

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

The KIJHL season is entering its "run to the wire" and the only spot in the West Division where there is any contention is for third and fourth playoff spots.

Battling for the playoff spots in this division are Castlegar Rebels, Beaver Valley Nite Hawks and the Rossland Warriors. The Rebels were underdogs in post-season play before and confounded the experts. They did it in their first season, 1975, and have been in the thick of things ever since.

The Nite Hawks, given no chance early in the season, have shown some remarkable talent and are right in the thick of things as the season draws to a close. The Warriors have had a pretty good record for the season in games against Castlegar but have been stymied thus far by the Hawks.

At the start of the season, having come off their worst campaign ever the previous season, the Warriors looked ready to go places. They won some at home and best of all, had a reasonably good record away, but of late they have lost a number of

big ones. Two of the most damaging were back-to-back losses on the weekend to Grand Forks and Nelson.

Looking ahead, the remainder of the schedule does not offer any real hope for easy wins, their six remaining home games are against Castlegar, Beaver Valley, Creston, Nelson, Columbia Valley and Grand Forks who have just four wins on the season.

Away games, five in number, are the make up game against Grand Forks, which they missed because of the Penticton exhibition, Beaver Valley, Kimberley, Creston and Nelson. So the Warriors have no easy task ahead if they are to make the playoffs.

Can they make it? If they can turn some of their performances on home ice around, they can make it.

Curling has resumed on all fronts now after the holiday break and the ladies' afternoon club has passed along some tidbits on their last competition.

The last trophy up for grabs was the Cominco trophy and it was won by the Marg Rosse rink with Dorothy Fines' foursome

coming in second. Corrie Bateman, Mary Vickers and Laura Thompson made up the rest of the Rosse rink while Dorothy had Dorothy Albo, Ruth Dugan and Jessie Skinner assisting her.

Play has started for the Orwell Trophy and the Winter Wonderland 'spiel is scheduled for Valentine's Day weekend. Anyone wishing information regarding entries for this event are asked to contact Dorothy Fines or Ruth Dugan.

Word has come to me that the Rossland High School team of Troy Albo, Mark Allen, Darren Albo and Gordie Ross will go to Nelson this weekend to play in the West Kootenay final. The eventual winner will play off with the East Kootenay to decide who will go to Victoria for the B.C. high school championship.

These four boys, chaperoned by Alfie Albo Jr. were winners here last year and this is the final year for all of them except Darren, so let's wish the boys all the luck they need to go with their good curling expertise and a successful trip wherever it may end.

The Retirees' club are winding down their second competition and Dick Cotton's rink is leading the way hard pressed by Angus Popplewell and Phil Bateman. A dark horse by the name of Dyson is making noises like he's

championship Smoke Eaters and Jake played a lot of Intermediate hockey after I arrived here in 1946 along with such guys as Bill and Bert Milne and many others.

Along with these two came one of Trail's most colorful citizens, well known for his exploits on the lacrosse floor, Paul Seymour. Vic Worley and Red King from the Tadanac Fire Department, Paul Gavriluk and a couple of gents named Archie and Sonny completed the gathering and we enjoyed

the company immensely, incidentally "we" were John McFarland and Chuck Harkness. It's fun to run into people you know and whose company you enjoy.

Now this; a Sunday school teacher, trying to teach her students the difference between right and wrong.

"All right, children" she said, "if I were to get into a man's pocket and take his billfold with all his money, what would I be?"

One student raised her hand and responded, "You'd be his wife."

That's all for now.

winding down their second competition and Dick Cotton's rink is leading the way hard pressed by Angus Popplewell and Phil Bateman. A dark horse by the name of Dyson is making noises like he's going to take a run at the leaders, so look out you fellows out front.

It looks like a playoff is in the works to decide who will represent our club at the over-60 playoffs to be held in Rossland later on this year. At present there are four rinks who have signified their intention to contest for the two spots open to our club. They will be skipped by Angus Popplewell, Arnold Vanness, Phil Bateman and George Dyson. Bateman and Dyson represented the club last year in Grand Forks and Popplewell took the place of a Nelson no-show.

Speaking of Grand Forks, our club has been invited to play some games over there on Monday. At this time it looks like five rinks will travel over that way and try to show those people how we do it in Rossland.

On the way home from a visit to the Trail Hospital, where we had visited little Jack Molyneux, we dropped into the Rex for a drop of refreshment. Joe Sokolic and Blackie Orlando were at the next table but the group grew some as some retiree curlers dropped in and then some guys off the Hill. When all were assembled there were 10 grouped around the table. Jake McLeod and Ab Cronie, who every hockey fan in this district remembers, Ab was probably best known for his partnership with Joe Benoit and Bunny Dame on Trail's