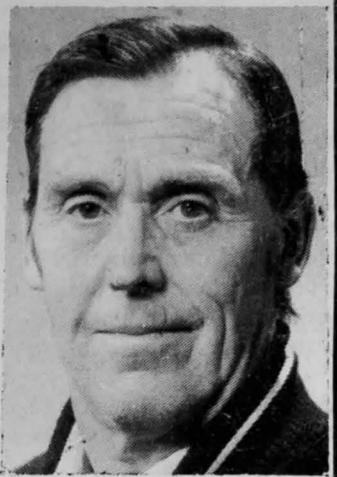


AS I SEE IT

WITH

HARRY PEPPER



There is a possibility that this column should have been written at a more appropriate time, but the way things have a habit of catching up with me, I doubt that there will ever be a better time in the future.

At the outset of the season the young Braves sailed merrily along, winning game after game, seemingly shrugging off the opposition, no matter who they were; and everyone said, "That's a pretty good team Rossland has this season". In fact, the team was so good the fans started to look forward to their home games.

The success of the Warriors was in no small measure attributable to the efforts of four young fellows from Castlegar who joined the team at the outset of the 71-72 season.

The leader of this quartet was a kid who had proved himself a pretty good hand at tending goal for the Castlegar entry in the years previous to this one. His name is Lorne Kinakin, and for my money he is still the classiest goal-tender in the local Junior "B" League. In previous years, young Kinakin has faced loads of rubber while operating behind a mediocre defense. This year, his defence has been better, but by no means the best, and he has done a fine job. The Warriors are extremely fortunate to have him on their side. This stocky blond youngster could be a real factor in the upcoming playoffs.

Mike Popoff is a 16-year-old youngster with a 5 foot 10 inch, 175 pound stature who I believe has yet to show his full potential as a player for this year's edition of the Junior Warriors. This boy played all his Minor Hockey in Castlegar and wound up as a member of the Mike Lauriente-coached Castlegar Midget team which lost in the 1970-71 final to the powerful Nelson squad.

and stands 5 - 9 1/2, and has had all his Minor Hockey experience in the town of his birth, and was on the same Midget team as Mike last year.

The fourth member of the Warriors to hail from the Twin Rivers area is a big boy, standing 5'11" and weighing 180 lbs. Bill Henne is the son of Bill and Margaret Henne of Kinaird. His dad played considerable softball in the Trail area some years back.

Bill played all his Minor Hockey in Castlegar and like Mike and Don, was a member of last year's Midget team.

Born in Trail, Bill's education has all been taken in Castlegar where he is at present a Grade 12 student who hopes to further his studies at Selkirk College.

Bill has recently been on a line with Jim Stuart and Doug Jones and has fitted in very well. He likes playing for Rossland and expects to be back next season if things work out for him.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this column these four boys have fitted well into the overall Warrior picture, and I, for one, thank them for a job well done.

Mike tried out with the Brandon Wheat Kings last fall and hopes to catch on in Junior "A" in the future with the Brandon organization.

His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Mike Popoff of the Twin Rivers town of Castlegar.

Don Savinkoff came to Rossland not entirely unheralded. His brother, Bill, had refereed in the West Kootenay Junior League with distinction, and Don has been one of the brighter lights on this year's Warrior decorations.

Playing on a line with Mike Evans and Ken Bertoia for most of the season thus far, Don has fitted in well, playing a driving, crowd-pleasing style. This youngster, a Grade 12 student in the vocational field at Castlegar High School hopes to try out for Junior "A" along with Mike at Brandon in another year.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Savinkoff of Castlegar, he is 17 years old, weighs 165

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