

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

That was a very interesting tournament we went to in the Trail Curling Club last week. The second annual Seniors tourney gave some of us ideas about the possibility of the Rossland Retirees trying the same thing in the future. It was certainly enjoyable as everything went along just like clockwork. The changes from one set of games to another was performed with dispatch and very little waiting, a really big thing when running a tournament along those lines. We got cut off on one of our games after eight ends but this wasn't the fault of anyone but the participants.

I always feel that playing in a 'spiel like this one keeps your eyes on the main theme, to curl first, secondly to have fun, and third, win if you can but take a loss with a little bit of pride and poise and don't blame the ice. The other guy played it right, so what's wrong with it? It's also an added bonus to go along with good guys, that makes the whole thing a whole lot more fun. You know when you go into it that your chances of coming home at the top of the heap are somewhat minimal.

Just for the record the winning rinks were from four different clubs with Trail taking five of the prizes through the efforts of Chuck Wyatt, first in "A" and Bert Stanley also from Trail, the runner-up. Pat Martin won "C" and had John Jarratt in hot pursuit to get second, the other host rink was skipped by Ron Hinton and they were runners-up to Oscar Tedesco of Grand Forks in the "B" section. Castlegar's Mike Verzuh won the "D" beating out the George Barefoot rink from Nelson.

Our only win in six starts came in our final game against Fred Buccini of Trail as our skip Jack Hook came through with an awesome effort to take Fred's shot rock out and lay four.

Last Sunday I watched the final games of the Rossland Pee Wee tourney, I saw all of the five teams entered play. I caught the last part of a game between Cranbrook and Castlegar then saw the host team overwhelm the team

from Walla Walla, then the final game of it all between Trail and Cranbrook. I was quite impressed by the Cranbrook team, their boys, on the average, were a shade bigger than most of the others and their stick work and shooting was of a bit of a superior effort. They didn't have any trouble walking off with top money. Rossland, Trail and Castlegar, well there was not a lot to choose among them, than the kids from Walla Walla, they were outclassed but they played very minute of every game I saw and from what I heard, their wee goalie, Pat Burnett, was awarded the MVP medal, a fitting reward for a gutsy little guy who faced something like 250-300 shots and only allowed 62 to get by him.

That, for my money is what these little-guy tournaments are all about. Walla Walla's tykes play in the Pacific N.W. Hockey Association based in Washington, according to Bruce Johnson, who is Rossland's Pee Wee house manager and was the director of this very well-handled tourney. These kids have to travel over 35 miles to play their closest opponents. Congratulations Bruce and RMHA for an entertaining weekend. Don't go away folks there's more Minor Hockey in the form of an Atom Tourney on the weekend of Feb. 28, March 1-2. Incidentally, the final standings were Cranbrook, Castlegar, Trail, Rossland and Walla Walla.

The Warriors have nine games left on their regular schedule, five at home starting on the 17th vs. Beaver Valley.

One of the club's bright spots this season has been the point-production of young Damon Racicot, who garnered his 100th point in the game against Spokane last Friday. Another hopeful phase is entering as some other players start to get their share, that's what is needed plus the ability to play 60-minute hockey. Ahead in many tussles they have frittered away two and three-goal leads in the final period of a lot of games. Right now they badly need those two games over Grand Forks plus a good share of the others. So, what do you say, guys?