

Aug 7/81

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

I remember some years back when Rossland Redmen, who were at the time entered in a lacrosse league that had among its members the Senior "B" lacrosse champions of Canada for the two previous years, ended a season in which I don't think they won one game. They had recruited a coach, John Allen, and I made a remark in this column that with all the veteran lacrosse players in Rossland, I didn't feel it was necessary to bring in a coach.

I had good reason to wish I

had never made that remark as the following year John brought to Rossland, through his long association with the Coast lacrosse scene, a bevy of young players who beefed the Rossland squad to a point where I don't think they lost a game and went on to contest the Coast Senior "B" teams for the provincial title. It is now history that they lost that series, but it was not without a terrific struggle.

No one who has ever watched John Allen play lacrosse could ever doubt his

credentials were of the highest quality. Many years of playing in top-class lacrosse all across Canada gave John an insight into the game which is pretty hard to top. He really did a job with the local boys here during his stay.

I think it would be safe to say his influence is largely responsible for the way lacrosse had held on in Rossland despite the fact there is no longer a league other than the fun league.

John called me a few days back to say he had just

returned from the Coast where he had spent some time watching the senior and junior league games. He was particularly interested in the Vancouver Burrards and the Victoria Shamrocks, the two teams for which two of his Rossland recruits play, he was very impressed with the way Walt Christiansen and Jeff Eder are fitting into what is classed as the top lacrosse organization in Canada today.

He says both are outstanding players and he feels Walter's inclusion in the national lacrosse team is an honor well earned. Indeed it is a real break for Walter and John feels the young Rossland native may well live up to the promise he has shown.

I asked John what he thought of the chances of a return to Senior "B" lacrosse in this Interior area and he told me it would depend on scheduling. If the Okanagan and the East Kootenay could put teams into a league with the West Kootenay on an interlocking schedule basis the financial strain could be eased. The big thing, of course, is the class which could be achieved to draw in the paying customers. There is no doubt there are class players in all these areas, but putting teams together would be the big hurdle to surmount.

John mentioned that some people interested in the game have recently taken over a local hotel. This could mean lacrosse could return to Trail over the next little

the subject in last week's column. This week's event was run by Phil Bateman and Archie McCannel and six balls were handed out, two for low net and four for least putts.

Lou Crowe and Gil Besso, with 31 and 33 respectively were low net winners, Lou tells me he was so astounded at breaking 50 that he and his playing partners went over the scorecard a half-dozen times before they turned it in. All that practice must be paying off, Lou.

On the least putt front there were four players who came in with fourteen, Bill Dobbs, Bill Limacher, Clyde Nyman and Chuck Dabner. That's something like 1.55 putts per hole, not bad for a bunch of old-timers!

Next week, Bernie Ferrey will be in charge and we hope for another great day and a possible increase over the 28 golfers who showed up Tuesday.

A trip to Kaslo for a round highlighted our weekend. Herb Castle, Henry Matthews, John McFarland and I went up on Sunday and enjoyed the trip and a round of the neat little course hard by Kootenay Lake.

We honored one of our senior citizens Monday evening. A group of friends joined George Dyson for the celebration of his 73rd birthday.

George is a tireless worker on behalf of any worthwhile project in our town and deserves the recognition of his fellow citizens.

We wish Dave Limacher

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John mentioned that some people interested in the game have recently taken over a local hotel. This could mean lacrosse could return to Trail over the next little while, that could spark the old Rossland-Trail rivalry which was such a big thing some years back when the Redmen and the Golden Bears used to draw crowds every time they met.

Last week I didn't attend Retirees day at the upper course and I didn't get a report so that was the reason I had nothing to say about

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We wish Dave Limacher and his 13-year-olds all the best as they play in Cody, Wy. for the Pacific Northwest Championships. They will be facing some pretty tough competition but these kids know what that's all about, most of them are graduates of Andy Bilesky's championship team of a year ago.

Good news for ball fans who like to watch the game on TV. It will be "play ball" again on Sunday as we can watch the annual All-Star game.