

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

For those of us who like to predict happenings in the world of sport, we should now take into consideration the fact there are things taking place in the present day sports arena that no one can predict with any degree of certainty.

The frustration voiced by a couple of eminent sports figures in recent weeks, have, by my standards, been somewhat in the form of "sour grapes." These people knew what was in store in the NHL playoffs since they opened training camp last fall, why didn't they voice their misgivings at that time? It would certainly have made their remarks more credible and might even have been instrumental in having possible changes made.

When I polled some of my acquaintances on their choice for the Stanley Cup about a month ago there were a number of votes along the Montreal-Edmonton line, since these two have been disposed of, there were a number of these people who have turned in desperation to teams like the L.A. Kings and Quebec. Some even favor the Canucks.

Among my Montreal fans were Tody Edworthy, John McFarland Jr., his brother Danny, Carl Osing and Hank Doerksen. Among those pulling for Edmonton were Jack MacDonald, Denise Ballison, our Legion

Castle, Charles Cholak and Dave Crawford, Chuck Harkness went with the Canucks. I hate to think of the kind of summer we'll have around the Rossland Legion if the Canucks should realize their "impossible dream."

So, we sit back and think about it. Would things have been different with a seven-game series for openers? What about the format that prevailed last year, where was it so wrong? The present formula appears to be an economic one, if so, it's understandable. What the promoters are thinking is, they have to find a way to counteract the inflated payrolls.

The question now appears to be, will the NHL see fit to heed the complaints of those "sour grapes" exponents or will the packed arenas from here on in tell them to sit on what they have come up with this season. We can certainly say one thing, this has definitely been a banner year for the underdog.

This past weekend I travelled to Castlegar for our Legion Zone convention along with several other members of our Branch No. 14 committee and a number of L.A. members. We had a real good meeting and our hosts were really tops in hospitality. Every time one turned round it seemed we were getting some service or other for free

with a good formula.

The proposed formula doesn't rule out the two-category system, rather, it enhances the Legion curling spirit. The formula proposes to have the top regular rink to come out of the zone spiel '83 and go to the provincial playoffs. The top seniors rink will also be eligible to continue. In both cases the letter of intent to Provincial Command and the entry fee will be taken care of by the zone. Expenses will be borne by the rinks advancing to the playoffs, while most branches agreed to the possibility of conducting raffles to help defray these expenses.

One of the highlights of the convention was the welcoming address by Castlegar's Mayor Audrey Moore. This gracious lady gave us a commentary of the growth of her city from way back when and she did a darn good job of researching her topic.

I would be dreaming if I tried to follow her trip through time, suffice to say I would like to follow the

general outline of her theme and see how it turns out.

From its days when the first settlement named Waterloo arose from the valley floor following a gold rush in 1895, a five-year boom which saw some 40 house, schools, saloons and an opera house built as mining promoters carried on their trade as they still do today, Castlegar was born.

1902 saw rail links and a bridge across the Arrow Lakes connected Trail, Nelson and the hub city of Castlegar while boats plied the Arrow servicing Trail and points on the Upper Lake. Between 1908 and 1925 there was amazing growth in the area with the high point being the sawmill built in what is now Kinnaird. The mill was operated by Milestone Lumber Company who added a planer later.

What followed are some developments known quite well to most area old-timers; the forming of the Castlegar Co-op in 1937 to allow Cominco workers to live in Castlegar. In 1942 the Legion

branch was formed and was chartered in 1945 in their own building.

Then came 1959 and the Canadian Cellulose Co. followed in rapid succession by Hydro's Hugh Keenleyside dam. Many improvements have followed, like the water system and the completion of the Salmo highway connection.

Castlegar's industrial park was opened and we have our own constitution and Mayor Moore is confident that Castlegar will go forward from here. She feels her town will experience considerable growth in the future because of major transportation links centred in that area. Rail, road and air are all there and are bound to promote the growth of their immediate surroundings.

She finished her remarks by thanking the Legion for its community-oriented service effort and congratulated the organization for its growth record and wished us all well in the future.

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When I polled some of my acquaintances on their choice for the Stanley Cup about a month ago there were a number of votes along the Montreal-Edmonton line, since these two have been disposed of, there were a number of these people who have turned in desperation to teams like the L.A. Kings and Quebec. Some even favor the Canucks.

Among my Montreal fans were Tody Edworthy, John McFarland Jr., his brother Danny, Carl Osing and Hank Doerksen. Among those pulling for Edmonton were Jack MacDonald, Denise Rallison, our Legion stewardess, and Ray Scott. Then people picked their favorites and stood by them, while, as I said before, there were some who picked and then had to pick again when their teams were upset.

Those who still have a fighting chance are George Dyson, Quebec; Carl Seefeldt, Boston; Chris Christianson (who went so far as to predict the teams who will play in the final). He has an excellent chance of saying "I told you so," if and when the Islanders and Chicago meet.

Other Islander pickers were Phil Bateman, Herb

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One section of the deliberations had to do with zone sports where curling always comes in for a lot of discussion. After the debacle we had at the fall meeting in Kaslo in '81, something had to be ironed out, after a winter of hastily-called meetings a format for the future was hammered out and presented on the floor of the convention at Castlegar and passed. While there will possibly be dissenters among Legion curling buffs when the zone 'spiel comes along next year, the zone sports committee is to be commended for coming up

to come out of the zone spiel '83 and go to the provincial playoffs. The top seniors rink will also be eligible to continue. In both cases the letter of intent to Provincial Command and the entry fee will be taken care of by the zone. Expenses will be borne by the rinks advancing to the playoffs, while most branches agreed to the possibility of conducting raffles to help defray these expenses.

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