

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

If the Rossland Warriors miss the playoffs, they can lay a lot of the blame at the door of the Beaver Valley Nite Hawks. The Hawks have won just nine games in the league thus far and four of those have been at the expense of the Warriors. Two were in the Rossland arena.

The last win was last Friday before one of this season's most exuberant crowds. The exuberance was one-sided at the end as the small contingent of Valley fans celebrated their team's come-from-behind victory.

The first period of the game was fast, well played and with a minimum of whistles but the penalties began to appear in the second as Rossland took 10 penalties including two majors, while BV took eight including two big ones, these were worked out without too much trouble; the Hawks managed a goal and Rossland got two.

Going into the third up 6-2, the Warriors looked like a shoo-in, but they were in for a rude awakening. Penalties cut down the Warrior strength and the Hawks poured in four unanswered goals while the home team was thwarted on some real

good chances by replacement goalie Rick Cheveldave. He came on after Brad Campeau had been victimized by five Warrior scores and Rob Martin's goal at 10:00 of the second was the last Rossland score of the game and the only one to cross Cheveldave's doorstep.

The winner was anticlimactic, everyone in the rink except the Rossland goalie saw it coming, he was quite effectively screened on that play.

The play throughout featured a lot of heavy checking and it wasn't confined to the boards, there were bodies flying all over the rink, but most of it was clean. A thought crossed my mind as I watched. How can a referee sort the chippy ones from the good ones when a game is as physical as this one was? I think he must do a lot of guesswork and guessing can be a dangerous game.

The play of the Warriors deteriorated in the third, a lot of attempted passes slithered a few feet from a stick only to be picked up by the opposition and fired out to someone waiting in the wings.

The future fortunes of the

Warriors will depend on how they come back from twin defeats on the weekend, an 8-3 loss to Nelson didn't help any, in games against other teams in the league they have pretty well split the points, but Castlegar appears to be stiffening and Nelson and Trail aren't going to give away any freebies so it looks quite gloomy unless the Warriors can start taking some points out of the Valley.

While Grand Forks looks like a happy hunting ground this season, Creston and Spokane, like Castlegar, are improving their early-season form.

So, come on you Warriors, we have seen you play some pretty good games this season, it's a little early in the season to quit.

The development of the B.C. Winter Games program, to be held in Trail and district this year is going well. A lot of volunteer work is going to be needed and it seems to be forthcoming.

In these days of inflated prices for everything from labor to professional fees to the always-needed grocery and meat basket and even the roof over one's head, the fact that people still volunteer is to be appreciated.

I have not seen a program of events so far, so I don't know how the games are going to be distributed around the country, I have heard that Red Mountain will come in for the major share of the skiing events and Rossland Arena will hold some of the hockey, along with the Castlegar Complex and probably Beaver Valley.

Having the games in this area is certainly a big boost for Trail and district and we can all hope they turn out well, after some of the horror stories that came out of Prince George last year, the powers-that-be will be looking for a way to freshen up their image, a complete turnaround this year would be one sure way of doing that.

Reading the list of volunteer organizations who are lining up to help gives a

pretty good idea of what we can expect from the committee, most of them can be counted upon to give until it hurts for the cause and with the right people in the right places at the top, the 1982 Winter Games should go over with a bang.

The Retirees Club of Rossland celebrates Christmas in a manner in which we have become accustomed. For our Christmas party we team up with the Ladies' Curling Club and I don't think I would get any argument from any of our members if I said, "I can't think of a better way to spend the holiday season!"

The big day is Dec. 15. Can anyone think of a better way to spend a few merry hours,

curling, eating a fine meal and having a short one or two in the company of a very bright bunch of ladies? I can't!

The Retirees finished their first competition on Tuesday and Angus Popplewell won out, but not without a hungry bunch of curlers snapping at his heels; Phil Bateman, Jack Mitchell and Dick Cotton were tied at 11 points each, three behind Angus, George Dyson had 10, Russ Broughton and Arnie Vanness nine each, Norm Harry had seven and from there on it was dog eat dog, I wound up with five and Rich Watkinson had three.

The new draws are out and its a new ball game, you can expect big things from the newly-appointed skips, Gil Besso and Bernie Ferrey.