

PEPPER-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Feb 28/86

Lots of hockey to tell you about this week. The Labatts 10th Annual Rossland Fun Hockey Tournament took place this past weekend; and the Atom Tournament, the first of its kind to take place in Rossland, starts tonight, Friday the 28th, and will run Saturday and Sunday with ten teams. Coming from Trail two teams, Shoppers Drug Mart and Champion Sports; from Rossland two teams, The Red Warriors and the Esso Warriors and there will be single teams from Slocan, Grand Forks, Creston, Beaver Valley, Castlegar and Nelson. A most valuable player will be picked from each game with the awards donated by Seth Martin Sports. Joe Furiak will donate and make hat emblems and each kid playing will get one.

Starting at 5 p.m. tonight each team will play three games and the third period of each will finish with five minutes of stop time. It will be a house tourney for the kids and Dan McFarland and Donny Brandt will be the people in charge. They would like to thank the following sponsors for their handsome donations: Rex Hotel, Cantons Cafe, Arts Auto Parts, Terra Nova Motor Inn, Cooper Insurance Agency, Rock Island Tape Centre, Local 480, Safeway, Eagles Aerie No. 10, Target Auto Body, Alpine Drug Mart (Lottery Fund), Jim Schuck's Happy Returns, Double Happiness Restaurant, AM Ford, Donut Factory, A and W Restaurant, McDonald's Restaurant, NDP MLA Chris D'Arcy, Century 21, Uplander Hotel, Kootenay Cattle Company, Rossland Service Co-op, Butch Boutry, Dixie Lee (Rossland), and Branch No. 14 Legion.

Among the trophies will be one by Danny Ashman for first place in the tourney which will stay permanently in Rossland, replicas will go to winners. A down-filled vest from Rossland Co-op, various dinners and gas supplies are draw prizes. The programs have been printed and the covers were designed by Jim Scott of Kelowna, a Rossland boy now in business over there.

As Dan and Donny tell me they are hoping the hockey fans in Rossland will turn out in large numbers to support this effort. There is no doubt that each visiting team will have its share of following fans. A large turnout will assure the success of the boys tournament and will also be a big boost towards turning it into an annual affair.

Now to the Labatts Tournament. It was well attended and well handled. The play was spirited all the way through, at times it verged on, you might say, rough, but this was kept to a minimum by very efficient officiating by a group of BCAHA-accredited refs and linesmen — Jim Schuck, Arnie Sherwood, James May, Ken Tenisci, Dave Espenhain, Patrick Corrado and Greg Schuck. I hope I didn't miss anyone, if I did it's not an intentional slight. It was in charge of a good bunch of young men in the timers box who did a really fine job. The whole tournament was straight time and tempers got a little ruffled in the late third in close games.

Ken Stanton dropped by to do one game and the other boys were Ron Cunningham, Bob Syverson, Tommy and Mike Feeney. Tommy did double duty

as he was assistant coach to his uncle, Joe Feeney of Campbell River. Also on the team from the Island were former Rosslanders John Feeney, Joe Caron and Mike Evans. We had excellent co-operation from the people responsible for the tourney, led by Blaine McCuaig, Sam Manson, Howie Karn and Kenny Hill. They did yeoman duty all the way through the weekend, the hours they kept would strike fear into the heart of lesser men.

Starting at 5:50 on Friday night the teams were on the ice promptly on time for the three games that night, all went perfectly, it was on Saturday morning that things got turned a little problematical, two games between the Campbell River team and Trail Marauders and Rossland Skidders and Kaslo Marbleheaders ended in 3-3 ties which had to be broken by shootouts, the first ran to nine shots each before a winner was decided and the second to six which threw everything a half hour off balance. We never did pick up that time, with nine games Saturday and nine again on Sunday it was pretty steady going, but thanks to find co-operation all round we stayed on target, with both days' games gradually narrowing, the deficit, Sunday's last game was ended just about the 30 minutes behind schedule.

The final games saw the Kaslo Burners take their fellow townsmen, the Marbleheaders to win the "C" final. In the "B" final it was Beaver Valley Blades taking the measure of Rossland Skidders, while in the "A" final it was Campbell River and Trail Hawks clashing in quite a battle before the boys from the Island playing to what sounded like a partisan crowd overcame the Hawks to win that trophy for their third time. Danny Poznikow of Beaver Valley was awarded the Jack Cox trophy as the best goalie in the tournament.

I had a little bit of a surprise before the first game on Saturday. While welcoming the boys from Armstrong, one good looking young fellow stuck out his hand and said, "My name is Doug Pepper." After I recovered somewhat, I said "and my name is Harry Pepper." We had quite a visit and I told him about my seven-year-old grandson whose name is also Doug. This Armstrong boys was quite interested and told me he was from the Cochrane, Alta., branch of the family and more so when I told him that I felt he could easily be related as I had two uncles who came over right after the First World War and both raised large families.

Now, to the Warriors for a moment, we are invited to another Warrior party to wind up the season. All our imports will be on hand, I am told tonight at the Parish Hall.

Back to the kids for a moment. Rossland sent a team to the Grand Forks Atom Tournament Feb. 15-16 and finished third behind Lumby and Kelowna. They took the most valuable player awards in four game and winning three of them. Chad Brandt and Brett Johnson took one MVP each while Aaron McFarland took two. Don Brandt and Peter McNaughton coached the boys.

And now, till next time, then!