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PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

I received word this week from Chris Christianson that his son Walter, now playing lacrosse for the Victoria Shamrocks, has been picked to play on the national lacrosse team. They will be in a world tournament later this year.

The game is different from the one we are used to watching here. It is played on a field instead of a floor. The dimensions are larger too; indoors it is 160x60', outdoors it is 200x90'.

Some of you may have got a glimpse of Walter Sunday night on CTV. Some highlights of a game played between East and West practice teams were shown and Walter was No. 50 in the white uniform.

The National team will head for the eastern U.S. later this summer to play practice games against teams like Boston University, long-time powers in college lacrosse.

A few items of interest regarding the game might be enlightening here. It is the oldest organized sport in America, Canadian in origin and was played by Indian teams of from 75-200 men long before the white man came to Canada. Some 48 tribes took part in the games, sometimes travelling thousands of miles to participate.

The early French settlers

gave it its present name because the curved webbed stick used by the Indians reminded them of a bishop's crozier, la crosse. The settlers became interested in the game as early as 1840 and began modifying the rules — 12 players to a side, goals six-by-six on a playing area 125x110 yards.

In 1953 the strength of side was set at six which is the way it is played today on the outdoor fields or on arena floors.

Well, we basked in a couple of days of sunshine last week but we sure paid for it on the weekend. The bad weather washed out part of Trail's International Baseball tourney and a number of other events, I spent most of the weekend watching tennis and golf on the tube.

So the young man with the quick temper proved that he has something else going for him. He proved too much for Borg in the showdown at Wimbledon.

Bjorn has been a favorite of mine since way back. He was the reason I started to watch tennis on TV but he met his match this time, who knows, maybe next time out he'll come out on top, he certainly doesn't look as though he is over the hill.

That was some finish to the ladies tournament for the

Peter Jackson trophy. Jan Stephenson showed her mettle with that 18-footer when the chips were down and how about that 80-footer by Ed Fiori in the Western, if that had missed the hole he might have had to chip it back onto the green.

The Vancouver Whitecaps are rolling merrily along, resting in second place overall in the North American Soccer League. Their new additions and some of the vets are making their presence felt this season. They are making a lot of scoring opportunities and the goals are bound to come as a result. The defence is playing super soccer also, we hope they keep it up.

Will this be the long-awaited season when the

B.C. Lions become a respectable football team? That convincing win in their season opener against Montreal made them believable to say the least. I would like to see them put a good season together and erase some of the long-standing jokes which go the rounds at their expense.

I wonder when the baseball season is going to resume, I miss watching a game or so a week. It's a great game to watch and I hate to see they way things are going in the negotiations between the owners and the players. It seems to me the owners are finally beginning to realize that they have been pretty loose, handing out these monstrous contracts to all and sundry.

They are using the free-agent question to try to curb some of their own spending.

I also believe Rusty Staub's idea of having less people around the bargaining table is a move in the right direction. Now we understand there is talk of shutting down the minor leagues too. How long do sport lovers in this country have to put up with this sort of dictatorship from these moguls of the game?

In closing this week I want to pay a compliment to a fellow who has done an enormous job of bringing and keeping pretty high-calibre baseball to Trail and district. Thank you, Art Mercer. May your legs and enthusiasm last for a long time yet!