

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

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Because of the length of my column last week, I neglected to pass along congratulations to the number of people whose hard work made it such a smooth working event. So here goes! To put on something like this it takes a smooth working machine in the background and we had it on the weekend of Oct. 19-20. The committee who signed us in were on the job early as were the group who put up the coffee and snacks and kept them coming all day. The people who were responsible for the speaker system started work on Friday evening and then drank my last four beer at home. Sunday morning we had a slight faux-pas as the first phase of the meetings were done without the help of speakers, however, that was soon corrected and everyone was heard quite clearly from then on.

The parade was definitely well handled by the Sgt.-at-Arms committee. The lunch put on downstairs by the L.A. was a real meal. Then last, but not least, were the bar committee at the dance and on Sunday after the meetings, and of course, we must not forget the people who sat and listened as delegates and acted on committees. Thank you one and all!

On Sunday afternoon I watched the Rossland Warriors lose a hockey game. It is their first home loss in league play, and also points up a few things that are a first this year. The Warriors are seriously undermanned this year and with the new rules in effect with the banning from the game of anyone engaged in a fight, you can be drawn into something like that and you're gone. The Warriors, by my count, never had more than three men in the box after the middle of the second period. They more than held their own up to that time and were leading at one time 5-2. Elk Valley had eight or ten reserves at all times and it started to show in the third, which was all Elk Valley. The Warriors were changing with sometimes only a minute's rest and it began to show in the late stages.

Wee Damon Racicot collected his 50th point in just eleven games and was on the ice for at least 50 minutes of the game and even this little human buzz-saw can only take so much of this sort of thing. One can understand that a coach finds it difficult to keep a cool head in this sort of a situation when he finds a team of greater numbers but inferior talents knocking his overworked troops around.

Neil Murdoch was telling me that the same situation was evident on Saturday evening in Cranbrook when the Warriors broke fast and held a

big lead only to lose in the late stages, both games by 9-6 margins.

I sat with Sam Manson at Sunday's game. Sam, who plays some pretty robust games in the Play-For-Fun league (sometimes called the beer league), says he thinks the rules about a ban for fighting should be scrapped. He says it is part of the game. Give the aggressor a 10-minute misconduct and the other guy a 2-minute penalty. It would certainly stop the one team of superior manpower from depleting the ranks of the other team by picking a fight just to win over a team of superior talent.

Another fault I have to pick with the way hockey is run today is why do the officials allow all these diplomatic confrontations after almost every call on the ice? I would like to suggest that they know the rules and enforce them, not keep the fans sitting on the edge of the seat while they explain the reasons for a decision to a whole herd of players. The captain of each team should do the arguing if necessary and everyone else stay away.

Anyway, one thing is evident, our hard-pressed troops need some reinforcements. I hope we can come up with some. If hockey is going to become a battle of fisticuffs we are going to wind up on the short end of a lot of games by having our meagre staff depleted to where games are going to be 45-minute games like yesterday's was.

Now, to something else, the construction work on the curling rink has got to the point where the ice is now in and I was told it is being burned today. So it should be ready for an early November start. Our Retirees' meeting will be held Tuesday and we shall start in earnest next week. Don't forget, bring along a retired friend and get him acquainted with the "roarin" game.

Well, the K.C. Royals came up with all the right answers as their pitching shut down what there was of Cardinal batting. I suppose this would lead us to believe that this means that the Blue Jays are the third best team in baseball. Right or wrong, I'll probably hear from some people in this regard. Maybe, second best?

Back to curling for a moment, President Viv Thompson of the Ladies' Afternoon Curling has asked that I should let you know that the ladies will be holding Open House on Nov. 5. Any new curlers will be welcome. Come and join the fun. Babysitters available if need.

So til next time, then!