

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

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The 1985-86 hockey season is over as far as the Rossland Warriors are concerned. But it going to be interesting to find out what will happen in the series between Castlegar and Grand Forks. As I write this on the weekend that series is tied at two each, the Bruins have been really coming on of late and they would dearly like to get into the final with their team which has been almost entirely rebuilt this season from management on through coaches, players, et al. The Rebels would appear to have been a pretty solid team from the opening whistle of the past season but we certainly expect them to continue to have their hands full with those pesky Bruins.

Back to the Warriors for a moment. I listen to a lot of reasons why the Warriors have not had their best season this time around, and I listened to one with a new twist the other afternoon. A friend of mine, who has impeccable taste in all other ways, came up with the thought that our hockey imports weren't putting out in comparison with what it costs the club to bring them in to play. I was rather surprised because I have watched every game except one. If those kids that came in from the Okanagan let up in their efforts I have missed it. I thought they gave it all they had in every game, there is no doubt that some of our Rossland boys were outstanding but they did have a lot of help.

The games we won this season were, should we say, rare, but I don't think this should be any reason to panic. We have more pretty talented kids back in the minor hockey who we hope will help Rossland to build back to our first totally home-brew team for many years. This doesn't mean I subscribe to the idea our imports are a drag, we've had some dandies, little Dave Schindel was another little guy but he didn't worry about the rough stuff. The Kevins — Zakall and Vankalkaren, Bob Boyd, Steve Miller, Jody Graham and Dusty Imoo all made their contributions, some to a larger extent than that of others and our local boys all have our thanks. Garnet, Damen, Dallas, Troy, Terry, Patrick, Tommy and Darryl and young Valana and Ron Wray. Thanks fellas, every one of you. And to coaches Bob and Rich, thanks for giving every

game a real shot, it was always entertaining and that's what hockey fans pay to see.

But for hockey fans the hockey season isn't over. This coming weekend the Rossland Play-for-Fun hockey fellas are putting on their annual tourney. Twelve teams will battle for the crown, coming from Armstrong, Campbell River, Genelle, Castlegar and Fruitvale, two teams from Kaslo and a like number from Rossland, and three from Trail. Competition will commence at 6 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Be sure to be in the stands or make a visit to the lounge to watch the action.

The following week it will be a Minor Hockey tournament put on by the Rossland Atoms who hope to have a good response to their invitations to teams around the country. I shall have more details on this one in next week's column.

The plans for the Legion One-Day spiel are in good shape and the date for this is March 2. Names of the rinks will be drawn on Feb. 26 or 27. I talked to Jim Bateman this morning and he said 26 names were on the sheet at last count and hoping for more. It's always an enjoyable day for the curlers taking part mainly because of the surprises in store for all. You never know who you will be curling with until they are posted.

Branch 14 recently had a contest for kids to make pictures of a design for a badge to help celebrate our 60th anniversary. After they were all in, the committee selected an effort by 14-year-old Melissa Pollock. Betty Ackerman and daughter Sharon, Melissa's mom, are quite proud of the young lady and we all want to thank her for the effort.

A special bingo on behalf of the Heart Fund was quite a success according to reports I have from the organizers. It was held in the Legion downstairs hall on Sunday, Feb. 16.

Alfie Albo Jr. took a rink of local boys to the Grand Forks men's spiel over the weekend and came out on top, defeating the Greg Granstrom rink from Trail. Alfie had son Darren at third, Chris Hanes second and Don Williams lead. The winning effort was a 6-5 extra-end victory.