

# PEPP-TALK

with  
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Pepper

When you want to watch aggressive hockey, don't sit down in front of your television screen, find out where the Bantams are playing and you will get your fill.

After all, that's what most people like to watch; the type played by these kids is not like what we are used to on the tube or on the local ice surfaces in the KIJHL or the

WIHL.

For a long time we have been bombarded with the arguments that hockey is getting too rough and tough. Hockey was never a game for the chicken-hearted, if you don't like seeing a couple of young teen-agers bump one another around, you don't go to the hockey rink. Try watching tennis!

You don't find too many

tantrums in the Bantam hockey ranks, they are too busy trying to keep their heads up, that's the way you survive out there. You don't last long in hockey if you drive yourself into a kid that could outweigh you by as much as 50-75 pounds.

Wednesday night I watched the second game of the Bantam series between Rossland and Beaver Valley. These kids, 13-15-year-olds, don't know the meaning of the word quit, they drive ahead. When, there's nothing left except the will that drive them — as Rudyard Kipling put it so eloquently in his magnificent

poem "If."

This series is now tied at a game apiece as Beaver Valley edged Rossland 4-3. I watched the game sitting on the edge of my seat, that's just how good a game it was. I thought the Rossland kids had an edge over the route but the kids from the Valley do not give up easily and in the end they had more marks up on the score sheet than Rossland did.

Goaltending was good at both ends, the Beaver Valley goalie had more close-in work to do than his Rossland counterpart but he stood up to it well and the Rossland scoring power was not up to

the challenge. The finish around the net was lacking at both ends, but the Valley kids got at least two of their goals from well out while the Rossland kids tried to work in close before firing and found the Valley goalie to be equal to the challenge.

The team that wins the next game of this three-game series will go to Enderby to participate in the provincial playdowns.

These kids play the game the way I like to see it played. They pull out all the stops, and let the chips fall where they may. They may not show too much finesse, but for continuous action you'll have to go a long way to beat it.

Whoever wins this series will earn the trip they are playing for and whichever it is, I wish them a lot of luck.

I'm looking forward to seeing these kids as they progress to the higher grades of the game. They are well coached and gutsy kids and I like 'em.

Our little group of volunteers who looked after the parking situation in Rossland during the rather hectic days of the Winter Games just concluded, were a very tiny part of the overall picture. Yet, we did the job we were charged with and in doing so, helped the wheels to move along smoothly. This was what made the whole show a real bang-up performance. Without all those people lending a hand it would possibly have fallen short of the super success it was.

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bang-up performance. Without all those people lending a hand it would possibly have fallen short of the super success it was.

To my group, Chuck Harkness, Rich Watkinson, Freddy Thompson and last but not least, Charlie Cholak, I say a heartfelt thanks. When you have to ask people to help, its one thing, but when they offer, it's another. Thanks also to our Trail contact man, Bill Kassian. When we heard he was in charge, we knew we would have smooth sailing.

Most of the action in the Games we got to see was the girls' hockey in the Rossland Arena and I, like a lot of other people were pleasantly surprised by the calibre of play exhibited by the girls' teams. Skating, was I believe, the outstanding part of their game, but they shot well and handled the puck like they knew what they were about. I personally like the way they settled ties, no goalie, only shoot from inside the blueline, was something I had never seen before and it provided the fans with quite a windup to the game.

We shall probably never get the chance to see them again in our lifetime, but it was quite an experience to be part of the picture and I can only speak for myself, when I say, I enjoyed doing my part.

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On Wednesday we had the Grand Forks Retirees club over for a visit and it was, as these things always are, a fun session.

We played our eight rinks against the four five-man rinks they brought over, had a great spaghetti dinner and had a few drinks with our guests. It was a swell day and everyone seemed to really enjoy it.