

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

On the first really glorious day we've had this season, 49 retirees turned out at the upper course. Jim and Willie Scott had a program of bingo, bango, bongo, low net and the longest putt on number nine.

Jim had 11 points to take the first category, Percy Cutler had a 32 as did Reg White for low net honors. Reg, however, had the long putt and following the retirees' policy of only one ball to a winner, he got his for his 24'2" effort in the last category. Next week it will be Joe Bielli and Dave Nicol in charge. Wonder what kind of a show they'll have for us!

Now let's hope for another gorgeous day, the course is drying up a bit and if we could only get our rope-tow fixed we would be delirious.

I attended the Warriors' meeting to hear what they have in store for us in the coming season. There will still be seven teams in the West and probably four in the East. Elk Valley, as

you will remember, dropped out last spring prior to the playoffs and there were rumors that Creston might join them on the sidelines but word has come down that a number of concerned people in Creston have kicked in \$500 apiece to keep the team going.

The Warriors will have a different coach this season, Lloyd McLellan will replace Rich Chobanuk at the helm. Some dissatisfaction was voiced regarding this move but manager Doug Buhr said the decision was arrived at after considerable soul-searching and no amount of discussion is going to change it.

McLellan is no stranger to Warrior fans and has been the subject of controversy on occasion. He did, however lead the Warriors to some good seasons during his previous tenure. How he will fare this time around remains to be seen. He has promised, along with Buhr, a recruiting program will

be put in place and hopes to get some help it is felt the club needs. With Bert Brooker gone to Red Deer, a goalie to fill his shoes will be one real problem as the club at present has just Darry Lindgren left. Darryl has shown he is a good goalie but the thinking is he will be second-string. The club needs some help here if some more improvement is to be shown in the overall picture.

The KIJHL is re-applying for Junior "A" status. The BCAHA turned down a previous request and is not expected to change its position this time around. There are clubs in the league that feel the KIJHL's standing in hockey circles would improve with the rise in status, but most people can plainly see this sort of thing would only damage the whole steup. There are several teams which have a hard time maintaining what they have now. A drive for a better class of players would put most of the clubs in a precarious

financial position.

The Warriors' hockey club is not overloaded with funds and the coming drive in support of their hockey program will largely determine how far the club will be able to pursue their search for more players.

It was stated at the meeting that Alan Simm is going to Red Deer with Brooker. His spot will take a bit of filling. Let's hope the program drive does as well this time around as it has in past years.

The KIJHL playoff setup has been the subject of considerable discussion. According to word from our league reps this subject has been a focus of a lot more of the same and it is felt not much change is in sight at this time.

Another subject which always causes some concern is the status of the Spokane club. Their move to the West division has been of considerable

benefit to the only American club in the league. Word has it that they saved lots of money by not having to play the extra games with overnight stays in the East. So one would think they will work to keep things as they are.

Buhr stated that Doug Hinton will be connected with the Warriors again this season as a RMHA representative. The search is on to recruit extra help for the lounge operation and with Jack Cox gone and the state of Kenny Stanton's health being a bit of a question mark, the club needs help. Arnie Sherwood, Ray Dominici and this writer, will possibly fill in the spots now in doubt.

So the call will once again be heard, go, Warriors, go! when the arena opens for business this fall.

Till next week, then!