

JUNE 12/81

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

The city of Rossland has a reputation as a sports-loving town. Luminaries in many areas of the sports world started their careers on the tracks, fields, arenas and mountains around this city.

Names like Haley, Stanton, Greene, Martin and Zanussi have found their niche in the professional and amateur sport record books. Locals who thrilled to watch a Scott and a Laface play in bygone days on the lacrosse floor, can now follow the career of Walt Christianson performing for Victoria in the same sport.

McFarland, Stuart and Stanton, Legare and Martin are names who stand out among the many who have competed in hockey in the Kootenays and beyond.

Nobody can forget the tremendous feats of our own Nancy Greene in the ski

world, or the triumphs of Joe Haley in track and field. Both these wonderful people have passed along a lot of knowledge to our young people and the result is some impressive displays of their own.

With the advent of minor programs in every sport, we are likely to see the number of young athletes increase in the future. The calibre of training has improved and more people are finding time to help train the young.

Rossland's facilities for all kinds of sports are not of top-notch quality. We don't have a year-round swimming pool. We must travel to Warfield for track and field.

Centennial Park is a credit to the community as a playing field but has no capacity for seating fans; Jubilee can be a definite no-

no in wet weather, which we have seen plenty of this spring. The Cook Avenue park is too small for anything but fun games. It was constructed for Little League but since we have none it loses a lot of its value.

The costly facelift given to the Arena has brought it up to par with most of the arenas in the area.

The thought behind these ramblings is in order to give ourselves and our kids the chance to maintain and even improve our sports image, a considerable amount of time, effort and funds are going to be needed to upgrade the present facilities and build new ones.

The efforts of the city fathers to give our town a big-town image by making over the downtown core is OK, but along with this we need some recreation outlets for our youngsters more in line with a big-town image. The covered pool we heard rumblings about a

while back is a good example.

The play-for-fun group have ideas of their own to do something about the seating at Centennial Park but I imagine they will need the help of someone else to carry through with their plans. It would be a worthy cause for some of our service clubs to line up behind and the city to give their blessing to along with any physical aid they could muster.

At the upper course this week the terrible weather put a definite damper on our retirees' weekly outing. Yet some 20 hardy and trusting souls saw fit to show up and were rewarded with a round of golf which, while not under ideal conditions, was quite pleasant and nary a one got wet — except around the feet.

Jim Doig, who played in our foursome along with Doug Cavill, Ritchie Watkinson and me had a unique experience; his tee shot off no. 9 went high and

not too long, it came down and buried itself in the sodden turf along the south side of the fairway to a depth of a good four inches.

In Bingo, Bango, Bongo competition, Morris Sawyer won a ball for most points, 11, Russ Broughton was closest to the pin on no. 4 in two shots, B. Comba had the least putts, 14, and Clyde Nyman had the most, 25.

There are still four balls outstanding and we wish those who have them coming would pick them up next time around, your names are there for you to see so just help yourself as you sign in next week.

Talking of next week, we hope for better weather for our hidden partners and low net competition, Morris Sawyer and Jack Gellatly will be in charge, see you all there, I hope!

Thursday, we all look forward to playing Castlegar, on the occasion of the retirees' invitation, hope to meet up with some more old friends out there.