

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

The fortunes of the Rossland Warriors is in the hands of the fates. For some reason they are coming up one goal short in their attempts to salvage a victory that could lift them out of the cellar of the Western division of the KIJHL.

Grand Forks Border Bruins are immediately above the Warriors in the standings and a couple of wins for the Rossland crew during this coming weekend could vault them over the Bruins into fifth place. Then there is the problem of Castlegar Rebels who currently hold down fourth spot with six wins and threatening to take more.

Doug Buhr, Warrior manager, has expressed optimism with his team's chances and on the strength of their recent performances his optimism is not out of place. Losing by one goal is certainly nothing to be ashamed of but it can get pretty frustrating.

Perhaps the addition of Darren Pastro and Rob Porcellato, cut from the Trail Juniors early in the pre-season, will give the Warriors that little spark they need. The team, which started the season with a pretty big load of rookies, has seen them become a pretty effective unit. Darren Pastro got a goal in the 5-4 overtime loss to the Nelson Juniors on Tuesday evening. Perhaps when he gets back into the swing of things, he hasn't played since September, he will start potting winners for the red and white

the Warrior camp.

While on the subject of hockey, a young man turned up in Rossland recently who used to do a pretty good job between the pipes for the Warriors back in the early seventies. A lay-off victim of the current hard times, Tommy Castle will start work in the near future on the re-opening of the moly mine on the slopes of Red Mountain.

Tommy played goal for the Warriors when he was in the 15-16 age group and played until he got too old. Before he started with the Warriors, Tommy played minor hockey and was picked up by an intermediate team then operating out of Rossland for a trip to Spokane. I don't think he had turned 15 at the time and he held the Spokane club, which had a number of

former senior players on it, to two goals in a 2-1 Rossland loss.

More recently Tommy has been working at Granisle in northern B.C. for a mining company which has now closed down. While there, Tom took quite a big part in hockey circles. The Omineca hockey district of which he was president for a while, is one of the largest in the province, its present prexy is another Rossland-Trail boy, John Merkley.

During his coaching tenure at Granisle, Tommy had on one of his clubs a very confident young man named Blair Sharp. Tommy tells me he was really high on this young goaltender. His confidence was evidently well-placed since this youngster is now third-string goalie for the resurgent 1982-

83 edition of the Chicago Black Hawks of the NHL's Norris division.

Tom will be around for a while and is already looking for a chance to coach in Rossland's Minor Hockey system.

The retirees' curling club of Rossland had a very nice trip to Nelson for an invitational last week and word has it that the Nelson ice was in really excellent condition. The three teams which went along all report a good time, although they didn't win any games they were royally entertained by the Nelson boys.

We have no unbeaten rinks in retiree competition at the present time. The Harry, Popplewell and Ferrey rinks have all felt the sharp edge of defeat and with the first competition drawing to a

close it would appear that the Harry and Popplewell rinks could have a battle right down to the wire.

Still with the retirees, the Trail club has been invited to share a day's curling and socializing with the Rossland club and this will all come to pass in the very near future.

The mixed club in Rossland is looking for a minimum twelve rinks for Sunday's bonspiel. At last reading I counted 36 names on the board for the event which will be up against the Grey Cup celebration, always a big thing in this area where breakfasts and brunches are the order of the day.

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Lloyd McLellan and Ken Koshey have done a fine job with the team by bringing them along so far. I have been really impressed with the passing and puck-carrying abilities of a lot of the players up front. The defence is also starting to show some pretty good moves and what can you say about the performance of Bert Brooker except fantastic.

The acid test comes tonight in Rossland against Trail and again Saturday when they travel out to Beaver Valley to go against the suddenly-rejuvenated Nite Nawks. Wins against these two arch rivals could instill a lot of confidence in

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