

MAY 29/81

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Sunday morning last, I watched the Rossland Labatts play host to the Fernie United team. It was my first look at the latest edition of the team that was once the scourge of the Kootenay Soccer League.

This season's team is very young and lacking in quite a lot of the skills that make up a really successful soccer team. I suppose we could

say that these skills will come with experience, and no doubt they will, but in the meantime it looks as though the youngsters will have to make up for the lack of skill with a really vigorous type of play.

In Sunday's game the Rossland team made a goal by Mike Oliver at the six-minute mark stand up for a 1-0 victory, their first of the

young season. The goal came on a goal-mouth scramble with the Fernie goalie caught out of position, Oliver calmly headed the ball into the undefended net.

As play progressed it became more and more evident that Rossland was definitely in control, in fact, throughout the match Fernie's chances to score could have been counted on the fingers of one hand and I believe only one of those was really dangerous.

Rossland's attack produced numerous chances but too many times the attack went away by some aimless shooting and lack of confidence on the part of the ball carrier. As I said before these are the parts of the game that must be polished before the Labatts are going to be a real threat in the league.

Defensively, the team did not make too many mistakes. Young Lindgren, playing in the net, looks like a real prospect for one so young. Good sure hands handled the few shots that came his ways with ease.

On the back line, the play of Armando Demideros was a solid effort all the way, adding to the belief that experience makes a lot of difference. Joe Hughes, who is acting as coach, comes into the same category as Armando and these two will be the flux that will hold things together until the youngsters find themselves.

Two boys who were not playing Sunday, Rob Martin, one-game suspension, and Tim Evans,

drove a vehicle up onto the practice putting green and careened around on it to do considerable damage to the surface.

When we were down yesterday the grounds crew were working hard to put it back to a usable state and were making excellent headway.

The action is under investigation and it is to be hoped that the perpetrators will be caught and punished as they deserve to be for their destructive actions.

Tuesday, Retirees Day, at the upper course was another lovely day for golf, one of the few we have had so far this season. Between 30 and 40 took part in the low net and least putts competition.

When the scorecards were all in, co-ordinator-for-the-day, Bernie Ferrey, handed out balls to Gil Besso for a sparkling 33 net and Jim Doig for an equally snappy 34. Yet to pick up their trophies are Percy Hamilton for the least putts, 14, and Gil Page, who finished with 16.

Next week's competition will be irons only and Jim Doig and myself will be handling the details; let's hope we get a good crowd for the challenge. See you all there, gentlemen!

As I write this we are

looking forward to our trip to Christina Lake for the annual visitation by the Retirees. It will be held Thursday, May 28 and we hope the weather treats us well.

Got some news on Play-for-Fun ball from Jon Holm the other day. Seems that the Rossland Legion has taken over the sponsorship of the former Roadrunners who used to play out of the Allan Hotel.

Resplendent in their new colors and sporting a new name, the Legion Royals will be staffed by the following players, some well-known, other not so well. Jon Holm, Howie McMeekin, Cliff Langman, Walter Rosner, Skip Ferguson, Tim Thatcher, Jim Schuck, Wayne Delis, Mike Schraeder, Ron Allibone, Paul Boyd, Ken Laface and Gary Owens. Bruce Holm and Kim Lafond will join the club later in the season.

The big tourney coming up this weekend will start Friday night and I'm told that all games will be played in Rossland parks, scorekeeping and umpiring has been taken care of and there should be some pretty good ball games to be seen over the weekend, so get out and see some of the action.

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Two boys who were not playing Sunday, Rob Martin, one-game suspension, and Tim Evans, with an injury, will help considerably when they return. Both have quite a lot of knowhow about the game and inserted into the attack could produce some more goals.

The team could use some more fan support than was evident on Sunday. I don't have a schedule yet but if I get one I'll try and keep you aware of upcoming games.

Some senseless vandalism was committed at the upper course over the weekend when some brainless idiots

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