

# AS I SEE IT

WITH

## HARRY PEPPER

On Sunday afternoon I had a busy day, so much so that president Jim Markle of the Rossland Minor Hockey Association had to drive me home between two exhibition games at the Arena, so that I might fortify myself with food and thus stay in the game.

You're right, this is leading up to something; I want to pay tribute to the young men who are doing so much for the Rossland Minor Hockey this season.

President Jim brought up the subject after the Midget Reps, coached by former Warrior great, Steve Chorney, had dropped another exhibition to the strong Trail contingent who are masterminded by none other than Trail's favourite son, Addie Tambellini. And Addie deserves the accolade.

In these days of power hockey the big boys of the N.H.L. and environs are seeking youngsters almost out of the cradle in order to be sure they don't miss out on any bets. This, to my mind, is the reason that so many youngsters of Midget age are finding their way into Junior hockey.

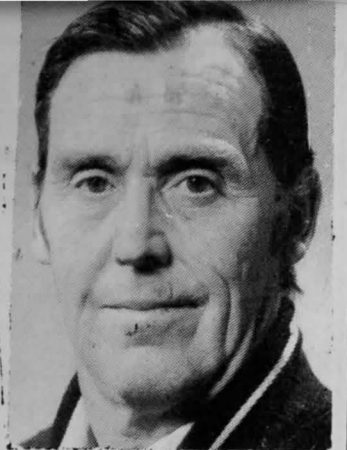
Both Steve and his counterpart as coach of Bantam Reps, Joe Rosse, know hockey and both know that one cannot build with lack of material. Our town just has not got the reservoir of talent to draw from which, happily, Trail, Nelson, Grand Forks and Castlegar have. Each of these centres have in the neighborhood of 500 to a thousand boys on their minor league rosters and this means an awful lot when you are building a young hockey team.

In both games on Sunday the Rossland kids showed that they were willing to give it all they had, but in both cases they were out-gunned.

As president Jim remarked, How do you do this? What is the answer? To these questions I would say, carry on in exactly the same way you are doing.

While we cannot expect to win all the way down the line, the Rossland Minor Hockey Association is filling a role that has to be filled if our youngsters are to be given the chance to play our national sport.

To the many young men like Steve and Joe, who are donating time they probably could use in other pursuits, I can only say, thanks, fellas!



You know, this Minor Hockey is enjoying one of its best years in Rossland this year, and it is all because the young men of our town have seen fit to get in there and help. The turnout for coaching, refereeing, etc., has been fantastic.

In these days of power hockey it may seem trite to mention the word sportsmanship, but it will always be there, and since there has to always be a winner and a loser, our youngsters will have had the benefit of knowing what it is to lose like a man as well as taking the plaudits accorded a winner.

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On the night of January 28th 1972 the Rossland Minor Hockey Association will hold its own version of Minor Hockey Night for this year.

This is the night which is celebrated Canada-wide and which the local minor puck moguls have decided to do as their own thing this season.

Each of the divisions represented in the Association will get a chance to show their wares for admiring parents and friends. Games will start at 5:30 p.m. and the Bantam Reps will lead off with an hour-long game against a Trail opponent.

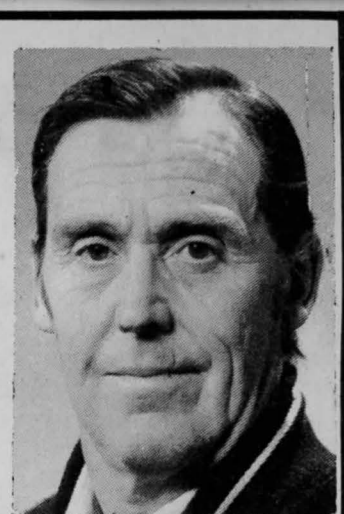
This will be followed by four 20-minute games. The Bantam "B" team against the Pee wee Reps will start these shortened games off, followed by the Pee Wee House League teams, Leafs vs Wings; then will come the Pup House teams, Canucks and Canadians to do battle, after which will be the future Junior Warriors (1980 version) as the Mighty Mites do their thing.

Following ice cleaning will be the treat of the evening as the local Midgets, backed by some of the current Junior Warriors, will do battle with one of the most famous teams in Rossland's recent hockey history, none other than the 1957-58 Senior W.I.H.L. champs the Senior Warriors.

Many of my readers will remember the members of this team and most of them will be on hand for the festivities which will probably consist of 3 periods of straight 20 minutes each against kids whose young legs will be an average of 20 years younger.

Coach Mike Buckna and trainer "Chow" Sdao will lead the following members of that championship team onto the ice that night and it will bring back a lot of memories for a lot of us.

Reno Zanier and Don Holmes will be in uniform to look after the goal-tending chores and when one remembers that Reno still tends goal in the Trail Commercial League that part of the job will be well looked after. As his backup, big Don Holmes is still in pretty good shape.



Dave Stewart, Bill Gallamore and champ team members George Ferguson and big Don Fletcher will tend to the defence chores. Don should be in fine shape, what with his firemans job and the amount of skiing he does.

The forward lines were all, with one exception, members of the championship team.

One of these lines will see Harold Jones, Ray Demore and Norm Lenardon performing, with Demore and Jones it used

to be "Pinoke" McIntyre, but he is under the weather and is not likely to play.

Alex Birukow, Leo Lucchini and Gil DesRosiers will form another line and if my memory serves me correctly these three played on one line with the championship team.

The other line will consist of Steve Chorney, currently Rossland Midget coach, a long-time Rossland favourite, Bud Andrews, and Gerry Penner will fill out this line. Penner is the only non-member of the champions.

Other members who will be missing from the squad will be Frankie Turik, "Yogi" Kraiger and "The Moose", Vic Lofvendahl.

The tickets for this night will be sold door-to-door by young members of the Minor Hockey League and will be available at the Arena and possibly other outlets will be opened up for the sale.

This does not concern hockey, but I would be very remiss if I neglected to wish my old friend, Alex McLeod and his new wife, Marge, all the luck and happiness that can fall to anyone in their category. Getting married is a big move in anyone's life and I'd like to say this, "Keep your feet and your powder dry, Alex".