

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

During the weekend there was a hockey tournament in Rossland which I and quite a number of other people enjoyed watching. It was the kind of hockey which is really the grass roots of the game — Pee Wee House League.

These are kids around the 12 year age group and they play the game the way they are taught to by their coaches. They are not old enough to have too many pre-conceived ideas of their own, so they skate as hard as they know how. You see very few rough play calls by the officials, but their game does not want for exciting plays. There is quite a bit of falling and a number of flubbed shots, but these kids are into every minute of the games they play.

The tournament was masterminded by a number of Rossland sportsmen who are interested in doing what they can for these youngsters. The emphasis is on giving them competition with a capital C.

This past weekend they certainly had that and then some. Every game was played as though the kids were playing for the game's top prize.

The gents referred to are Gary Holm, Rossland's president of minor hockey, Geoff Chambers and Clyde Moore, tournament director. Clyde ran an excellent show, he has considerable experience, having done the same sort of thing up in the northern regions of the province.

Ron Holm was an ever-present fixture as he saw that all the score sheets were filled in and ready for all games, so there was no holdup in starting games at the appointed times and Desi Monaghan was right on the job with his ice machine.

I will not try to name everyone who helped make the show a success, but there were many; ticket-office people, led by Gerta Cox, who, by the way, was honored with a medal for her efforts on the kids' behalf; the concession help who did a great job with coffee and

kept score and did the announcing.

Last but not least the officials, mostly young graduates of Rossland's minor ranks who did a commendable job with the kids.

Every kid who took part, and there were eight teams in all, two from the Valley, two from Trail and two from Castlegar along with the two Rossland teams, sponsored by Drake's Dairy and the local RCMP, received recognition in the form of medallions, bronze, silver and gold, just like in the Olympics.

It is not the aim of the committee in charge to name most valuable players or most sportsmanlike or even the top scorers or all-star teams. The aim is to promote sportsmanship among these youngsters and in this effort I must say they had success.

However, as a fan, who enjoyed every minute of every game I must say the performance of a couple of kids really impressed me. One was a goalie. This little guy, Jeff Angerelli, was the netminder for the Beaver Valley Smokies, in the last game they played, against the Nite Hawks from the Valley, he was really something, he must have made more stops than an average goalie does in a full-game shootout in just the final period. His counterpart at the other end never had to make one stop in the third period.

Another kid I got a real kick out of was a defenceman for the Trail Flames, John Pasqualotto (where did I hear that name before) who skated like a demon and handled the puck like a seasoned veteran. He scored the goal which won the gold medal for his team.

Runners-up to the Flames were Rossland Drake's Dairy, they won on goals for (16) as four teams were tied with two wins each. Castlegar Credit Union placed third, losing a terrific battle in the final game to the Flames, a contest that was in doubt until late in the final period.

team, double knockout tourney will start at 8 a.m. Saturday and run until 8 p.m. Sunday, with time off to sleep, or whatever, on Saturday night.

The entrants will be Rossland Labatts, Rossland Skidders, Rossland Snappy Service, Silver City 69'ers, Trail Tank Rooms, Genelle Millionaires, Campbell River and Spokane American All-Stars, the top three teams will receive individual player trophies while the championship team will take home the Steve McFarland Memorial Trophy for one year.

From the Ladies' Curling Club, via Fanny Albo, comes word that they have completed the play for the Orwell Trophy and have just started play in the Smart Trophy competition. The winners in the Orwell were Gert Sandulescu and her rink of Beryl David, third, Ruth Dugan, second and Jean Cormack, lead. Helen Ling was the runner-up and was assisted by Irene Dunlop at third, Mary Vickers, throwing second rocks and Carol Jackson as lead.

Competition is keen as the Oldtimers continue play in the third competition of the season, a nine-game rotation set-up to give some of the newer members a chance to find out what the skip has to suffer through. My rink of Leo Telfer, Gord Brennan and Toby "Mr. Wonderful" Edworthy have done a fine job so far, in four games we have one win, one tie and two losses, however, looking to the future, we can see a silver lining shining through.

When the over-60 playoffs start in the arena on Feb. 16, Rossland Retirees will be represented by Angus Popplewell and Phil Bateman with the George Dyson rink as stand-by in case of a late drop-out. Angus has Russ Broughton, Gil Besso and Cleve Cowland on his rink, while Phil has Rich Watkinson, Joe Rosse and Dick Vermiere.

The Warriors play their last scheduled game tonight

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From my good friend, Albert Bruce, comes the news that Rossland's sixth annual fun hockey tournament will take place at the arena Feb. 27-28. The eight-

team, double knockout tourney will start at 8 a.m. Saturday and run until 8 p.m. Sunday, with time off to sleep, or whatever, on Saturday night.

The entrants will be Rossland Labatts, Rossland Skidders, Rossland Snappy Service, Silver City 69'ers, Trail Tank Rooms, Genelle Millionaires, Campbell River and Spokane American All-Stars, the top three teams will receive individual player trophies while the championship team will take home the Steve McFarland Memorial Trophy for one year.

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The Warriors play their last scheduled game tonight against the much-improved Grand Forks Border Bruins and it would be nice to go out with a win for the home-town fans who have gone through a considerable drought of late.