

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Due to the installation of the 1981 executive of the Legion Saturday night last I was unable to attend the Minor Hockey Night celebration in Rossland, however, I did get a full report on the festivities from Barb Armour for which I am very grateful.

Before a crowd of approximately 250 the proceedings got under way shortly after 5 p.m. in the Arena with President Gary Holm of the RMHA welcoming everyone. Golden City Queen Michelle Fox was escorted on to the ice by one of the Novices, Aaron McFarland and Blaine Primeau was Mayor Bill Profili's escort. After addressing a few words of welcome to everyone he was presented with a gift by Mary Lou Prough, a member of the Pee Wee House team.

After she got a gift from Gary Eaton of the Atoms, Queen Michelle dropped the puck for the ceremonial opening faceoff and the evening got under way.

In the first game the Atoms faced members of Pee Wee House League and the PWWHL came out on top by a score of 6-3. The winners are coached by Howard McMeekin and the Atoms by R. Paolini and Geoff Chambers.

Next came the Novices, the youngest and largest group in the Minor Hockey program, because they are still learning the early skills.

The youngsters in this section tend to struggle a little and the result is always a big crowd-pleaser, this year being no exception. Coaches Adrian Van der Zalm, Harvey Freison and Gary Palmquist work hard with these youngsters and their improvement is very noticeable.

The third and main event was next on the bill of fare and featured the Rossland Pee Wees (Tier One) team also known as the "Green Machine", in a game against the Cranbrook Pee Wees. The Machine sputtered a little in this one and

Minor hockey is always grateful for any help and it goes without saying that without the volunteer assistance of the many who fill the coaching, officiating and executive jobs and the merchants, minor hockey would not be the force for good that it now is.

The Business Girls Curling Club has completed its first competition of the season and it was won by the Carol Albo rink, with Irene Dunlop second and Phyllis Woodward third. Curling along with Carol were Hilda Miracle, Georgina Maryniak and Mary Kelly.

There has been a slight realignment in the rinks, skip-wise. Joan Feeney is now heading the Albo rink and Vi Krest is in with a ninth foursome. In opening games in the second competition, it was Feeney over Bell, Price over Dyson, Woodward over Boutry and Davis over Dunlop with Krest drawing the bye. I'll have rink personnel for you next week.

At present, three Retiree rinks are lined up to play off

for the two spots open to the club in the Seniors playdowns in Grand Forks in February. Angus Popplewell, Phil Bateman and George Dyson will battle it out to see who goes, meanwhile the club will entertain the Trail club Feb. 13 in a return visitation for our visit of two weeks ago.

Jack Mitchell and his rink of Jim Thompson, Leo Telfer and Tom Mitchell keep rolling along, seven straight wins in the second competition. Keep it up Jack, it couldn't happen to a nicer bunch of guys!

Tuesday evening a meeting was held in the arena lounge to start the ball rolling in a search for a manager for the Warriors to replace Jim Markle. Ads will be appearing in the local papers to aid in the search and queries regarding the position may be addressed to the President, Rossland Minor Hockey, Box 1578, Rossland.

The position will be open as of March 1, 1981.

Tonight, Wednesday, the Warriors travel to Grand Forks for a must game with

the Border Bruins. At the last reading the Warriors were in front of the Bruins by seven points, but the Bruins played one game since, against Nelson in Nelson on Sunday.

Actually, the schedule favors the Warriors. If they can win even one of their three remaining home contests, the onus would be on Grand Forks who have to play three of their remaining five games away from home, two against the eastern-leading Colts and the Columbia Valley Rockies and the other versus Trail. The home games are against Trail and Cranbrook.

Rossland plays Trail, Castlegar and Nelson at home and Nelson, away, to wind up their schedule after tonight's game against the Bruins.

The Warriors' depleted ranks will not be back to full strength until Feb. 7 when Terry Halisheff will be finished his suspension; Bob Drake, of course, will not be back, this season, Billy Nazaroff may be able to play tonight, if work permits.

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Sunday morning the boys redeemed themselves by defeating the Cranbrook team by a score of 11-7.

The last game of the evening was between a combined team of Bantams and Juveniles playing against a team composed of coaches and fathers and this time the young legs came out on top with a 7-2 victory.

All the participants were treated to the traditional pop and hot dogs during the evening and these were thoroughly enjoyed by one and all.

Another facet of the Minor Hockey Night's activities was the drawing of the door prizes and the 50-50 draw.

The lucky ticket number for the 50-50 draw was 41123 and this number will be posted for one week, if at the end of this time it has not been claimed it will be channeled into Minor Hockey funds.

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