

PEPPER-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

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One of my favorite nights of the year has just passed and it left me with a feeling that every year the entrepreneurs who put on the Minor Hockey night for us in Rossland are like good wine, they get better with age.

Saturday's show was a magnificent effort, everything was right on time and the variations in the program were nothing short of a professional effort and the kids, as usual, really outdid themselves. The officials, all members of that body of sportsmen known as the Rossland Fun Hockey League, were the best in a long time, handling everything flawlessly. The kids loved it, the parents enjoyed it and those like myself just sat there and soaked it up. The greatest ever by the RMHA! Incidentally, these fun hockey chaps have recently made a four-figure donation to minor hockey.

First on the evening's agenda was the president's address in which he stated among other things that the reason for not charging admission was that the RMHA felt that they should give something back to the people of our city for the support they have given the kids and their mentors for these past many seasons. He was followed by Mayor Jackie and our latest Queen Collette and by the evening's MC Sourdough Al. The mayor offered her congratulations to all who were responsible for our coming entertainment which she said she knew would be absolutely tops. Queen Collette dropped the ceremonial first puck and Sourdough Al took over the mike and we were off and running.

Another spot on the program, one of the hi-lites in fact, was the presentation, during the intermission, to Desi Monaghan by the Minor Hockey League and the kids, Desi has been at the rink for many years and he has always been able to find time for the kids and given them that little extra. Quite a number of them are quite a bit bigger than he is!

They love you Desi and we do also!

The hockey action for the evening started right off and after each game they lined the kids up and a stick draw was made, one to each team.

First it was the Atoms, who showed a lot of excellent skating and stick handling, the Red Warriors, coached by Dan and John McFarland came up with a goal late in the 20-minute contest to edge their opponents, the Esso Warriors by a score of 3-2.

The Junior Novices were next and these kids aged 4-6, are really beginning to get the hang of things. They put on a spirited showing and the Red team won by a score of 5-3 over the opposing Blacks.

After a short break and band selections by the Maple Leaf Band, there was a skills demonstration by a player from each division, instructed by Rich Chobanuk. Andy Johnson represented the Junior Novice, Ryan Paolini the Senior Novice, Brett Johnson the Atoms, Chris Johnson the Pee Wees, and Dean Johnson the Bantams. They did very well and the boys got quite a hand.

After the break the Pee Wee group took over in another intra-squad game, in this one they showed us that they are learning their lessons well, a 4-2 victory for the Black team over the Whites in a well-earned result.

The intermission to flood the ice and watch the presentation to Desi, and then the Rossland Figure Skaters perform. They were good! Then came the Senior Novices and these kids weren't to be overshadowed by their older brothers and went all out, the result, a 2-1 win by team two over team one.

The feature came next and it pitted the Bantams against the coaches of the Minor Hockey Association. It was a pretty good contest, the coaches showed they were still able to skate with the youngsters and came away with a 3-0 decision.

I think every one enjoyed themselves, I want to thank the Rossland Minor Hockey Association for a fine evening of entertainment, on behalf of all of us.

Over to curling for a bit, our Retirees went to Nelson last week and we had a fine time, two of our rinks beat out two of the host aggregations and my boys gave "Lefty" White a good run for his money and tied 6-6. Lefty got two in the first and for the next eight ends we shared, each getting one point at a time. Then in the tenth I got two and we tied at 6. The other five rinks lost.

Phil Bateman and Carl Seefeldt were winners and there were several close games. All in all it was a successful trip that everyone seemed to enjoy. Nelson will return our visit sometime this month and we are to go to Grand Forks also.

These are the days when things in the curling world get a little hectic, bonspiels, playoffs and such and there is only a little less than six weeks left to go. However, we shall make it, for sure.

So with that I'll say,
'Till next time, then!