

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

The past week has seen us get small amounts of snow most every day, but I don't know how it has effected the downhill skiing at Red Mountain. One thing I do know for sure is that the boys and girls who revel in the cross-country type of the sport are really having themselves a ball. Harvey McKay told me yesterday it's really great on the trails these days. He spends lots of time out there and I actually believe he is starting to lessen the distance around his waistline which is bound to give him a better outlook on life — at least he can see the tips of his skis now. Atta boy, Harve, i'm rootin' for you!

I watched a game or two in the bantam tourney in Rossland this weekend. I thought the game on Sunday afternoon between Rossland and Cranbrook was a real good one. The Rossland kids built a 3-0 lead with very little time left but those gutsy Cranbrook kids came back to 3-2 with just seconds on the time-clock. But the Rossland kids hung on to take second place overall. The Nelson team went undefeated throughout and won the whole thing. Nelson is really concentrating on their minor hockey these days. It has always been a good hockey town and nowadays with expenses up and income down, the youngsters are the ones they are concentrating on and believe me they appear to be going in the right direction.

Mind you, we cannot take anything away from the Rossland people for the direction they are going either. These tournaments make for a very pleasant way to while away some weekend hours. The only thing I found unpleasant about the whole situation was they told me the Warriors had refused to allow them the use of the lounge. For people like me its much more pleasant to be able to sit in the lounge with a drink than on the benches outside. There were not any big crowds for the games I took in and I think they might have improved if there had been access to the more hospitable areas of the lounge. That's what its for, isn't it?

While on the subject of hockey, the Warriors had two real close ones in the East Kootenay. Right now they have a whole bunch of pretty good hockey players that are cooling their heels because of penalties. What this team needs every player available on the firing line and the results are showing it every time they play. They are in second place right now but their standing will not hold good without some wins, while the Rebels keep drawing further ahead a lot of Rossland's players have taken penalties that are really beginning to be felt. You cannot win hockey games in this league without your better players. Trail is starting to make their move so the hold on second place could very well be in jeopardy.

We hear every day of the officials mistakes. There is no doubt this is a definite sore spot with team management, but we must remember they are only doing what they are told to do. Sure, some of them tend to go a little bit overboard and it is certainly the tendency of a coach and manager to see it most clearly when it is his team that is taking what he considers treatment that is unfair. When you look at the whole situation we have to admit that we have all sat in front of our TVs and said what an awful job the officials are doing and those guys are among the best-paid in their job around.

Now to curling, with the first competition now over and a visit to Nelson finalized before we start the second, I can now give you the final standings of the first round. It was Russ Broughton who took first with 16 points out of a possible 18. Next came Dan Burnett and Phil Bateman each with 12 on six wins and three losses. In third were Jake Lilburn,

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Russ Broughton's winning rink had Spud Martin at third, Jack McDonald, second, Hal McCormack, lead and the fifth man was Jack Mitchell.

I'm told there was some excellent curling at the Rossland rink on the weekend. I didn't get to watch any but I see the Brian LeMoel rink of Trail was the winner and will defend in Trail this weekend against the best from the East on the way to the mixed title. Good luck Brian, hope you go all the way!

So, 'til next time, then!