

It is a little difficult to write about something or someone you know very little about, but I was asked by several people to write about a young man who has had the misfortune to be the victim of a freak accident in a hockey game.

His name is Harry Peebles Jr. and he is probably very

much like your kids or mine were. One thing he has to be is a pretty vigorous young athlete. You don't take up the idea of playing hockey if there's any softy in your makeup, it's a game that takes quite a bit of intestinal fortitude. Sure, there are quite a number of girls into hockey now, but whoever said girls couldn't be blessed with a lot of courage too.

Today, Harry lies in the Calgary General Hospital with his back broken in two places and paralyzed from the chest down, last word on his condition, relayed to me by Gord McDonnell of the Elk Valley Raiders executive, is that there was no change in his condition, as of Sunday morning last.

Gord explained the accident which took Harry out of the game in detail. In order to understand the play one has to realize that the Kootenay International Junior Hockey League, (KIJHL) has put in a ruling designed to speed up play and cut down the whistles. If a player from the team which shot the puck down the ice can get down and touch the puck first the icing call is waved off and play continues.

This was the play in which Harry was injured. He had raced the Spokane player down the ice and was against the backboards when the Spokane player slid into him. Gord was very emphatic that there was no attempt to boarding, although a penalty was called. Gord feels that the official called it because of the injury. He feels that it was the position of Harry's body against the boards when he was hit, that contributed to the seriousness of the accident.

The thing that is worrisome about Harry's accident is that people are prone to get the idea that hockey, as played in the

KIJHL, is subject to goon tactics. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The kids who play in this league certainly play hard, but they keep any chippy stuff down to a minimum. I wrote in this column, when the Raiders played in Rossland, that I thought they were the most physical team in the league, I certainly didn't mean their methods were questionable. **COULD BE PERMANENT**

I think everyone connected with the league will be deeply touched by the seriousness of the accident which could result in a fine young athlete being sidelined, perhaps permanently, in a game in this league. It's one of those things we always hope wouldn't happen to us, but unfortunately did.

Harry is a Sparwood native, just 17 years old and was a rookie on the Raiders. He has a brother, Blair, playing for the Elk Valley Blazers of the WIHL. He is in room H.3 of Calgary General, so, if anyone wishes to send a card to express their sympathy to him, that's where you send it.

Talking to Bert LaFreniere, president of the KIJHL, he told he that arrangements had been made to have the members of the New York Islanders and the Montreal Canadiens visit Harry on their current visits to Calgary along with the Flames' players.

Accidents like this one happen once in a very long time, but nevertheless they bring just as much grief to the families they touch. We want to extend our deepest sympathy to Harry's family and the wish that he may be returned to them whole once more.

CURLING NEWS

On the various curling fronts, the Ladies' Afternoon Club in competition for the Smart Cup has Fanny

Albo's rink in front of the pack with eight points from four straight victories.

In the Business Girls' League, Beryl Davis and Irene Dunlop top the initial competition with eight points each. Playing on the Davis rink besides skip Beryl are Riggy Miller, Judy DaRosa and Cathy Hall, helping Irene on the Dunlop rink are Louise Stevenson, Heather Watkinson and Ev Ellis.

In the Ladies' Afternoon Club Fanny Albo won her fourth in a row on Tuesday with a win over Gert Sandulescu. Dorothy Fines and Helen Ling tied and Edie Harasin beat Mary Rosse. On the leading Albo Rink are Dorothy Albo, Mary Vickers and Laura Thompson, one of these days I'll get the rest of the rinks' personnel for you.

In the Men's Club, Jim Feeney is leading with 13 points, there is, however, a game to be played in the first competition between the Fred Munro and Alfie Albo rinks, either of these teams can top Jimmy's 13 points with a win.

In the Retirees' Club, the Norm Harry rink has a stranglehold on first place in the first competition, the Jack Mitchell rink can close to within one point with a win over Norm in the final game before the holidays, it is the last game of the current competition for both rinks.

Thursday it is fun curling as we mix it up with the Ladies' Club for our Christmas party.

In closing I would like to say a little something about a gentleman who was laid to rest on Tuesday. Bob McAllister was a pretty fine gentleman, my kids thought the world of him and I did too. He didn't go around advertising his good deeds but a lot of people benefitted from his goodness, he will be missed by a lot of those people.