

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Last Sunday hockey fans got a look at the first Canadian team to enter the Europa Cup competition, a tournament for under-19 years of age teams from all the European hockey powers. What they saw was one really disciplined hockey club who showed class with a capital "C".

The Penticton Knights are definitely the class of their league having won all but one game since the start of this season, while the opposition, Rossland Warriors, are going through the throes of a rebuilding season.

While admitting there was never any doubt as to the outcome of this lop-sided contest, I don't think the people responsible for the Warriors' fortunes should feel any regrets for having put their team on the line

against the classy Marc Pezzin-coached team from the BCJHL.

The youthful Warriors, who were incidentally supplemented by three players from the Midget-Juvenile division, Mike Beattie, Kevin McMaster and Dean Mayer, gave a gutsy performance against impossible odds. You heard comments all round the arena on the way the kids gave it the old college try throughout the game. They just refused to quit.

According to the Warrior program, the team was supposed to be bolstered by four Castlegar Rebel players. I never asked why they didn't show but no information was offered and one can only assume the Rebels had second thoughts

on letting their players into an exhibition game during a hectic league schedule.

I don't think anyone who came to the game to see the KIJHL gift to the Knights, Raymond Ferraro, had any reason to feel let down. Raymond came through as you knew he would. He gave a sparkling performance throughout and scored three great goals. It would seem Raymond is headed for big things in hockey and will take the same route as others who have gone before him, via a U.S. college.

Tuesday, we watched a contest at the arena which swung back and forth between the Warriors and the Rebels before the Warriors edged in front and came out winners by a 5-4 score. The Warriors were never behind in the contest going out in front on a Marty Lizotte goal halfway through the first period. They added one in the second before the Rebels came back with two fast goals to tie the score. Ken Davis got a go-head goal before the period ended.

Rossland went up by two early in the third but at the halfway mark the line of Lyle Stoushnow, Barry Streliev and Terry Nazaroff got two smart goals for the Rebels to tie it up again.

The Warriors came back with probably the prettiest goal of the contest. Rob Martin carried down the right side and seeing Peter McLellan swooping in from

number of the favorites from past Smokie and Maple Leaf teams and the tickets are quite reasonable at \$2 apiece. All this is scheduled for the Cominco Arena Sunday, Nov. 15 at 3 p.m. Give these well-intentioned people your support and treat yourself to an afternoon of good entertainment.

Still on hockey, a lady stopped me on the street in Rossland the other day and asked me if I was aware a number of local girls are playing on the Trail Smokettes, the female hockey team who cut quite a swath in their category last season. If memory serves me right, I promised to look into it and am in the process of pursuing the subject. If anyone interested would care to call, my phone number is 362-5205, if I'm not home, leave your number and I'll get back to you.

On the curling front, the Retirees of Rossland got under way with a practice session on Tuesday. We had

about 30 out, some new faces and the promise of more to come. We will have another warm-up session Friday and probably start competition next week. There are also a number of our members who would enjoy games with members of other retiree clubs. These would be strictly for fun, of course, and would add some variety to our club activities.

This one from Paddy Flood's repertoire of stories with an English accent.

A man walked into an English pub with his head held at an awkward angle. He asked the bartender how many people were in the bar. Hearing there were 25, he said: "Give them all a drink." The bartender served up the drinks and tendered the tab. Hearing the generous one say he had no money, the barkeep said, "If you had done that up at the King's Head they'd have broken your neck."

"I know," the other replied, "I just came from there."

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While on the subject of hockey, I got a call from Terry Jones of Montrose the other day. Terry is doing some work on what is rapidly becoming an annual event in this area during the hockey season. The event is the game between the Trail Oldtimers and their Nelson counterparts. Besides its entertainment value the game's proceeds go to a most worthy and deserving cause.

Those who benefit from this effort are the kids who otherwise would not be able to afford to take part in our various sports programs. Terry tells me that for two years in a row the event has raised in excess of \$1,800 each year for this cause.

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