

PEPPER-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Now that the holiday season is over, turkey and all the other amenities of the season are gone for another year, we can look and see if we have anything worth getting excited about in the near future. First, let us look at the Warrior schedule to see what we have in store there.

The team has 10 games to go in the regular season, six of them are at home and four away. The four road games show them at Trail for one Jan. 20, the next two are in the Beaver Valley arena and the final away one is against Castlegar. The final home stretch sees the team play Spokane twice, Kimberley and Cranbrook with the others both in February against Beaver Valley and Trail comes here on Feb. 7. Would you say that while Rick's boys can't really expect to catch the front-runners, the Rebels, can they get themselves up for that final in this division and go further?

After hockey it will be soccer and baseball. It would sure be nice to have a good ball team in our town once again. At one time we were West Kootenay champions with a great bunch of guys. The team consisted of Don Holmes, Joe Zanussi, Bobby Profili, two McFarlands Steve and John, Art Field, who came from Salmo, Lloyd McLellan and Rich Miller, plus Terry Minnis who went to Notre Dame with my son Rick. Another young fellow was Sandy McInnis' son and worked with me on the old Miner. One play he made that saved a playoff game was a fantastic catch right up against the front of the high school which faces the park. Another wee guy on that team was Lenny Cederholm who was a pretty spry little catcher. Yes sir! It would be nice to see another baseball team in town, slowpitch is OK but oh boy, that baseball!

This area has an excellent soccer record all the way from the wee ones up to the retreads as they like to call themselves. The game has really caught on since John Hughes introduced it to the wee ones. Now there must be six or seven teams in Rossland alone, not counting the high school youngsters. Guys like Dave Williams have also done a whole lot for soccer in our town and its quite likely that with Dave's love of the game he will continue to turn a helping hand whenever needed.

Now to curling for a moment. Curling is a game which can be played by almost everyone from school age kids to the old people. Leagues sprout up wherever there are ice sheets. In Trail they have quite a lot of ice and also a lot of players to use it. We in Rossland have just the four sheets for curling and it has to be an awfully busy time before we run out of ice for all. Up coming are forthcoming visits from Grand Forks and Nelson retirees. We usually visit them every season too. It would appear that people who rule curling are really trying to turn the game into something which they would like to be nothing but a money maker. For myself and many others I know we liked it when it was strictly anyone's game. But that's life for you. Seems like these days we retirees pay our dues and every week or so we get demands from here, there and everywhere for more money for some other frill they want added.

From what I gather from the grape vine it would seem they are enjoying things a little better up at the mountain these days. Although I am not a skier, I take notice of a lot of things I hear from up that way that seem to indicate a more healthy situation seems to be the order of the day. I certainly hope they do have an excellent season for the downhill people, the cross-country people seem to be having a ball.

Well, I hope along with a lot of others, that all sports in our area be they winter or summer have a

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Well, I hope along with a lot of others, that all sports in our area be they winter or summer have a fine year, and now I think I've said all I intend for this week.

So, until next time
I'll say, 'bye for now!