

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

With the hockey season winding down and more summer-like sports on the way I polled a number of people on what we might expect in our town during the coming season. For one reason or another nobody is ready to talk at too much length on the subject as most are in the throes of

organizing or what have you and are keeping a lid on things for the time being.

Whether this is a sign that we could be in for a bumper year or not is yet to be figured out.

Of the people I have talked to only the ones responsible for organizing the Uplander fastball team

seem to be making any real headway. The team, which will once again enter the Trail Commercial League this summer, is working out in the high school gym under the watchful eye of John Stanton and figure to be a force to be reckoned with during the coming season.

The men's slow-pitch league will once more be operating, how many teams we don't know yet, but you can bet it all points to that big tournament which is a highlight of Rossland's sporting summer.

If there is going to be any Little League ball in town this year, whoever is organizing it is keeping a very closed shop on the information.

Little League ball has not been exactly a smash hit in our town for some time. It would be nice to see someone give it a boost but Minor Soccer seems to have taken over.

I really don't know if it is all a matter of economics as some people seem to think, or whether it is the fact that kids all love to be into the game they are playing and in soccer the action is continuous.

The Rossland Recreation has a very ambitious program, which covers most every sport or activity one could ask for, and it would be great to see this program bear fruit.

As I explained last week the zany ones will be out in full force again this summer and Monday evenings at Cook Avenue park will once

more be the place to go if you want your funny-bone tickled. It sounds like Babe and Rudy Laface, aided and abetted by a number of fun-loving people, will be putting on their act once more.

The Rossland Labatts soccer team are in an indecisive mood right now as people have not been turning out for practices. I talked to Joe Hughes last night and the long-time soccer advocate seems a little disappointed that things are not going too well.

He mentioned that the possibility of a strike at Cominco is one of the reasons for the lack of interest on the part of lots of the players who have previously been part of the Labatts team.

Minor Soccer will once again be a real force in the summer program for our youngsters. A meeting will be held this week to sort out the teams and then things will begin to happen, John Habicht tells me things point to another successful season.

The area leagues seem to be the answer to a lot of things, maybe someone should try getting Little League ball going and enter a team or so in the Trail organization instead of trying to go it on our own. There is no doubt that young ballplayers would benefit from such a move.

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One program that I have thought quite seriously about is the rec's hiking and backpacking trips. Here I am, getting fat and lazy when our surrounding mountain scenery beckons. I've lived in these mountains for over 30 years and I've never seen the view from Mt. Roberts.

Nancy Gardner will supervise these nature hikes and I'm really considering joining the kids on some of them; it will be something different, for sure.

Getting farther afield in my ramblings it would appear that we could very well be faced with an all-New York Stanley Cup final. The Islanders need only one more victory from the Alberta capital. Wayne Gretzky and his friends have fought a good fight but in the end I think class will count and the Isles have a lot of that.

Calgary Flames have really caught the fans' imagination and will probably go on to the semis but they will have to show a little more than the last time I watched them on the tube before they can be expected to go all the way.

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The Rangers are a proud organization, experienced, they have the horses to go to the finals and in a confrontation with their cross-town rivals, they just could be the 1981 Stanley Cup champions. Minnesota are definitely a force to be reckoned with, and will not be leaving without quite a battle.

In closing, I would like to say how much I admire the spirit that goes with revival of the senior Smokies. There's a lot of people with a lot of guts trying to do a pretty big job.

Now, if only the fans will give them the needed support, senior hockey could once more be another source of entertainment to go along with the already pleasing show put on by the KIJHL kids.