

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Rossland's annual hockey bash took place last weekend. The tone was set in the early going and while there were no major altercations during the two-day event, there was, I thought, a little more use of the body than has been noticeable in past tournaments.

There were a couple of times when the young referees had their hands full but they did an admirable job.

Robby Martin, Alan Simm, Greg Thatcher, Bob and Bill Sherwood, Clyde Moore, Skip Ferguson, Arnie Sherwood and Peter Corrado and a couple of other youngsters whom I didn't recognize made up the officiating crew. Despite what may be bandied around about it, the job was done well.

The organizers, headed by Albert Bruce, had a good schedule drawn up for the eight competing teams and with the help of some members of the local Lions club things were kept rolling and on time. I don't think there was a game in the tourney that was more than five minutes out in getting under way. That's a pretty good record when you remember it is essentially a fun tournament and the degree of merrymaking that went on after hours caused doubts that some of the Sunday games would be on

time. There were a few missing bodies for the 8 a.m. game on Sunday, but the hardy ones who dressed for the Labatts-Skidlers game, while they may have shown some signs of fatigue, did a pretty good job.

The emphasis in this tournament is to keep the heavy body-checking to a minimum. There was quite a bit of bumping in this one but the boys kept a good hold on their tempers and there were only a couple of times when it took a rash of penalties to keep order in the house.

But our national pastime is not a game for anyone who lacks that ingredient sometimes called intestinal fortitude and most of the near-clashes ended up with the opposing combatants sitting in the sin bin exchanging notes and good-natured banter.

Rossland's Snappy Service team won a good share of the silverware as they went undefeated to a rather easy win of the "A" side championship, defeating the Trail 69ers in the final. In the "B" side, Spokane had a comparatively easy time as they subdued a scrappy Genelle Millionaires team to take that end of the tourney.

The team that travelled quite a distance to take part in the tourney was the Campbell River entry. This bunch of guys, with a number of Rossland natives

on the roster, went all the way to the "A" final last year but were sidelined this year as they made their second bid for the Steve McFarland Memorial trophy. Rossland boys on that team this year were Joe and John Feeney, Eddie Rosse and Mike Evans.

Selecting the top players in the tourney was the task I was given. There were quite a number of outstanding individual performers in the most valuable, top goalie and most sportsmanlike categories. Snappy's Joe Zanussi was outstanding in the most valuable with Spokane's Scott McIntosh, 69ers' Art Mercer and Snappy's Bob Profili earning honorable mention.

In the goalie section, I chose Dave Bisaro of the Tank Rooms team. This young man faced a terrific deluge of rubber and stood up admirably. Mark Davis, a stocky, balding backstop on the Spokane team earned honorable mention along with Jack Wert of the winning team.

There were a lot of good sports in the tourney but James Beamish of the Tank Rooms got the most sportsmanlike award, some others whom I thought fitted into this category were Bud Bodman of Spokane and Howie Korn of Labatts.

Speaking to Bodman during the tourney, he told me that he, his brother Joey and McIntosh have all been asked to try out with Spokane's 1982-83 entry in the WIHL. They operated as a line in the past tourney and came up with a lot of points.

Closing this without mentioning the job done by the Minor Hockey ladies in the concession, the help in the lounge and Greta in the ticket booth, would be unforgiveable. Also I would like to thank all those who helped out in the scorekeepers box, Jack Cox, Ken Stanton, "Spud" Martin, Alfie Albo, George Tomich, Dan Fenney, Mike and Tommy Feeney and Paddy Corrado.

Then there was Desi, Jack, Nancy and Ray, who kept

the momentum going with their expertise on the ice machine, etc. Thanks, folks!

The curling season is drawing to a close and I and my rink of retirees tied for third in the last regular competition, a rotation affair. Our good showing hinged largely on the performance of a gent by the name of Toby who amassed something like 27 points during his skipping stints during the nine-game event. Leo Telfer and Gordon Brennan were my other mates.

What's left of the season will be spent playing a modified bonspiel and we'll wind up with a mixed affair with the ladies' club around the end of the month.

A week ago 20 of us went to Trail on an invitational which was thoroughly enjoyed by all attending. As always, our hosts went out of their way to show us a good time, except on the ice, where Phil Bateman's close game with a Trail rink was our best performance. But, when you're enjoying yourself you don't worry about winning or losing.

On March 10 we have Grand Forks retirees over for a return engagement of curling, etc. This is in return for a visit we paid them earlier in the season.

Tuesday we had a visitor to our morning games. Big

Paul Seymour was looking over our ice in preparation for a Sunday battle between a couple of Trail area service clubs. Paul spent quite a while watching; hope he learned something of value. I keep trying, but somehow those little tricks of the ice manage to evade me.

Well, bring on the Winter Games, our little group concerned with parking in Rossland are prepared for what looks to be shaping up as a busy weekend.

That's it for this week.