

AS I SEE IT

WITH

HARRY PEPPER



Last weekend, a young man who has become an idol to an awful lot of youngsters in our town left to try to get to the top echelon in the greatest winter sport on the North American continent.

His name, as you who read this column regularly will soon realize, is Joe Zanussi. This year Joey is in the running for a job alongside some of the greatest hockey players ever to perform on this or any other continent. I don't have to elaborate when I mention that the possibility exists that Joey possibility exists that Joey could be playing on the same team as Gordie Howe, the outstanding hockey player in the world for these many years.

Joey has worked hard for a chance at this attainment and if it comes his way, it won't be by any streak of luck.

Born on September 25th, 1947 in Rossland to proud partnet, Mr. and Mrs. Gino Zanussi, Joe began his athletic career as a left-handed pticher in Rossland's little league and a hard-nosed defenceman in Rossland's minor hockey setup.

It wasn't long until his talents were recognized by the people who count in the hockey world and he was summoned to Edmonton, Alberta, where he palyed

played for the **Edmonton Junior "B" team during the season of 1964-65.**

In 1965-66, he played Junior "A" in the same city, in 1966-67 he played with the Swift Current Broncos. In this town, Joey tells me he made some wonderful friends. His landlord and ful friends - his landlord and landlady of that winter. He told me their names, but they, like so many other things, have slipped from my memory.

The 1967-7

The 1967-68 season saw him performing withthe performing with the Johnstown Jets of the Eastern U.S. League. Among his team-mates that year was a brother of Walt Peacosh, who will be remembered by local hockey fans as a better -than-average hockey player.

way despite adverse weather conditions. To date, the K.C. Knights and Hanson's Texans have won their sections of the playoffs with K.C. taking two straight from the Allan Roadrunners and Hanson's taking the Irvin Mets by the same score.

It is to both of the veteran hotel teams' credit that they didn't give up. Both went down fighting. Wise's Scrap hold a one-game lead over Black Bear 66 Firemen, and can wind up the semi's in their next game.

If they do, the double k-o finals will start shortly with anything liable to happen.

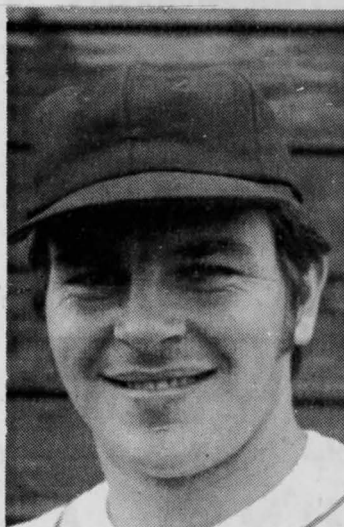
I personally received quite a shock when I got the news that our soccer youngsters will have to get along without the help of John Rykers and Gerry Bowen during the second half. These two boys will be hard to replace, but I'm hoping that some of the juvenile boys will come forward to help. If not, I hesitate to think of what will happen.

Gerry has left for the East Kootenay and Fording Coal, while John has a rather distressing personal problem which is going to cause him to terminate his six-year stay in this area.

Now that the official work has been handed down I would like to congratulate the new Junior Warriors coach, Lloyd McLellan, on his appointment. I think Lloyd knows what he is faced with and I also believe he is the sort of young man who will do what he thinks best under any circumstances, and some of them this coming winter will not be of the pleasant variety.

The executive saw fit to give Lloyd the job. Let's hope they are willing to back him in whatever he thinks right. Then, and only then, will we have a good winter of hockey in Rossland. baseball tournament

Joey was promoted to the Fort Worth Redwings, an affiliate of the Detroit National League team of the same name, for the 1968-69 season and won most valuable player honors in 1969-70 as well as tying for top honors in the league - quite an achievement in his second year in the association.



JOE ZANUSSI

Joey's moment of truth will arrive in Port Huron, Michigan on the 10th of September, two weeks before his 24th birthday as he will be going all out to land that berth in the N.H.L.

When Joe goes all out, its pretty awesome. Look what a top sports writer in the east has to say, "This is the closest thing to perpetual motion that I have ever seen."

Anyone who has watched Joey run bases for the Rossland Capitanos will have to agree with that writer, and we have to be real lucky in this town, for whereven Joe stops off this winter, he will be back in a cap uniform next summer and help the form next summer to help the local boys boud that record of being the best in the Kootenays.

I could wind this up by saying, "We are number one in baseball in this area and, with a guy like Joey to help out, we are going to stay that way".

The play-for-funnners have got their playoffs well under

The Trail-Rossland Combines, who will enter the coming weekend ball tourney in the quest of the pot of gold, are going into it well equipped to deal with any opposition.

In a telephone chat with tourney boss, Lou Derosé, on Tuesday evening, I queried him as to the make-up of his team and the names he gave me have to rate as about as good as he could have got anywhere in these parts. Behind the plate will be Larry Kissick. Pretty good, huh! The infield will be composed of Al Doherty and Ron Rebellato of Trail, two Rossland youngsters and a vet. The kids will be Steve McFarland Richie Miller and the oldest, the dependable Bobby Profili. In the outfield Lou's choices are Keith Healey, Rob Patterson and Gary Piccone of Trail, and I know you're going to have trouble believing this, but the cast comes off this week and Barry Seal wants to play and I agree with Lou that he could come in handy.

Now we come to the pitchers, and this could be interesting; Dale Payette and Larry Brant of the locals with Brian Hama-gami of the Grand Forks Mets as a distinct possibility. Backing these top-notch local youngsters will be American imports; Steve Briggs from Yakports; Steve Loveless from Libby, Montana, Jack Briggs from yakima, Washington and a young man I have had a chance to watch in action. He is Tom Changnon from California by way of the Foothills Giants in Calgary. It seems Tom has a girl friend in the area and was visiting when Lou contacted him.

It would seem that given a break by the weatherman, Trail and Rossland baseball fans are going to get the time of their baseball-watching lives.

See you all at Butler this weekend!