

PEPP-JALK

with
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Pepper

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As I read the latest on local and national sports events one of the first things that caught my eye was the Cranbrook victory over the Rebels.

I guess a guy always likes to see a team that was too good for your hometown favorites bite the dust but in this case I had no bets on the outcome. I just figured that the Colts' past record in winning the KIJHL crown for so many years in a row had to be a big boost in their battle with Castlegar. The net boost for Dave Neil and his Colts is to take that best of three series from Burnaby.

I haven't the stats but I do believe that this series has always been a tough nut for Kootenay winners to win, the Coast or the Northern champs always seem to have a little more on the ball than the boys from our area and it is some time since a Kootenay team won the B.C. Junior "B" crown. By the time I write my next column, we should have an answer to that one.

On the National front, Don Holmes was predicting that the Red Wings will take all the marbles in the final of the Stanley Cup. When you come to think of it, the Wings have done a good job this season and stranger things have happened. I have a kind of a notion that we could be in for another Montreal win,

they certainly looked good in winning their first round four straight. There is no doubt the Wings have come from nowhere this season and they certainly are clicking on all cylinders now the second season is under way.

Meanwhile, last year's other finalist certainly find themselves behind the proverbial eight-ball, Winnipeg is looking strong and they can win on Calgary ice as they have already proved. It's kind of early to start to call the shots in the final, a lot of hockey will be played before that takes place and I won't be too surprised if another Smythe division team takes the Flames' place against the Canadiens. Take your pick as to which one.

In the WIHL Nelson has to represent B.C. in the Patton Cup playoff and at last they look like they appear to be doing a good job of it, leading Moose Jaw 2-1 in games as I write this Monday night. One wonders if Trail will ever be able to play senior hockey again, an awful lot of people would like to see this happen.

However, its probably some of those same people who couldn't find their way to the Cominco Arena when they had the chance. Makes one wonder how Nelson keeps going but they seem to come up with

the answer every season. More power to them!

Looking back on the Trail-Rossland series and the crowds they encouraged to come and see some good junior "B" hockey on show, one has to believe that Trail's last senior effort fell well short of what the fans expected or were willing to accept for the entertainment bucks.

Now let's think about golf. Today we got word that the upper course will open on Thursday, so by the time you read this there will be a somewhat happier group of guys who, like me, prefer to play the grand old course. The weather of late has not been the best golfing weather but I guess Birchbank has been drawing 'em in according to all reports. Someone told me today that word is going round that the Rossland Retiree group plan to start on Tuesday. I'm not sure who got this going but others of the club who usually run things are unaware of this development. I don't say we won't get something going, but it will take some hurried preparation to do it this coming Tuesday.

One other thing on golf, on Sunday the wife and I were visiting Ken and Barb Stanton and both Ken and I just about exploded then Mize hit that miracle shot that won him the green

coat and a whole bunch of loose change to go with it. I thought Kenny was going through the roof, for myself I was really happy that the young fellow won it. But you have to hand it to Norman too, those good-luck shots seem to take it away from him. He's a fine golfer and Mize knew he was up against it when his approach left him well off the green, he had one shot and as it turned out it was all he needed.

We also watched some ball, Toronto and Boston. The Jays are struggling here in the early going and they have a lot of good opposition in their league this year. At least they are doing better than the Expos, winless in their first five, they seem to have a job finding themselves a way to win, however they'll probably pull out of it before long.

On Saturday afternoon, members of Branch 14 said goodbye to another longtime friend. Joe Thalman's passing was a sad day for quite a number of people and members of Branch 14 will certainly miss the gent who will always be "Number One Joe" to all his friends in the Legion. To all those left behind we offer our deepest sympathy.

And now, 'til next time, then!