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PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

A visit to the Rossland Arena Tuesday night was a heartwarming experience, not only because the young Warriors won their first exhibition home game but because of the number of people who showed up for the encounter.

We had almost as many people in the stands as we saw for lots of league games last season and I think I know the reason. This year's team is composed of mostly Rossland kids, 17 of the 20 dressed last night have come up through the Rossland farm system.

No less an authority than Dave Limacher, coach of the Junior Smokies, was impressed. He told me during the game that he hadn't seen

a Rossland team in years with the same enthusiasm these kids displayed.

They don't have all the moves down yet but it's coming. Last night, Creston caught them without a man back a couple of times and it cost them. The other goal came from a scramble around the net, on each occasion the trigger-man was Captain Bob Woykin, the only Clipper who seemed capable of mounting any threat to the Rossland defence.

Darryl Lindgren, a kid just out of Bantam hockey was between the pipes for the first period and part of the second when both teams changed goalies. Hoss Drake came on to replace Darryl the rest of the way. The youngster fits the mold established by a long list of Rossland goalies: he's cool and he has a good pair of hands, and there's not much wrong with his eyesight, either. Hoss was his usual calm self; maybe getting married has helped.

The defence, headed by Peter Corrado and Ron Lauriente, handled their job effectively, getting back into position when needed and handing out some pretty good checks. Les Martindale, a kid from Kitimat, Len Lauriente, Ron's brother, and Mark Haynes were the most used on defence.

Forward lines were juggled most of the evening, with last year's standouts leading the way. Robbie Martin, John Caron and Allan Simm accounted for five of Rossland's goals and three assists between them. Other point-getters for the night were Brian Edwards, Peter McLellan and Doug Phillips with a goal and an assist each. Ron Lauriente had two assists, Corrado, Murray Walter, Scott Ar-

mour and Gary Burbridge had one apiece. Other forwards dressed were Kenny Davis, Tim McNulty, John McMaster and Roger Woodhouse.

Tonight marks the opening of league play for our young team and it will be a test as any game you play against Grand Forks always is. The Bruins played Trail in exhibition and it was a tough 6-4 win for Dave Limacher's boys.

On Saturday they travel out to the Valley to play in the Nite-Hawks home opener. The Beaver Valley team has played a few more exhibitions than Rossland.

Two of the more talented rookies on the Trail Juniors according to the news from their camp are two youngsters who make their homes in the valley. Terry Jones and Ken Dergousoff are highly touted to make the Trail team. Along with Rich Melnyk, one would think the Nite-Hawks could use this kind of help. I don't profess to know how but it seems to me that something could be done about this kind of a situation.

Down through the years the residence rule has been flouted by most every team in the organization. Let's face it, a new team is entering the league needing all the player help it can get and three of the better players in its area are playing for the division's strongest team. Seems a little odd, doesn't it?

One can say Rossland hasn't any room to talk, they did it for years. True, but the boys that came to Rossland only brought the team up to par with the rest of the league and when the town they came from got a team going they went back there if they were needed.

While on the subject of hockey, we are all happy to see the way the newest ex-KIJHL grad to hit the NHL is performing. We all know Steve Bozek was a good hockey player when he played with Castlegar's first year Rebels. Now, paired with two of hockey's great scorers in Dionne and Taylor, he will get a real chance to show his worth.

I know I won't soon forget the job he did of shadowing one of the KIJHL's slickest performers in the series that earned the Rebels their first league title. Good luck to you, Steve!

Well it looks like we are just about to hang up the old clubs and get out the broom and sweater from the closet. Eric Granstrom says they will endeavor to get Shift Curling started again, anyone interested should contact Eric for more details. Play will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

Back to hockey for a moment, boys who did not make it to Rossland's opening night of minor hockey registration can still sign up Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the arena lounge.

Charges for the season are \$40 more for novice, \$45 for atoms and \$55 for all other grades. Anyone interested in coaching is asked to call 362-5155.

With the oddball baseball season in its last anxious moments, the question on most fans' minds is can the Expos come through or will they blow it in their last few games? Their two games against the Cards point toward a negative answer to that question.