



Ice Warriors: The Pacific Coast/Western Hockey League 1948-1974

By Jon C. Stott

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Technically it was a minor league, but for hockey fans west of the Mississippi, the Western Hockey League provided major-league entertainment for over 25 years.

The WHL was a determined and ambitious professional league, with some 22 teams based in major American and Canadian cities. Known as the Pacific Coast Hockey League prior to 1952, the WHL aspired to establish itself as North America's second major league, a western counterpart to the early eastern Canada-based National Hockey League. But it never quite managed to make the jump to the majors.

Ice Warriors is a play-by-play history of the Western Hockey League, recalling the league's beginnings as the Pacific Coast League, how it came to rival the NHL and what led to its disbanding in 1974. By interviewing former players, coaches and fans, and examining statistical records, Jon C. Stott captures the WHL's glory days and pays tribute to a time when hockey was played with heart.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Jon C. Stott is an English professor emeritus from the University of Alberta. His interests include writing about sports, childrens literature and beer. In 1973, he wrote the Western Hockey Leagues official 25th-anniversary commemorative magazine, and he has since authored three books on minor-league sports, including *Hockey Night in Dixie* and *Ice Warriors*. He has four publications on the study of childrens literature, and in 2010, he retold stories from many lands in the childrens book *A Book of Tricksters*. Jons beer guidebook, *Beer Quest West*, profiles all the microbreweries in BC and Alberta. He lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

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