

July 31/81

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

I just learned there is a sport going on around our area that affords a great deal of activity for those who participate. It is a form of bicycle riding that emphasizes speed for short distances called Bicycle Moto Cross, or to give it a short form BMX.

The chief proponent of this type of sport in the area is Gordon Born of Rossland and he tells me that it has quite a following. Participants are mostly in the age group of 5-16 and there are some 260 members throughout B.C.

Classification is in three groups, beginners, novices and experts and types of meets are in three varieties, single-pointer, double-pointer and triple-pointer. The local boys taking part are members of the B.C. Chapter of the American Bicycle Association. Among the enthusiasts are Dave Ellis, Dave Lecuyer, Mike Clausen, Chris Marchand and Gary LeRose.

The boys have travelled to a number of points in the U.S. to compete on a banked track quite similar to the ones used for motor and motor-bike racing. Gord said the boys have been all the way down to Florida to take part in the sport.

This weekend they travel to Spokane for a meet and in October they will attend a triple-point meet at Wenatchee.

Bikes used are of the single speed racing type and cost anywhere from \$125 for a basic model to a pretty nifty number which can cost

track in an area adjacent to the small kiddies park at the east end of Thompson Avenue.

Seems like the sport may be catching on, since, unlike the motor type racing, it won't despoil the environment or make a lot of unseemly noise problems.

Soccer in Rossland over the weekend saw the Labatts split a pair of games with two of their East Kootenay rivals. Saturday they outplayed the Cranbrook Rovers in a come-from-behind 2-1 victory and Sunday they fell behind 2-0 and their try to make a comeback fell short as the Kimberley defence played heads up soccer to thwart a number of Rossland attacks. The final was 2-1.

Unlike the games earlier in the season, both were played on a pitch which was in fine shape. The class of soccer was excellent — sharp goaltending at both ends, a lot of great defensive and fast-breaking attacks.

Rossland's scorers were Rick McKinnon and Rob Martin with two, McKinnon's goal Saturday night was a real gem, a 25-yard drive that was labelled "goal" when it left his foot. Martin's winner was from a scramble as the Cranbrook goalie made a play but couldn't come up with the ball and Robbie got a second chance which he didn't miss. His goal on Sunday was from a sharp angle which had McDonald in the Kimberley net fooled. I thought he expected it to go past the far post but it was well and truly delivered and bulged the net

from the Coast while Kimberley got goals from Mickey Wilson and Gene Berglund.

The work of John Habicht, who refereed both contests, was super. John gave the teams some lee-way on the body work but saw that it didn't go too far, with the result that the play was robust, but not rough.

I talked to Joe Hughes after Sunday's game about

some things I noticed about his team, the idea of making changes in the lineup during a game is one that I guess will always find some people a bit disgruntled, but that's why you carry spares.

I don't suppose there has ever been a team in any sport which has managed to get along without some form of dissension in the ranks. We hear of it all the time and I don't think it will ever go

away entirely, but I was glad to hear Joe say he feels the team has now gotten rid of its present problem and he feels they can go ahead and look forward to a good playoff which will be coming up shortly.

In closing we would like to offer congratulations to Art Mercer and the Trail Hotelmen on their fine windup of a good season in local baseball.

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This weekend they travel to Spokane for a meet and in October they will attend a triple-point meet at Wenatchee.

Bikes used are of the single speed racing type and cost anywhere from \$125 for a basic model to a pretty nifty number which can cost close to \$800. Races usually consist of one lap of the track.

Gord says the city has sanctioned the building of a

track in an area adjacent to the small kiddies park at the east end of Thompson Avenue.

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Scoring for Cranbrook was Russ Pollard, a 16-year-old forward recruited

from the Coast while Kimberley got goals from Mickey Wilson and Gene Berglund.

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