

I sure don't have to look very far to find something to write about this week. In the first place, the skies around Rossland were thick with eagles, maybe I should temper that and just say the streets were alive with Eagles of the wingless variety. Anyway, from Frida through Sunday wherever you went in Rossland there they were, roosting in all the likely places and even some unlikely ones. They came from all over to enjoy a weekend of curling and enjoy it they did. I was otherwise occupied most of the time but I got in the time on Sunday to see all the final games and one semi in which the Dave Thompson rink topped Jack McDonald's foursome to win their way into the "C" final.

The whole exercise was a definite tribute to the local Eagle Aerie No. 10, every member of the club must have been into the organization of the 'spiel wholeheartedly. It all ran like clockwork, according to Alfie Albo Sr. who was referee-in-chief. He had little or no problem overseeing the minor problems that arose, games were on time right to the minute and as any successful organizer of such a 'spiel will tell you, that's the way it has to be.

When the chips were down and all the marbles were up for grabs, the finals saw the Al McAulay rink from the Trail club with Rossland's Vi Krest playing third, Jack Vellutini and Claire McAulay second and lead respectively, win the 'A' event over Jim Schuck's rink from Rossland. Jim had Gail Holm at third and Jim and Cindy Bateman at second and lead. It was a game that could easily have gone either way.

In the 'B' event it was the Ernie Secco rink taking the victory over another Trail club rink skipped by Mike Verzuh of Castlegar. Ernie had Pat Nelson at third, Wilf Salewski second and Barb Swift lead. Mike had Betty Marbach third, Pye Marbach second and Pat Verzuh lead.

The 'C' event final could almost have been called the "Secco Special" as no less than four participants in it had that name, but they were fairly spread around. Two on each side, Dave Thompson was the skip and he had Barb Secco as his third (Barb is especially known to Rossland Legion bingo addicts as she masterminds our Monday night sessions), Max Lepine was the second and Pat Secco, lead. The opposition, which got behind right off as Dave built up a fiveender, was skipped by Louie Secco with Florence Secco third, Jim Burnham and Doreen Burnham in the second and lead spots.

Now to another subject, Don Brandt of the Rossland Minor Hockey proudly passed along the news that the Rossland Red Warriors of the Atom House League in the area, came out on top in the playoffs, quite a feather in the caps of head coach Dan McFarland and assistant coach, brother John. I also got word that the Rossland Bantams won their House League title too. I'm not sure who the Bantam coaches are but they can also feel good about their effort. What was it I said regarding the future of junior hockey in our town? I don't think we should worry with talent like these kids display these days.

As the show progressed I would jot down what I thought of each act and by the time it was all over I had exhausted my meagre supply of available adjectives and superlatives. These kids were fantastic. When one who has never laced on a pair of skates says this, maybe it might sound like hollow praise, but from the first minute I saw people on skates, what else could I say, they looked like some kind of super-beings and they still amaze me year after year, little ones especially. It's just like watching a child start to walk, only more so.

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I give these kids we watched last night all the stars one can bestow at one time. They were great! And to the people who train and foster this great sport. Thanks!

To close this chapter, this KIJHL camp which is taking place in Osoyoos Aug. 18 to 23 with Tom Renny as the head man is taking on what Terry Skarbo promised us and I am wholeheartedly behind it. It will open up a large area to help put real top talents in this league.

'Til next time, then!