

# AS I SEE IT

WITH

HARRY PEPPER



It has come to my notice that there are rumors going the rounds that the Rossland Minor Soccer Association draw which was to have been made on June 20th has flown the coop.

Nothing could be farther from the truth. I happen to be pretty closely connected with minor league soccer and I can assure you, one and all, that anyone who thinks this is barking up a wrong tree.

I did hear that someone was going to write a letter to the "Miner" protesting it, and it is with a lot of pleasure that I would like to tell you all, everyone who has a ticket on this draw, that you will have just as good a chance as your neighbour.

By way of explanation, I would like to say that when the minor soccer executive embarked on this venture the idea was born that we give the youngsters who take part in this sport a real bang-up wind-up banquet, and to this end we had received many offers of help. However, we felt that if the youngsters would get out and hustle a little, the sale of tickets would see that we had a paid-up feed for the kids and some nice prizes for the lucky winners.

Well, this was not bad thinking, but we didn't figure that some of the kids we executive members have been striving for all season would let us down. But when we arrived at the nitty-gritty, to quote a current cliché, we didn't get 100 per cent.

Some kids went overboard, others could not have cared less, with the result that our initial assessment fell far short of expectations. At a meeting called by President John Rykers in July, we decided we would try to sell the books turned in by the kids, some with one or two tickets sold and thus try to salvage something.

As anyone knows who has tried to sell tickets in August on a draw that was supposed to take place in June, it ain't no fun. Consequently, we find ourselves in September still somewhat short of our goal, however, we will definitely hold the draw at our wind-up banquet and if

tion and introduction of the all-star team make up a major portion of the wind-up do.

First to come up for an award was Ken Plotnikoff of the Trail Machine Works team, who took home the Joe Remesz Trophy as the most sportsmanlike player. Ken also shared the Home Run Trophy which is one of 3 GROW League sponsored trophies, with Jack McCunn of the Trail Hotel.

The Morey Johnson Memorial Trophy, the Golden Glove, also went to McCunn.

The Cominco Trophy, emblematic of the league winners was won by the Crown Point Club which is sponsored by hotel owner, Ernie Rushworth.

The Art Misco Trophy for the most valuable player was won by John Obetkoff of the Trail Hotel, while John Thompson of the Crown Point won batting honors and a GROW League Trophy with a .467 average.

Warren Hutchinson's 10-0 record over the season won the Crown Point's strong-arm hurler, another GROW League trophy. "Hutch" was also named pitcher of the all-star team.

He was joined on this exclusive club by catcher Dale Shultz of the Trail Machine Works, first baseman Denny Larson of Montrose R & W Motors, second sacker, Tim Horcoff of the Hi-Arrow Arms, Dino DeRose of the Crown Point was selected to protect the hot corner and Trail Machine Works' Don McLeod was chosen shortstop.

There must have been an awful lot of good outfielders in the GROW League this season because the all-star team couldn't cut down to less than four. They named Jack McCunn and Jim McIntyre of the Trail Hotel, John Thompson of the Crown Point and Wally Caron of Trail Machine Works to posts in the far reaches of the park. The

anyone would like to help us meet our quota of tickets, you know who to contact. To some who have given, I can only say, "Thanks a million", and to those who think that people who have to live in this town would try to beat you for a dollar, then all I can say is, you should be prime candidates for the job of running this minor soccer show. I'll bet you will be welcomed with open arms by the incumbent executive.

As was expected, the Lou DeRosa-sponsored ball tourney turned up some mighty fine ball and, when the smoke had cleared, the club which was expected to take home the marbles did just that.

The Spokane Gonzaga University Bulldogs, a team which placed high in college ratings in the U.S. this past season, just managed to edge the Trail-Rossland Silver Caps in their first meeting by a 3-2 extra inning win while out-hitting the locals 10-3.

The Slocan Valley Combines, who filled in for the absent Okanagan champs - Kamloops Okonots, did not go unnoticed as they came up with a 7-5 win over Nelson Indians and pushed the Silver Caps to 10 innings before bowing 4-3.

A trio of Steve's on the Gonzaga club gave the Silver Caps more trouble than they could handle in the final game. Sandmore was the winning pitcher and Randal and Schrader each hit a homer in a winning cause.

I would like to offer my congratulations to Lou for a fine tourney and hope that any future efforts of this nature will meet with the financial success they so richly deserve.

On Saturday evening I attended the G.R.O.W. League wind-up banquet for the second year in a row and was just as well treated as I was last year and still amazed at the way this very successful league functions.

There are no less than eight trophies which are up for competition every season and the awarding of these and the selec-

Hi-Arrow Arms team won the playoff and the Trail Hotel Trophy which goes with it. They owed a tremendous lot to outfielder Alec Ozeroff, who had a fantastic final series, going 12 for 14 and something like an .880 batting average.

John Hughes Wanderers are off to a terrific start in the Juvenile section of the West Kootenay Minor Soccer League, with just two games under their belts. They can boast of a 7-2 win over Nelson, and a 7-0 victory over the previously top-dog Castlegar Eleven.

Re-alignment of our kid soccer set-up is set for next season with the probability of a house league set-up, as in minor hockey, becoming the vogue.

I will endeavour to give some attention to the overall picture in minor soccer next week, but at present, what with new schedules being worked out and the scoring statistics being somewhat cloudy, I thought I would by-pass it for this week. I trust you will bear with me.

Finals in the Play-for-fun League are proceeding apace and now only two teams remain in play. Hanson's Texaco and the K.C. Knights each had a win over Wise's, and these eliminated the Scrappers from further competition.

President Jim Markle of the Minor Hockey Association phoned the other night to give me some word on his organization and preparations for the coming season. He tells me they have had 2 meetings and that Junior Warrior coach-elect, Lloyd McLellan, has been named superintendent of coaches for the kids and that registration forms for those wishing to play this winter will be in the schools shortly. Registration dates and times are to be Saturday, September 25th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and Thursday, September 30th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

I will try to relay anything further I get from Jim on this subject.