

Well, whatever happens for the rest of the 1986-87 Junior "B" hockey season in the KIJHL the fans of the Rossland and Trail area sure had quite a series watching their two favorites put on quite a show in their seven game series. I know for a fact I have never watched a series where the outcome was definitely in doubt until the final whistle sounded.

Another thing about it was it wasn't one of those cases where you heard the old complaint, "we wuz robbed!" Sure if you sat down and talked to some people — maybe a little more critical of the officiating — you'd hear various opinions. But on the whole I thought the handling of this series — definitely a really tough one to call — was very well done.

As for the Saturday night game I had only one feeling as I headed home afterward. If anyone deserved stars in those final two important games, it was admiration for the work of the two goaltenders. Stars go a lot of the time to the offensive players but this was one where, if I was asked to pick them, those kids on the last line of defence would have been the ones.

Sure, there were some fine offensive and defensive plays on both sides but those two little guys, who are the final target, did what could easily be termed a "helluva job" in keeping their nets clear of rubber for most of the 60 minutes.

To our Rossland kids, you did a fine job to win over Trail. In a tough series like this the breaks sometimes tip the scales and maybe Lady Luck did have something to do with it but one of you had possible a tougher series ahead and she'll probably have something to do with the outcome of that one.

I only hope that the Warriors play as well as we know they can and where the chips will fall is anybody's guess right now.

The Rebels are coming into this one with lots of rest. I wonder if it's going to carry them on to the top in this division or will Rossland's will to win carry them on this one too. Only time will give us the answer there.

The KIJHL has been quite a spot for the power teams of the league this season. In our division Castlegar has had it quite a bit their own way. They started strong and with Beaver Valley having troubles, Trail starting slow and playing their best hockey in the playoffs, and Rossland playing well throughout the season the west was alright.

Over in the East, Spokane was riding roughshod over everything, and only Cranbrook gave them any trouble. The Rockies, rebuilding and the Knights, shorthanded all season gave only token resistance.

But as I said before, it all depends on what Rossland can come up with in the west finals. The winner will face quite a task against the eastern champ, whoever it is.

Like the Brier and most of the big-time curling, the Rossland Retirees are just about over with their final competitions. Angus tells me that they will wind up with a short points competition to fill in the last few days. Two or three rinks are still in the running to win this final competition so we shall have to wait another week or two for final standings. It has been a good season all round.

Monday, four teams journeyed to Grand Forks to finish their commitment to visitations for this year. Didn't fare too well with one win and a tie between the four rinks. Those Grand Forks chaps have their rocks trained I think and their ice conditions sure suit them. Our boys said that despite the results, Grand Forks are still excellent hosts.

And now it's time to say,
 'til next time. then!