

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

On Monday evening a meeting was held in Castlegar to determine the future of Legion curling as far as West Kootenay zone is concerned. Ten concerned curling enthusiasts met in the Castlegar Legion to plan for this winter's Legion 'spiel which will be held in Rossland.

The findings of the meeting reversed a decision made at the Legion convention in Kaslo earlier this fall to hold branch playdowns, with winners in the two categories, senior and junior, to advance to a playoff in Rossland to determine who would advance to the provincial playoffs.

This format was roundly criticized by quite a number of knowledgeable curlers around the district, mainly because the cost factor of subsidizing rinks to go on to the provincial and national playdowns is growing by leaps and bounds every year and it was thought the idea of the comradeship of Legion

curling was being lost to the increasing commercialism.

The meeting passed a motion to hold a West Kootenay bonspiel for anyone interested, from any branch in the zone, in Rossland early in the New Year with rinks to make arrangements, if they so desire, to go on in competition at their own expense, in order to do this they would have to notify the provincial command they would be the West Kootenay representative, before the end of 1981.

To make the annual 'spiel attractive to Legion curlers it is hoped to arrange for some good prizes and keep the cost of entries to a reasonable level.

Last Saturday evening I watched the Rossland Warriors take their worst trimming of the season. They had gone to Castlegar Friday and took a win from the Rebels, but the next night Elk Valley Raiders, coached by a Rossland native, Rick Grieve, grew

stronger and more confident each period, and walked out of the rink with a well-deserved 10-3 win.

It seems like some of the underdogs in the early going are starting to flex their muscles. Beaver Valley took the Junior Smokies 6-4 in some kind of an upset in the Cominco Arena on Friday evening, the same night that Rossland were taking one of their few victories in the Castlegar Arena, seems like this Beaver Valley team is going to be a very competitive addition to the league.

The loss of Robbie Martin is hurting the Warrior cause and it is hoped he will be back before long. Robbie is a team leader and his absence sure is noticeable.

Sometimes its pretty good to see the replay of a certain incident in sports events. Last Sunday was definitely one of those times as we watched the official pull a colossal boo-boo in the football game at Edmonton. It just goes to prove the

people who officiate at games like this are definitely human and prone to miss what looked like an open and shut case. It makes one wonder if there was some sort of lack of attention to the job, as if the official took it for granted that Ford could not keep his balance when he was pushed from behind by Waddell Smith in a last-ditch attempt to push him out of bounds.

As it was, the Lions gave a pretty good account of themselves, as they extended the Eskimos to the limit before going down to defeat at the hands of what has to be one of the strongest teams in the CFL for many years.

I guess Edmonton will be strong favorites to win the big one on Sunday, but this Ottawa team looked pretty strong as they took out the Tiger-Cats after disposing of the Alouettes in that mud-bath at Lansdowne Park the previous weekend.

Back to curling for a

moment, the Rossland Retirees are now well under way in our current campaign and a few rinks are off to an excellent start. Jack Mitchell's and Phil Bateman's foursomes are among those who are sporting pretty nifty records so far while some are still looking for their first win.

The season has started out real well, with attendance on the 10 rinks being almost perfect, we have a spare-board but so far it has been used only the odd time.

What a lift we retirees have, get up when you feel like it, do as you please all day, eat well and have lots of people to mix with. Some people see retirement as a pretty boring time but for myself and a lot of my friends its a real ball, golf in the summer, curling during the winter, hockey games to watch and Legion and Lion activities make it one continuous round of pleasure.

That's if for now, be seeing you next week.