

PEPP-ALK

Nov 22/85 with Harry Pepper

My first effort of this week's column will be to address some queries to a gent who I feel should know what he's talking about on the subject I would like to pursue, Terry Skarbo, President of the Kootenay International Junior Hockey League.

These days I rarely venture beyond the confines of the Rossland Arena to watch Junior "B" hockey, and I am sometimes confused at the actions of the referees in charge of games. I understood that one person representing each club on the ice was allowed to question an arbiters decision. Each club has a captain and some have two acting-captains. These are people who are supposed to approach a referee to question calls, but, only one at a time.

The last two games I've seen at the arena, Rossland versus Castlegar and Beaver Valley, two different referees have stood for different lengths of time with a crowd of players around them from each team and, I suppose, qualified their calls.

While I realize that with the new rules in force this season, some teams may need some briefing on them but I can't see why prolonged explanations are forthcoming on practically every one. I imagine that officials have to pass certain standards to get their ticket and as such should know what they are doing, and see that rules are enforced. They should not allow mass challenges to their authority while the fans sit on their hands. Fans pay their money to see hockey, not courtroom decisions rendered.

This season with promises of some good entertainment, the fans in Rossland are coming out in larger numbers. If this is going to improve we'll have to do something about the sort of thing I've just brought to your attention. The last game I was at, versus Beaver Valley, there was the usual rough stuff and practically every call was challenged by one team or the other. It took, by actual timing, 48 minutes to play one period when I checked the timepiece myself and compared notes with others.

So, Mr. President, I appeal to you on behalf of the fans, do what you can to help correct this sort of thing. The fans are the people who keep Junior "B" hockey going and we should try to keep them happy.

I was interested to note that at the Minor Hockey tournament in Rossland over the weekend that this sort of thing was kept to a minimum. A number of veteran arbiters were in charge of the games and they kept things moving, games of two 15-minute straight time and one 20-minute stop time were completed in a little over an hour and there was excellent action in every one. It bodes well for Junior "B" hockey in our area that there is this pool of excellent prospects no farther away than their own Bantam leagues.

At the close of competition on Sunday afternoon, the awards were made, Rossland Bantams won first with a 4-1 record, Trail was second also with a 4-1 record, but poorer goals count than Rossland, 34-28. They had to play the Rossland Pee Wees in their final game and needed 18 goals to win first. The little guys played them every inch of the way but lost 11-3, and were given the third-place medals for their gutsy performance in every game they played.

I have to raise my hat to everyone who participated. Organizers, officials on the ice, players, coaches, and the timing and scoring officials for a job well done; and thanks to the Warrior organization for opening the lounge.

Now, to curling for a moment. I see that the Rossland Curling Association has come out with a complete work schedule for the various clubs to run the Curling Rink lounge during the coming season. I see that the work is pretty well distributed to all clubs, we of the Retirees have pulled four weeks in charge during the season, starting in November and finishing in March.

Corrie Bateman of the Mixed Club, has asked that I say a word to boost their One-Day Fun 'Spiel on Dec. 1. If you wish to enter, there is a list in the curling lounge or you can call Dave Smith at 362-9586. No rinks will be accepted, names of those wishing to play, only. It will cost \$10.00 for the curling with supper included, the format will be three six-end games per team, total points to count. Two points for a win, one each for a tie and a point for each end won. For a real fun day, sign up.

Well, the snow keeps falling and pretty soon we shall see Harvey and his friends coming into the Legion with rosy cheeks and frost on their stubble or beards from an excursion on the cross-country trails. Sometimes I envy them, but then I give it some more thought and then I say, Til next time, then!