

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

This weekend Rossland Minor Hockey Association is sponsoring and playing host to an eight-team House League tournament. Entered are two teams each from Beaver Valley, Castlegar, Trail and Rossland.

The competition will be a round-robin, total-point formula with sportsmanship the aim. One of those responsible for setting it up, Clyde Moore, told me they have received a great deal of help from the Rossland business community for which they are grateful. He will be looking forward to a strong showing from Rossland fans.

The dates for the tourney are February 6-7 and the first game starts at 8 a.m. in the arena on Saturday. This is a house league tourney and the competition should be keen enough to make for some pretty good hockey.

On Wednesday, some 48 people left Trail for Japan, among them are the members of the Trail Smoke Eaters hockey club who are participating in a five-team international tournament there.

As I understand it they will play six games in three different cities and will be returning to Trail Feb. 15. While I was a little surprised to hear they had accepted the offer while in a struggle for the top spot in the WIHL, I certainly wish them well over there. It will be a big boost for senior hockey in

this area if they should come home with a good record in the tournament. Go, Smokies, Go!

The Warriors, meanwhile, have got themselves into a must-win situation and not only must they win but someone has to give them a lot of help. Beaver Valley has two games in hand and have a four-point lead over the Rossland team. The situation books pretty hopeless.

The Warriors play Columbia Valley Rockies tonight at the arena. They defeated this same team on the Rockies' ice earlier in the season, but the Rockies have been playing good hockey of late. Should the Warriors lose this one and Beaver Valley win their game in Nelson, it would make our hopes rather remote.

This year the Warriors got off to a good start and even held first place for a while, but they have fallen on bad times of late. Instead of 60-minute games they have played 40-minute ones losing substantial leads.

The Nite Hawks and Rebels have sustained themselves through 60 minutes but the locals have played very few games in which they were able to win in the third period or overtime.

If they don't make the playoffs, it will be a case of wait until next year. I suppose some will ask "are you not being a little fast on

the trigger?" Maybe. I'm willing to admit while there's life there's hope, but we haven't seen anything to make us hope for a miracle. Nobody will be happier than I, if by some stroke of magic, the kids can make it happen. So let's go Warriors, win all the rest of 'em and you can then rest on your record and hope.

In one month from today we shall be into the B.C. Winter Games. This event is one of the most highly-rated in the province. The four days will probably be the busiest four days in the lives of quite a number of people in the area. Personally, I am helping with the parking around Rossland. Here, events will be held in the arena, the high school and Red Mountain. A bunch of Legion members are going

to give a hand on this project and it seems everyone you talk to has been approached to give a hand. This bodes well for the operation of all the facilities that will be necessary to make the games a success.

Red Mountain will be the centre of alpine skiing action (cross-country at the case). The high school will be headquarters for netball and there will be girls' hockey competition in the arena. Cook Avenue school will house athletes, coaches, trainers, etc. and some of these people, I understand, will be located at the high school too. The regulation of the parking in these areas will be the responsibility of the group assigned by Bill Kassian of Trail, of which our Legion group is one.

It sure looks like as are in for a busy time. It's a once in a lifetime chance to put our

area on the map and it looks like a lot of people have taken the challenge to heart.

We have word a team sponsored by a well-known local restaurant will be one of the entries in the masters basketball section. Most of the action will be at Selkirk College.

The team is composed of women from Rossland, Trail and the general area. They play in the West Kootenay Ladies' Basketball League, against teams representing Trail, Salmo, Nelson, Castlegar and Selkirk College. Rossland reps on the team are Bonnie Szekeley, Betty Jenkins and Shirley Donald.

I am grateful to Deanna Keraiff for the information regarding this part of the girls' basketball scene in the coming games.