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PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

I missed the Warriors' last two home games of the regular season and they won both of them by the narrowest of margins. For the Tuesday fixture with Castlegar I had gone into the Trail hospital for an eye operation, I was out for the Friday game but came up with a pretty severe headache and couldn't make it for the tussle with Nelson. Marty Lizotte made it the third game in a row the Warriors have won in which he has scored the winning goal.

Before I get too far off the subject I want to express my thanks to Dr. Bill Nicol and the nurses who made my short stay down there as comfortable as one could expect. It's pretty nice to have the vision back in one's eye after about a year without it.

Back to the Warriors now. By the time you read this they will have played one of their games against the Junior Smokies. Tonight, Friday, it's back to Rossland for game two. On the season one would have to be quite an optimist to expect our boys to come out of this series, winners, though they did manage one win over the Junior Smokies during the regular schedule.

If they can extend this series to a sixth game most of us would consider it a terrific job. Trail has been having it pretty much their own way of late, running up

was a pretty one-sided affair.

I don't imagine that there would be around 2,000 people at a repeat performance. Maybe it will bring some of the Trail fans to the realization that they have a pretty good product right in their own back yard, with high class senior and junior hockey, with lower prices yet.

I don't think we should be envious of our friends at the Coast, what we have here is a pretty exciting brand of entertainment.

Talking about pretty good entertainment, we had some pretty darn potent stuff up here in Rossland over the weekend as the wee ones strutted their stuff.

These 11- and 12-year-olds range in size from mini-pint-size to veritable giants, but they all come to play and that's what they did to fill up about 26 hours of the weekend, with some really fine displays of good kid hockey along with a fine display of sportsmanship.

I don't know why, but I've always rooted for the little guys who play this game. Maybe it's because I never grew to full-size myself. Over the weekend we got to see a number of the mini-sized ones.

There was even one little girl playing on the Rossland house team, Mary Lou Prough is her name and she wore no. 6. She did her shift

team, his name, Mark Plotnikoff. This boy is a real standout, handles the puck well, can skate and score too.

We mustn't miss out the medium-sized ones either. Kenny McArthur and Dallas Drake on the tournament champs were two who showed well in all four games they played. Castlegar's Kelly Hurd was another standout as was Spokane's Mark Gustafson, son of Ken, who coaches them and is a former Flyer.

Trail had two boys that looked as though they knew what it was all about, Jay Luknowsky and Chris Beatty.

We are not taking anything away from the rest of them, every boy and girl out there earned the

mementoes they got to take home with them.

The tourney was very well run, games started on time and were well-handled, a definite feather in the cap of organizers Clyde Moore, Sandy Bobbitt, Phyllis DeJong, Harold McGowen, Maurice MacArthur and Gary Holm plus numerous helpers who filled in at anything they were asked to do.

As I said, the games were well-handled, a cluster of officials led by Jim Schuck, Arnie Sherwood and Sam Keith did yeoman duty.

Rossland was the eventual winner in the tier one side of the tourney, boasting an unblemished record of four good wins, scoring 25 goals while allowing 11; Nelson, with a 3-0 record won the

house trophy, scoring 30 goals and allowing five to be scored on them. I did hear a murmur that Nelson maybe did a little packing of their house team, but one hears that sort of thing at most of these do's.

To curling for a moment. The Retirees representatives to the Seniors playdowns in Grand Forks next week will be Phil Bateman and George Dyson. Phil has Bob Stevenson, Arnie Vanness and Rich Watkinson, while George has Norm Harry, Herb Castle and yours truly. George beat out the Angus Popplewell rink for the right to attend. Angus had Gil Besso, Cleve Cowland and Jack Hook with him.

without it. Back to the Warriors now. By the time you read this they will have played one of their games against the Junior Smokies. Tonight, Friday, it's back to Rossland for game two. On the season one would have to be quite an optimist to expect our boys to come out of this series, winners, though they did manage one win over the Junior Smokies during the regular schedule.

If they can extend this series to a sixth game most of us would consider it a terrific job. Trail has been having it pretty much their own way of late, running up double figures in four or five of their last games.

In the other series in the west it's Nelson and Castlegar and this could be a toughie. Nelson has been showing a lot of late and just could stretch that series to the limit.

The Border Bruins will have to wait for next season, but we should watch for them to be prepared next time around.

In the east it would look like Cranbrook has too much on the ball to have to worry about whom they have to play, so it looks like the East-West final could match the two top teams in their respective divisions.

Junior "A" hockey showed up in Trail Sunday night with the once-mighty New Westminster Bruins playing a home fixture against the Winter Hawks of Portland. I opted to stay in Rossland and watch a couple of games in the annual Pee Wee tournament. From the message I got from those who made the trip to Trail I didn't miss anything, 13-4 Portland, leaves little doubt that it

they all come to play and that's what they did to fill up about 26 hours of the weekend, with some really fine displays of good kid hockey along with a fine display of sportsmanship.

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There was even one little girl playing on the Rossland house team, Mary Lou Prough is her name and she wore no. 6. She did her shift along with the boys and I don't think she asked any special favors from any of them. Playing along with Mary Lou was a boy that could have won a prize if one had been given for the smallest guy with the greatest momentum. His name is Billy Chambers and he is one real dynamo.

On the Spokane team there was one little guy who would have given Billy a battle for tiny honors. His name is Terry Picicci and he was something to watch.

Of course the big boys have it a lot easier and there were some pretty big ones on the various teams. Dan Castle, on the Rossland tier one team, must rate as the over-all heavyweight, 12-years-old and built like a Sherman tank, he just lets people run into him and they bounce off. Team-mate Tony Bobbitt is a good-sized boy too and shows a lot of skill out there.

On the Nelson house team there's one boy who towers over all his team-mates. His name is Joe Chioico and he must be over six feet tall. Another good big one plays on the Castlegar house