like a pretty good idea, it would be a good thing to give your support.

Carol Albo wished me to pass along the following note re Business Ladies Curling. Looking for another good season the women will hold open house at the Curling Rink at 7 p.m. Nov. 3, that's this coming Monday, come one, come all ladies, you're welcome.

Meanwhile, a group of older citizens, namely the retirees, held a meeting on Tuesday to decide various questions regarding their curling future. Some decisions were arrived at, cost per person to enjoy the grand old game for

the coming season, when and how they will be able to enjoy it and certain technical problems that plague any organization.

Suffice to say that the retirees will once again be alive and curling again this season, opening day is Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 10 a.m. If you have never tried it before and you are retired and would like to give it a whirl, come on out and give it a try. I'll bet you'll be glad you did.

During the past week I received a clipping from "Chow" Sdao in Penticton from the local paper. It was a report on the resignation of the BCJHL referee-in-chief and his thoughts on the subject of officiating in the Interior Division.

Pat Clarke, the gent in question, is a former NHL linesman and should know whereof he speaks. He says that getting knocked by everyone from the managers, through owners, coaches, players, fans and the media is all the thanks they get for giving the game the best they know how.

Clarke is talking of his league, but I do think that he could be a mouthpiece for a whole lot of officials throughout the country. Officials are a much-maligned species, I think we all tend to lay the blame for a bad game on the men in the striped shirts and most of the weight of our arguments lands on the fellow with the red armbands.

One of his arguments is that

officials should be moved around the league so that people would not have to watch the same people in action all the time. I have brought this subject up on occasion with local officials, the answer. "Where will the money come from?"

Surely there must be money for this sort of thing, distances in the divisions of our league are not that great, a neutral referee and local linesman for each game should not be that money-consuming.

I have to agree with Clarke on a lot of points he makes. The sooner the league moguls start taking note of some of the ref's gripes the better it will be for all concerned, particularly the fans, the guys who pay the shot.

I have this clipping at home, if you would like to read it let me know, it's worth more than the time it takes to read it.

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The Sparwood Arena is a spacious building though the seat setup is not to my liking. If you sit on the bottom seat in the stands you have to bounce up and down on your seat to see what's going on. They have a metal guard rail in front of the seats and it's a real problem to get your eye on the play. They have lots of room, why not use it to advantage.

Back to Cranbrook, where we stayed at the Coach House Inn, coach Buhr allowed a little get-together where the boys and their mentors were allowed to get together for a little frivolity. I think the boys enjoyed it and I feel that these kids have something coming to them.

They are not professionals, although you'd think, watching the games at the arena, that that was the category they were playing in. I know, I have sat with two of the Warriors harshest critics for so long that I have trouble not allowing my thinking to get tangled up, too.

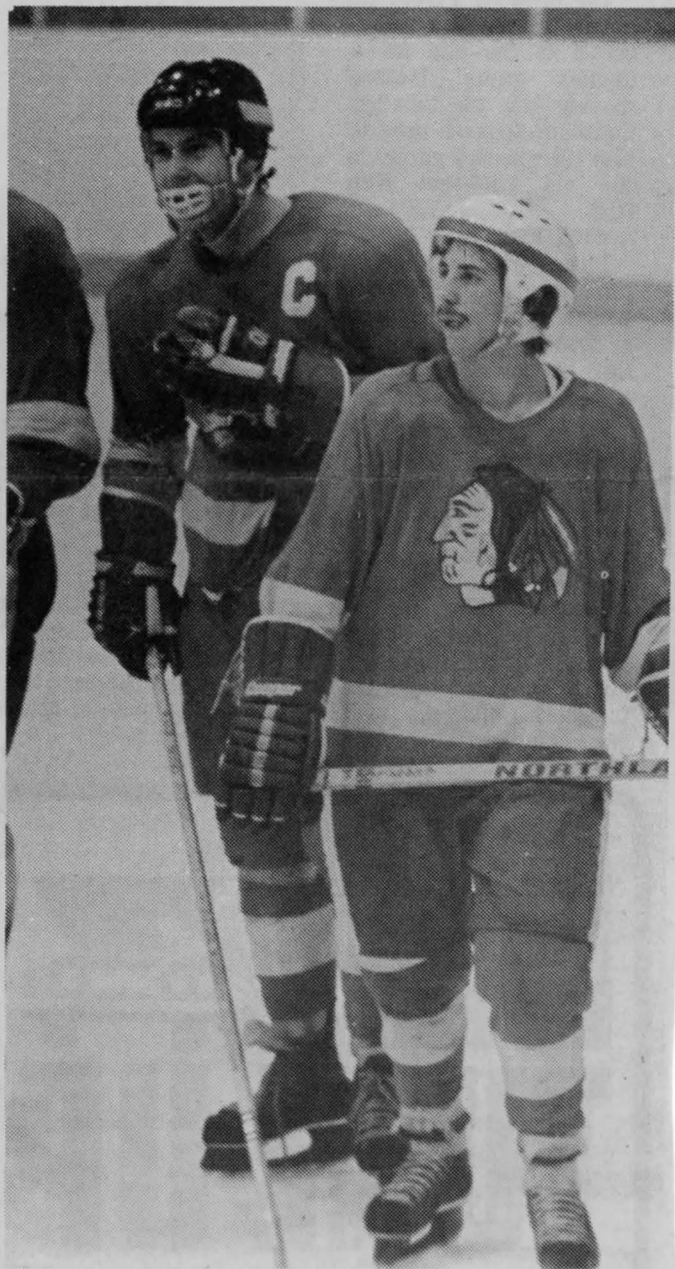
Sunday we travelled to Invermere, the home of the Columbia Valley Rockies. This was a game in which the things which make hockey such a great game were in evidence, good end-to-end hockey, spectacular goaltending and absolutely top-notch officiating.

And, what do you know, I got a nice warm seat. The arena in Invermere has the same type of heater as we have at home and I sat right under one of them. I never even went down for coffee between periods.

The Rockies are a fine young team, they happen to have one of the finest young hockey players in our league playing for them. Barry Luce is his name and you have to believe that this young man

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—Bill Turner photo

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I'm not setting myself up as a pro scout but the things I see in this young man make me feel that he has what it takes to make the big time.

The Warriors had a lead after one period but although they had a big edge in shots on goal throughout, they ran into a young man by the name of Frank Close, who played a really fantastic game in the Rockie net.

Don't take anything away from our boy, Hoss Drake, who was not much short of spectacular with his showing. He wasn't as busy as Close but he was pretty adequate.

I never cease to marvel over the play of Bart Camaratta. They put him up against the big man on Sunday and he handled his task pretty well. During the first period he kept the big fella under control; why they changed the plan, or did they? I have to wonder, because the little fella was enjoying himself and doing quite a job on Barry.

Anyway, it ended 6-3 and we were on our way to



—Bill Turner photo

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