

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

NOV 21/80

Travelling with the Rossland Warriors is something I really enjoy. A nice smooth ride with good company and seeing the different towns and rinks and visiting with the various people one meets on such a junket, can be a great way to spend a day or a weekend.

But I'm beginning to have my doubts as to whether my presence on these trips is having the desired effect on the games the team plays. So far, I've made three trips, one to Nelson, one to the East Kootenay, Sparwood and Invermere and this past weekend to Spokane and in all these instances the team lost, on the one trip for which I stayed home they won in Kimberley.

I'm beginning to get the feeling that the team would do better if I stayed home, but then I think, they also lose when I'm not there too, so what's one to do? I guess I'll keep going until I'm barred and let the chips fall where they will.*

I liked the trip to Spokane. There were lots of laughs en route to the game, not so

many on the return trip, but that's understandable. A few refreshments at the Gaslight and an excellent supper at a Chapter Eleven branch, plus a visit to the plush Eagles establishment close by the rink made for a very enjoyable trip.

The Spokane Flames hockey team is a real sharp young team and, according to their program, most of the boys on the team are native to the town. This is always a desirable situation, with new kids on the threshold in minor hockey waiting to fill the shoes of those who depart because of the age clause.

I didn't think the officiating was anywhere near as sharp as it could have been, at least two of the Flames' goals were blatantly offside. Referees are supposed to call the plays as they see them, not realize they made a bad call and try to correct it by making a similar boob in the other direction. This was part and parcel of the whole game on Saturday evening and some of the line calls were atrocious.

Be that as it may, the Flames were full value for their victory, they check and check and grab any chance they can to attack. In Blair and Bodman they have two real opportunists, give either of these two kids a chance and you'll regret it. I'm told that the team practises nightly and it shows up, especially in their skating.

I was under the impression that the use of face masks was limited to players with facial injuries, but every player on the Spokane team uses them. I am inclined to think that this gives their players a definite advantage.

They know the kind of injury that happened to Trail's Ray Ferraro would mean nothing to them. Ferraro suffered a broken

nose in a game in Castlegar. Accidental or not, it would not happen with the mask and these Spokane kids know it.

I feel that the league should act on this, make it a rule that if a player wishes to wear one he may, not allow one team to have protection and deny it to others.

A message from Barb Armour, of the Rossland Minor Hockey Association, corrects an impression I had that we had a Midget hockey team. There is none but there is a rapidly growing Juvenile team working out under the tutelage of Rick Chobanuk and Rod Zavaduk.

Barb tells us they are holding some terrific practices and the team will entertain Trail Junes the weekend of Nov. 22-23. Saturday's game starts at 1:45 p.m. and Sunday's at 3:45 p.m. Manager Isobel Burbridge believes Rossland fans would enjoy the action these kids provide so why not take a look-see? The kids will enjoy having you and you might like it too!

Turning to something I promised last week on the curling front, the Men's Club with 10 rinks is definitely under way in its first competition. When I can contact Dave Jones, their publicity man, I'll name the rinks for you.

They will be hosts to a bonspiel on the weekend of Nov. 28-29-30. Limited to 32 rinks they have 25 already assured so if you wish a spot, you'll have to hurry.

The Business Girls' Monday night club is also into its first competition with nine rinks playing. Skips of the rinks are as follows, Bev Bell, Donna Price, Arlene Dyson, Phyllis Woodward, Carol Albo, Dolly Riley, Beryl Davis, Irene Dunlop and Enza Boutry.

Sunday, Nov. 23 is the date of Canada's big football extravaganza. It is also celebrated in Rossland by the Canadian Legion's Grey Cup breakfast, an event growing by leaps and bounds since it was started a couple of years back.

It's open to anyone, takes place in the Legion basement lounge where there are two TV sets and a breakfast that is really something.

It's cooked up by a number of Legion members, headed by chief cook Joe Thalman and consists of bacon, sausage, eggs and pancakes along with coffee and many other beverages. Come on up to Rossland and try it, we'll bet our money you'll like it!

Also on tap at month's end is Timmy's Xmas Telethon for Crippled Children sponsored by the Lions Club. Rossland Lions have been approached by Trail Esso's Jim Roller, whose company is ready to donate any matching sum of money that Jim can raise for the Telethon, through his one-cent-a-gallon of his two-day sales and a possible car wash which could be manned by Rossland Lion members and other groups.

Jim has several ideas and will try to work them out with CJAT and The Times, and Lion President Dave Shaw will present the whole scheme to the Lion executive hoping that they will see fit to endorse the idea. If the club makes the same effort here as it makes for the Snowarama, an effort to help the same crippled kids, it should be a raving success.

You'll be able to watch the telethon on CBC from 5 p.m. Nov. 29 to 8 p.m. Nov. 30 and you can help by driving around to Trail Esso and having your car shined up by a bunch of guys who will be doing it all to help the kids. Thank you!