

PEPPER-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

The other day two pretty hockey-wise friends of mine commented they wished to see someone really level Wayne Gretzky with a solid bodycheck. I said at the time "you can't hit what you can't catch up with."

When you watch the moves that guy can make out there you have to admit "Great One" is going to stay pretty well unmolested for some time. His knack of finding a spot in front of the goal and getting those accurate shots away from almost any angle is uncanny. Sure, one of these days he's going to relax and someone will have a shot at him, but I think when the time comes he'll bounce right back not much the worse for wear.

Well, the Birchbank course is sure doing a land-office business these days, since the curling season ended I have been out with various foursomes on seven different occasions and have played 18 holes of six of those. Each time we have been out there the course has

been, if not crowded, then let's say filled to capacity. It's a pretty healthy situation. When the upper course gets going, which should be any day now, that may relieve the pressure at Birchbank somewhat. That course is in fine shape and I like the handling of tee-off from the office. It's a really good move, notifying each group of their position on the tee.

I haven't been down to see the upper course yet but I'm told that the greens are in good shape and work has been already done on the practice tee and the putting green and both are in mid-season condition, several damp spots on the fairways will undoubtedly have been helped by the recent glorious weather we've been having.

I see that the soccer season has kicked off with a couple of exhibition games. If pre-season form is any criterion we can expect to see some excellent matches during the coming months in both Trail and Rossland. The

competition between these two is always red hot and now we have the Oldtimers getting into the act with a league of their own. Along with the minor leaguers it would appear as though we should have a busy summer, I haven't checked out the minor registration as yet but it will likely be as good as previous years.

Saturday, April 30 will see the Spurs and Labatts clash in game one of the season in Trail.

On the Slo-Pitch front, the league held its general meeting Monday evening and will go with the executive of the previous season: Jim Ling is president and Howie Karn the vice-president while John Habicht takes on the combined job of secretary-treasurer. I have learned that if there are enough

people sign up for the season ahead that there is a possibility of a sixth team being added, projected starting date for the league is around May 10 and the annual tournament which was abandoned last year will be revived under the chairmanship of Ken Dixon and Cam Jensen for around July 1.

Rossland Slo-Pitch league is also endeavoring to start a youth program. They are looking for about four parents per team. If anyone would like to take part in the program they are asked to contact one of the following phone numbers before May 1: Jim Ling, 362-5003; Howie Karn, 362-5641; Don Brandt, 362-5730; or Geoff Davies, 362-5461.

This coming week I will do some work on a couple of projects I have for future

columns, one has to be coming up pretty quick as it concerns skiing while the other will be more timely as summer and track and field sports take over.

And now to wind up this from a national magazine. An otherwise quiet corner of town was bothered nightly by the squalls of an overzealous male cat. Its owner's neighbors called on him to do something about it. A few nights later quiet reigned. On seeing the cat's owner, one neighbor thanked him and said, "I suppose it takes some effort to confine him." "No," the owner said, "I had him altered at the vet's."

"Then," said the other, "I suppose he stays home at night."

"Not really," said the owner, "he still goes out but now he acts as a consultant."

That's it for now...