

# PEPP-ALK

Mar 2/84

with  
Harry  
Pepper

It was a rather hectic weekend at the Rossland fun hockey tournament. With 12 teams involved and games an hour long, they followed one another with clock-like precision. Our crew of Chuck Harkness, John Bruce, Herb Castle, Dan and Michael Feeney alternated in teams of two, worked real smoothly.

The on-ice officials were also up for the job, led by Jim Schuck and Arnie Sherwood. Teams of two were always ready for duty on time: Bob Sherwood, James May, Patrick Corrado, Rob Martin, David Espenhain, Dan Ferguson and Tommy Feeney. Hope I didn't miss any, if I have, I'm sorry.

Masterminding the whole show was Tommy Bruce. Besides playing on the Maroons team Tommy saw to it that things were kept under control, and that ample supplies of food were available and always on hand when thorny problems had to be sorted out. Brother Albert saw to it that a good supply of hot refreshments were on hand for the time and score-keeping crews throughout.

The 12 teams involved made all commitments on time and this made for a smoothly-operated tournament. Tempers flared on occasion but there was

never any hint of real trouble. Some games saw a number of penalties while a lot of them went well.

Each team had a copy of the rules and from what I saw, they played it pretty close to the line all the way.

The format was a little complicated, with penalty minutes being involved in event of ties. However, it seemed to work out to most people's satisfaction and we didn't hear many gripes about the final outcome, which saw the Rossland Labatts take first in the "A" event over the Beaver Valley Blades. Campbell River edged the Rex Hotel in the "B" event and the Rossland-Trail Marauders won the "C" event.

Yes, you could safely say we saw a lot of good hockey over this weekend. There were some outstanding performances. The goaltending was terrific. In an offence-oriented tourney like this, the last line of defence comes in for a lot of work and over the years I've been attending, it has never failed to amaze me how these guys can come up with the kind of saves they do. Dave Bisaro in the Labatts' net was really something.

There were several outstanding scoring performances. A couple that come to mind were Blaine

McCuaig's hat trick in Labatts' 9-1 romp over the Rossland Moguls and Sandy Fisher's three in the Skidders' 4-0 win over the same team. Three goals was the limit that one player could score in a game. Another player who made scoring look easy was Russ LaFreniere, playing on the Labatt defence with Gerry Godfrey. His rushes were really something to behold. Gerry, who is definitely the elder statesman of the tourney at 48, bewildered the opposition time and again with his patented time-consuming passing acts in his own end of the rink.

A guy who also performed well was No. 5 on the Kaslo Burners, Frank Curiston. Speed and puck handling made this little guy a real pleasure to watch while Mike Evans, a Rossland native on the Campbell River team, assured his team of the "B" trophy with a patented shot to win the shootout against Castlegar.

They tell me that these tournaments have been going on for eight years. I can hardly believe it, but it is true and I've been at every one and they just seem to get better and better all the time. The Campbell River team came here the first time

with a young chap in goal, his name escapes me now, but on his performance, which led his team to victory at that time, was the best I ever say in any hockey games I've ever watched, including TV games.

Last Wednesday the Retirees Curling Club visited Grand Forks and four five-man rinks played eight different Forks rinks, four in the morning and four more after lunch. All we managed was a tie in one game by Arnie Vaness' rink. The rest saw the 'Forks boys do quite a job of curling to take all the seven by quite comfortable margins.

During the remainder of our season we will be visited by the 'Forks curlers and also a group from the Nelson club, coupled with the remaining games of our third competition. This will wind down another excellent season of curling which has provided very good competition and a lot of fun for all concerned.

The Legion one-day on March 25 appears to be headed for one of the best ever with rinks from Trail, Beaver Valley, Salmo and Castlegar promising to attend. We should have quite a day!

Till next time, then!