

PEPPER-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

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First off this week I want to say that I thoroughly enjoyed Bruce's comments on the KIJHL playoffs we have seen thus far. I also applaud most of his suggestions regarding the future of Junior "B" hockey in our area. This may not be the feeling of a number of people in our area, but I am firmly convinced the road Bruce suggested would be a way to give fans good hockey without the goon tactics we have been subjected to during recent games.

I'm quite sure that a top grade super-midget league to replace what we have now would really appeal to the fans. During the recent playoffs I heard many suggestions we should do away with the real rough stuff we've seen lately. The midget age could be upped a notch with a year on the top side and leave the little ones in bantam another year. There are some real bright youngsters just about ready for a league that fits the bill and I believe we would all benefit.

Yesterday in the Rossland curling rink we saw some retiree curlers, mixed and some younger ones, join in quite a show as the Legion branches from Rossland, Trail, Castlegar and Beaver Valley joined forces to put on a very successful One-Day Fun 'Spiel. It definitely lived up to its intent, trying to bring back the fun into our Legion sports events.

Draws started at 9 a.m. with eight teams from the "A" group, games aware six ends and most completed in 90 minutes, after which the "B" group took over and alternating games were played continuously at 10:30, 12 noon, 1:30, 3 and at 4:30 p.m. The "B" group wound it all up.

Afterwards we went down to the Legion Hall and the ladies of the branch auxiliary plied us with a delicious stew, buns, vegetables and dessert. After this delightful meal we sat back while Jim Bateman made quite a pantomime of handing out prizes. Jim is getting to be something of a toastmaster and some of his barbs, while a little sharp, were all taken in the manner they were intended, which sure wasn't meant to hurt anyone. A real good show.

The winner overall was Arnie Sherwood and his team. I'm not going to try and name his personnel or anyone else's because "no shows" and burn legs

or arms forced changes there. When they read this they'll know who played for whom. Sorry about that!

Arnie's team garnered 20 points out of a possible 24. He was followed by Ivan Bell, 19 points, and his merry men, which included a recent returnee from Eastern Canada, Mike Kraftchick, who used to be our ice-maker. Following Arnie and Ivan were Phil Bateman and Ernie Creep from Castlegar, both at 17 points, Bert Morrow at 16, and four more with double figures, Carl Seefeldt 12, Gerry Rust and Roy Fines 12 each, followed by Angus Popplewell at 10. The remaining seven were strung out from there down. But no matter, it was a fun day enjoyed by every last one of us.

By way of a change I'm going to tell you some old news I wrote about in 1969 in the old Rossland Miner. It concerns a group of girls I travelled with to Kamloops that year and watched take the B.C. Senior "C" Softball crown home with them. Many were the exploits George McAuley and I could relate about the happenings of the two rampaging days and nights we spent in Kamloops. Swimming in the indoor pool at the Holiday Inn until we pretty near drove the night watchman out of his tree. I bet every pub keeper in town enjoyed our visit almost as much as we did.

The girls who made that trip were, from Rossland, Shirley Williams, Joanie Ferguson, who was MVP for the tournament, Darlene Watson, Flo McArthur, Muriel Gibson. From Beaver Valley there were Merle Wagner, Terryl Milne, Nat Milligan, Pat Armstrong, Judy Thompson. From Salmo came Carol Clark and Donna Rotter, from Trail is was Millie Umbarger and Michelle Levick and from Kimberley it was Marjean Bidder, nicknamed the Bomber, and Linda Shannon. Manager was Bill Thompson and coaches Tony Borsato and Luigi Bertuzzi.

The reason for bringing it up is to let you know the people responsible for that team are getting together to hold a "roast" for a couple of members of that club whom they wish to honor. It will be held in Fruitvale on April 25 and everyone interested in that team should try to make it. You'll have fun.

And now, 'til next time, then!