

AS I SEE IT

WITH
HARRY PEPPER

In the most spontaneous exhibition of enthusiasm it has been my pleasure to witness, a group of youthful soccer players honored their coach with a demonstration of loyalty which I never expect to see surpassed.

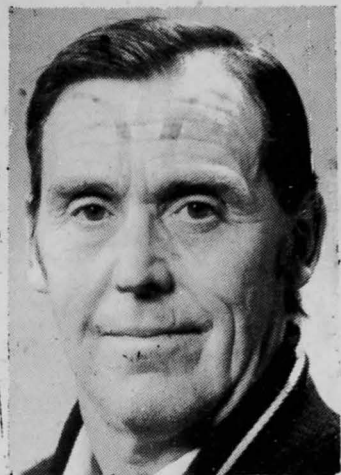
It all happened at last Friday evening's first annual Minor Soccer banquet and the presentation of awards held at the I.O.O.F. Hall.

There was a fine turkey supper supplied by generous donations from parents of the young players, The Super-Valu and Jack Drake's dairy. It was prepared by the ladies of the Rebekahs, and the Soccer Association's secretary, Greta Cox, aided by Mrs. Martin, the mother of David, Allan and Terry who play soccer, one in each division.

After everyone had finished the fine repast the chairman introduced the head table and called on the RCAA President, Jack Cox to say a few words to the boys. Mr. Cox replied with the fewest words I've heard him say in a long time. Following this, Bob Eyre, who was invited to represent the School Board, gave the boys a talk.

Mr. Eyre pointed out the connection between the benefit of good honest athletic competition and success in the academic field and wished the boys lots of success in both.

The next speaker was John Hogan, who came along as President of the West Kootenay Soccer Association.



team, David Martin, said that the team would like to have the designation of the trophy changed to the "Most Valuable Person" and as such wished the award to go to Coach Hughes. This announcement was greeted by a prolonged round of applause. Coach Hughes accepted and I think the gesture made him the happiest guy in town.

The most valuable and sportsmanlike award over the three divisions, a new award, had three nominees, full-back Brad Haynes of the Juvenile Wanderers, full-back Tim Evans of the Bantam Celtic and full-back Ernie Roberts of the Peewees; and the wee fella turned out to be the winner. Anyone who could have seen the look on young Ernie's face when I handed him the trophy would have been well rewarded for all the work.

I would not think of closing this column without a sincere vote of thanks to our secretary, Greta, for all her work and the Rebekah Ladies for a fine reception.

Mr. Hogan confined his remarks to a description of the aims and expectations for the future of his organization and answered several questions fired at him by the boys.

He kidded the boys a little, saying that this was his first trip to Rossland, and that he had felt that he came as a friend instead of his usual position as the opposition.

Following Mr. Hogan's speech, Jack Fisher, Peewee coach, was invited to name the trophy winners in his division. He named Pat Lavigne as the winner of the Most Improved Player Trophy, but he had some difficulty in deciding on his most valuable player. Finally he compromised by naming a defenceman, Ernie Roberts, and a forward, Robbie Martin. All three of his picks have played extremely well for him this year but Jack emphasized that despite the fact that few could win trophies he appreciated all the boys and their efforts.

For the Bantams it was my job to pick the winners and my choices were two kids who have made the move from Peewee to Bantam and made themselves into good players by their own efforts.

I picked Tommy Haley as the Most Valuable Player and Chris Gresley-Jones as the Most Improved and wished I could have named quite a few more.

Then came the moment which capped the whole evening. Coach John Hughes named the players who had played in the cup winning effort and 16 medallions were presented, as that was all the league had ordered, but the Association promised the rest of the boys they would not be left out. John then named his most improved player, a popular choice among his teammates. He was red-headed full-back Paddy Flanagan, to whom John said, "When you started, Paddy, you had two left feet, but now you have a good right and left."

He then stated that his team had asked to be allowed to vote for their most valuable team member. When the ballots were tallied, the spokesman for the