

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

The Grand Forks Border Bruins were really sent reeling on Tuesday evening at the Rossland Arena. The last time they visited they used the goaltending skills of young Mike McNeely to fashion a pretty convincing win over a listless Rossland team. However, in their last visit to Rossland this season the Bruins were no match for the high-flying Warriors.

Brian Zollen, recently returned to the club from Prince George, started things off with his first of six goals on the night and the Warriors never let up. The two Ferguson boys, Dan and Terry, had one and three goals respectively and Gary Cahoon also had a hat-trick. Single goals went to Rod Deibert, Tony Bobbitt, Rob Porcellato, Gord Stanton, Patrick Corrado and John Howes.

Garnet Compton had to be helped off the ice early in the first period when he crashed heavily into the boards, knocking himself out. We sure hope he didn't sustain too bad an injury as the Warriors need his knack of goal-scoring as they battle for a spot in the playoffs. I understand his Beaver Valley buddy, Russ Fuhr, has been lost to the club for the time being with a shoulder injury. These two boys have really helped the Warriors this season and we can ill afford to lose them now.

For the Bruins, who were

really never in it, Kurtis Esau, David Soukeroff and Martin Jensen managed to get the puck past a very steady Steve McIntyre. For the Bruins it has been a long season, with only three wins to show for their labors.

Meanwhile, the Warriors have a bit of a break with the schedule which winds down Feb. 9 with a home game against division-leading Trail. Between now and then they play six other games at home and have just four to play on foreign ice. According to past performances they should win three of these against Nelson, Beaver Valley and Spokane. The question mark is Cranbrook, who are challenging Columbia Valley for the East division lead.

Spokane visits tonight, then it is Nelson twice, Beaver Valley, Kimberley and Castlegar before Trail puts an end to the 40-game schedule. The Warriors should make the playoffs if they play well and can help themselves a lot by taking all three games from Nelson and the two from Beaver Valley.

Now to curling. Four teams from Rossland Retirees club are playing in the 'spiel in Trail. At this writing the boys were struggling but I hear Jake Lilburn has taken three games in a row. After I finish up here at home today I shall go down to the

Trail Curling Club and see how the boys make out on the final day of the spiel. Rinks besides Jake's are skipped by Angus Popplewell, Russ Broughton and Dan Burnett.

Our club schedule is moving along quite smoothly. We finish our second competition this week with several possibilities in the final standings. Another will start immediately and be finished by Feb. 12 and we can start our final one on Valentine's Day and lead up to a final mini bonspiel around the end of March. All this is conjecture because complications could hold up things but we'll keep trying.

Actually, the Rossland contingent at Trail were not doing that badly. The leaders after three games were around six points while two Rossland rinks had four apiece and two of them had two points. Jake Lilburn and Dan Burnett were the tops with four points and Angus Popplewell and Russ Broughton were at two points.

While I don't understand exactly what the method of scoring is it seems to be a good one and reflects the way the boys are playing.

Playing with Dan Burnett are Lou Crowe, Jack Mitchell and Gil Besso. Jake Lilburn has Dick Cotton, John Bruce and Bernie Ferrey. Russ Broughton is teamed up

with Bert Morrow, Clyde Nyman and Bud Hachey and Angus Popplewell has Cleve Cowland, Bart Dudley and Harry Douglas. All there is left to say is,

"Have a good time you guys and do the best you can. The competition is always tough in the Silver City."

Till next time, then!