

# Oct 9/87 PEPPER-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

On Saturday evening I watched the Warriors and the Junior Smokies go at it at the arena and it was a real ding-dong battle from start to finish. Trail jumped off to a 3-0 lead in the early going and it looked bad for the home side. But it lasted for just one period as the Warriors went on, as you probably heard, to go up in the final couple of minutes with two goals to take a 6-5 win away from their Trail rivals.

It was definitely all Trail in the early going but as time went on one could sense the home team starting to find ways to get the puck to the Trail zone and then move it around before unloading it into the net. Both netminders played well with the Warrior custodian reaching his peak at the right time. I am beginning to pick out the boys whom I think will be right up there in the scoring race this season. I have my eye on several Warriors, and one or two of the Smokies, who look as though they will be definite assets along this line before the season is much older. One player who I always like to watch on the Warrior team was Gordie Stanton. He was missing on Saturday night. I called to find out why and he tells me he has been battling the flu bug for a little while and it not yet back in shape but hopes to be back soon.

One thing I enjoyed on Saturday night was the work of the officials were really on top of their game. Not like the previous week when I thought the officials of that exhibition game were pretty lax in the way they handled things. The guys this Saturday were right on top of everything and the infractions were kept to a minimum. This sort of officiating will keep the fans happy. But I've noticed in the past when one team takes lots of penalties that team's fans tend to get on the officials be they right or wrong. If they go by the book and call them the way they see them I'm going to be happy anyway. it ain't everything but it helps anyway.

This year the league has gotten back two teams who were absent for various reasons last season. Elk Valley Raiders in the East division and the Border Bruins from Grand Forks in the west make it a ten-team circuit. Each team will play 42 games, 21 at home and 21 away. Rossland will play home-and-home series with the East teams and four games at home and four games way with teams in the West. It should make for a very good schedule. Warriors' only East opponent away from home in October is Cranbrook and the month of December sees them play Elk Valley, Columbia Valley and Spokane away, between Dec. 5 and 20 and Kimberley on Jan. 8, 1988. Columbia Valley comes here in November as does Kimberley. Cranbrook is a December visitor while Elk Valley visits in January and Spokane is the last, coming on Feb. 2, 1988. As I said, it looks like a pretty evenly spaced schedule, except for those Eastern visitors in December.

It seems they have a good Christmas-New Year break, playing their last before the holiday on the 20th in Spokane and the first one back after the holiday Jan 1, 1988 in Trail.

Meanwhile, preparations will soon get moving to get our Retirees curling underway. I understand a meeting is going to be held by our body as soon as president Dan Burnett returns from the coast. We now have all the information from the association meeting so we know just about where we stand now with regard to opening dates (approximate) and all we need to do is prepare, maybe add a few new members.

The club has decided that since the time we would have at the upper course would hardly make it worth our while and I heard yesterday one of our members' daughters is going to take over the job.

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Yesterday, Sunday, Sam Manson organized a Retirees' pool tourney and we had a good turnout, the resurfacing job on the two tables at Branch 14 certainly made an improvement, I heard a lot of comment on this during the afternoon, so I guess it was money well spent.

And now I think I will leave you with this, my Rossland friends, get out and support the Warriors. It's the least you can do.

And so, with that, I'll say,  
'Til next time, then!