

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

After a week or so of indecision it finally looks like the weather man has made up his mind to bring on the spring. Quite a number of golf addicts have been using the upper course. We were out last Thursday though the course was not officially open at the time but it is in fine shape for this time of the year, some wet spots, but over-all it's in great shape. After the reseeding job they did on No. 9 green last year, it is in marvellous condition.

Kenny and Dorothy Fines will be operating the upper course this year and Dorothy mentioned that they are looking forward to a big opening day. Whenever that becomes official I will let you know through this column.

Another sign of spring is the Uplander ball team chomping at the bit in their eagerness to get going. They were on their way out to Fruitvale for a Commercial League game Tuesday night

despite the fact that it was pouring rain in Rossland and had been most of the day.

John Habicht passed along the following info regarding Minor League Soccer. This season we shall have eight boys' teams and one strictly for girls.

In the boys' division there will be two Mosquito teams, three Pee Wee One, two Pee Wee Two and one Bantam. The girls' team will play in a league comprised of teams from Trail and Warfield, it is not known at this time if there will be teams from Fruitvale or Genelle.

While the operating of a strictly girls' league may be a departure from the normal procedure, I see no reason why it should not work out quite well. I never did see the mixing of the boys and girls as quite the thing to do, although all the participants seemed to enjoy themselves.

Just last week there was a letter in The Times from a girl in Nelson asking for the

opportunity to play some girls' soccer teams, so maybe this is the way to go to make everyone happy. Minor soccer will open May 2.

I haven't heard much about the progress of the proposed fun lacrosse league, however it's early yet and it would be a way to keep the interest in the game alive in this area.

George Dyson is back from a trip to the Prairies. Actually, he was in Edmonton for the last couple of weeks watching the Islanders-Oilers matchup and he tells me that he had a perfectly good seat in the Northlands Coliseum for sixteen bucks though scalpers were ripping off to the tune of \$145 for top seats.

Anyway he went into detail about the way the Isles handled Gretzky in the final game, one man took the body and the other the puck. George said his (Gretzky's) body must have been one big bruise afterwards.

By the way, should you be talking to George, get him to show you his repertoire of the magic tricks he brought home with him.

I had a nice card from Chow Sdao after he left after his Easter visit. He always sends me clippings from the local paper and this one concerns the return of Steve Metzger to his home in Penticton after a season with the Swiss league. Metzger played on the '79-'80 Knight team which won the B.C. Junior League championship.

The team he played for in Switzerland was Arosa where he played on both the "A" team and the junior team. After winning the Swiss championship the junior team won the World junior title in the "B" group.

All games were played in France but next year they will move into "A" group and all games will be played at Lake Placid, N.Y. Metzger had two goals and eight assists in five games.

Well, I see where I made another faux-pas, the New York final I predicted will

not be, the two teams from the Big Apple are at it already in the semis with the Islanders holding a 1-0 edge.

In the other series Minnesota looked good in the first game. They, of course, have had a good rest while Calgary had just finished that long trip back from Philly where they didn't have an easy time in that 4-1 upset win over the Flyers. I lean toward the Flames to go on but something tells me that they will have to pull some kind of a miracle to do it.

Last Friday evening I attended the windup celebration of the Trail Juniors at the Italo-Canadese Hall. It was a very nice evening with the young Smokies being honored for their fine season just past.

Gord DeRosa was MC for the event which was a tribute to the players, plus the people who work behind the scenes to make the team go. Gord was high in his praise for both groups, awards were presented and a wonderful supper was thoroughly enjoyed by all and then there was music

and dancing until the early hours.

I don't suppose Leroy Huestis will ever make the top echelon as an after-dinner speaker but at a gathering like this I thought he did a super job.

It was like listening to a stream that gathers momentum as it goes along, he got his points across and everyone loved it. It's easy to see why the guy is one of the most popular of the Senior Smokies.

Last week I ran into a couple of young men who belong to the Beaver Valley Lions Club, Tom Jankovic and Hans Peter Barth. I spent a couple of hours rapping with them and had a helluva good time.

Out of our conversation came the following which I think you might enjoy; it belongs to Hans Peter and is as follows: A man is not old when his hair turns gray, a man is not old when his teeth decay. But old age starts over him to creep when his mind makes appointments his body can't keep.

I thought you'd like that!