

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

This KIJHL all-star game was the sixth annual and they seem to get better all the time. This latest one was held over the weekend in Castlegar's sports complex with everything under one roof.

Meetings were held in the afternoon and a "happy hour" before supper, which was served in the form of a really excellent smorgasbord. There were various speakers but the top one was Walter "Babe" Pratt, former NHL star and probably one of the best known after-dinner speakers around the country.

Also in town for the festivities was Ernie "Punch" McLean, who was in this part of the world investigating the possibilities of a semi-pro circuit being started in the area. The former owner and coach of the New Westminster Bruins was introduced at the supper but did not do any speech-making. "Punch" has always been a man of action.

The action which followed the supper was the kind that had the close to 1,000 fans on the edge of their seats all night.

The eastern all-stars, coached by Ken Tarnow of the Cranbrook Colts, scored first but the west stars, coached by Trail's Dave

Limacher, got three goals in the final two minutes of the period to take a 3-1 lead, completely dominated the second to go ahead 8-3, sagged a little in the third but wound up with a 10-7 win, revenge for last year's 6-4 loss in Creston.

The two starting goaltenders, Dan McDonald of Castlegar and Frank Close of Columbia Valley, wound up as the MVP award winners, splitting that honor. Ray Ferraro, Bill Sofiak and John Mercer were the three stars, Ferraro is, of course, from Trail, Sofiak plays for Castlegar and Mercer the east's rep from Elk Valley.

While these boys were honored for outstanding performance, I thought there were quite a number of others who could have come in for a kind word or two. Tim Lenardon, David Kromm and Doug Miller of the Junior Smokies played outstanding hockey all night and Rossland's three nominees did a thorough job. John Jorgenson and Mike Bolton were paired on one defending duo and Terry Halisheff was digging all night and was rewarded with a goal for his zeal.

Former Rossland and Trail star, Billy Martin, had a hand in picking the stars of the game. It was good to see Bill again and he looks to be

in fine shape. Another former star who was in attendance was Nelson's former stellar centreman Lee Hyssop.

I see that everyone who was present at the game did not appreciate the high-scoring performance. This does not come as any great surprise as most fans go for the games where goals are hard to come by but in this league the teams have never been bashful about scoring and the recent game records show scores like 12-10, 10-9 and 13-2, etc. The high scores are even creeping into the NHL nowadays.

Next year's game will be back in the East Kootenay and the advantage will be in the east's favor now trailing in the series 4-2. Just where that game will be played will not be known until later this year.

Going for a moment to a sport not played in this part of the country at this time of the year, I got a call the other day from a friend who was in touch with a young chap, 18 years old, in Vancouver who has been drafted by the Whitecaps but wants to get out of the Coast area, get a job and play some soccer.

I have passed this word along to Joe Hughes of the Rossland team and he will

carry the ball from here on.

The youngster has come up through all phases of minor soccer at the Coast and is a goalkeeper so maybe the Labatt's will be sporting a new look in goal come spring.

Today, Wednesday, our Retirees' Curling Club accepts an invitation from Trail's retirees to visit. We shall send seven rinks and the Castlegar boys will also number seven. This is always a day of fun and frolic for all concerned and I think this is a wonderful idea. We go down there and later on they will return the visit, so we get to meet all our old chums and get to do something we enjoy. What more can you ask?

On the home front, after three games in the new competition, two new skips this season are showing the way; Jack Mitchell and Len Scott boast unblemished records. Both these guys had to be pushed into taking skip responsibilities but they are proving equal to the task.

Our congratulations go out to Terry Bublitz and his mates for their victory in Grand Forks last weekend. My reason for mentioning Terry's name, he's the rink's lead, is the fact that he has

been playing lacrosse for our Redmen since the rebirth of the game in Rossland. Anyway, Terry, give it the same old effort you do on the lacrosse floor and you and your friends might just come out pretty well at Prince Rupert.

Still with curling, the business girls are coming down to the end of another competition and Irene Dunlop is leading the way with 10 points followed by Carol Albo, Beryl Davis, Phyllis Woodward and Donna Price with eight each. The last round of games played saw Albo beat Riley, Boutry over Dyson, Price over Davis and Dunlop beat Woodward.

In the Ladies' Afternoon Club they are just starting play for the Haden-Capalbo competition and we should have something on this next week.

In the Legion we now have new bar management, Rudy LaFace and Sharon Schuck have taken over from Tom Fulcher. They will split the duties of steward. The second mural is in the process of getting started and the woodwork trim is due to get started any day now. Pretty soon you won't recognize the place.