

Fri. Feb 10/84

PEPP-ALK

with
Harry
Pepper

My copy of the latest edition of the Rossland Reporter arrived a few days back and there was one small part in a sports report that really bothered me; the writer was talking about the fracas that erupted at the end of the last Spokane game in Rossland.

It was the way the writer wound up his story, which was probably a factual explanation of what happened. I was at a Legion installation meeting that night and couldn't attend the game. It was the closing sentence that kind of got to me: "Perhaps we can all take pride in this fine example of how hockey can build character."

To me, this is something that could well have been left unsaid because right next to it is a picture, supposedly of the game between the Trail

and Rossland Pee Wees battling it out in the final of the Rossland tournament in a game which was decided in the third overtime period. This is the sort of thing which helps hockey build character in our young people, not the actions of some of the goon-like characters that frequent hockey rinks all over Canada and just love the chance to start swinging at other people's heads.

I think that a good start to put a crimp in these guys' activities would be for the game officials to remain on the ice until all players have been shepherded to their dressing rooms. I noticed at last Friday night's game, one of the Trail players went into the stands to tackle someone who had probably been baiting him from that particular area.

This sort of thing could be stopped if the officials were to stay on the ice until all the players have gone to their dressing rooms. It's pretty easy to build up a pretty hot temper in the course of a fast game, especially if the breaks are going against you. It's one facet of one's character that we have to watch very carefully. I think it's called letting off steam and it's as natural to most athletes as breathing.

I've heard lots of horror stories about happenings after hockey games. In fact, after many sports events, gangs of hoodlums hanging around the arenas after games to take out their spite on one or another of the players. It's been happening all over the world for years, reaching major proportions at times. Maybe the idea of a few of our local law en-

forcement officers spending an hour patrolling the area would be effective.

Anyway, we have not had too much of this sort of thing and hope we won't in the future. It is always a threat when young people get inflamed with liquor or what have you. Most of our boys on the Warriors like to mix with the fans in the lounge after a tough game and as long as they are of the right age group, there is nothing wrong. The fans like to get the boys' reactions to a good win or even a tough loss and I guess a pat on the back after a good effort is always appreciated.

The fate of the Warriors for the playoffs will depend on how they can handle the Spokane Flames when it comes down to the nitty-gritty. Their games against the Flames have never been

out-and-out run-aways during the regular schedule and let's hope they can show us some good hockey in the playoffs. They have one game left which should prove to be a good warm-up for what's to come. Any time a team beats the boys from Beaver Valley, they have to get a good game from all concerned. A win on Friday night for our Warriors would be a big boost for their morale.

One event that will be taking place in the Rossland Arena Feb. 24-26 will be the annual Play-for-Fun hockey tournament. This is always a pleasurable experience for the fans. The prices are minimal in all departments. I will be one of the people in charge of the statistical department and would appreciate some help. Just give me a call at 362-5205.

Albert Bruce tells me that they have a 16-team format this year, up four from previous years. When I get the locations of the teams coming in, I will pass them along and I will promise you, you're going to enjoy the competition. It's always top-notch and these guys really play for fun.

Another fun deal was held on Sunday last at the curling rink where the Eagles held their one-day mixed bonspiel. From all reports it was really a good time. There was a three-way tie for overall winner and teams were picked out of a hat. A guy from Nelson won out and he had at least one Rosslander on his rink. The Eagles' president, Rossland's Eric Harry, won the booby prize in a shoot-out also. Supper and drinks were on the menu and a real party developed.