



INTO THE BOARDS

Centre Bobby Hull of Chicago Black Hawks slams into forward Bernie Geoffrion (right) of Montreal Canadiens during first period action in the National Hockey League semi-final game at Chicago March 31. In the net is Montreal goalie Jacques Plante. (CP from AP)

'Boston Is No Soft Touch' Warns Leaf Pilot Imlach

By RON ANDREWS
Canadian Press Staff Writer
TORONTO (CP) — Toronto Maple Leafs, on the short end of the odds since they started their Stanley Cup playoff drive three weeks ago, are out in front for the first time. Now they have to prove they can stay there.

SPORT ECHOES

BY NORMAN MACDONALD

THE OLD CRYSTAL BALL is behaving nobly and our pre-game predictions on Thursday's National Hockey League playoffs were right on the nose. When we made them, we couldn't imagine how we could be wrong but then, sometimes, the oldball does get a bit hazy.

But as we glanced at it prior to Thursday's games in Boston and Montreal we thought we could see everything clearly. We didn't think we were reading in an improper fashion and as it turned out we were 100 per cent right.

YES, TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS went into Boston Gardens and grabbed their first playoff victory and they did it most impressively. It definitely must be regarded as the key game although Maple Leafs are not talking Stanley Cup finals as yet. The Punch Imlach-coached crew have a big job on their hands yet. They know that full well and are not going around spouting off at the mouth.

However, Leafs had to win one game at Boston. They did that Thursday and now must be considered favourites to advance to the final round. Their big chance comes tonight when they entertain Bruins in Maple Leafs Gardens before a jam-packed audience.

We are confident this is it tonight. We called it in six for the Toronto crew and despite those first two losses, we held on to that prediction. We know it's a big order winning four straight from the bruising Bruins but that's exactly what those Leafs are planning on doing. It's really an outlandish thing for this Toronto team to do but who's big enough to stop them. We don't think the Boston Bruins are.

HOWEVER, Milt Schmidt's boys will likely made their bid strong tonight. They don't have to read the sport pages to know what's going on. Lose this one tonight and Bruins take off their skates for the season. This is their last chance—there isn't another if they falter before this howling Toronto crowd.

Perhaps, Thursday they didn't expect the Leafs to be so impudent right in Boston. Before they knew what was going on, Toronto had the game pretty well sewed up. Boston never did get going. Perhaps they were saving it all for tonight.

ONE THING is certain. The Bruins will need all the tricks at their command to square this best-of-seven series. Sure, Leafs can drop this one tonight and still emerge victorious in this semi-final round. But Imlach and his outfit are not looking at things in this light. They want no more trips to Beantown and they'd have to make one if they failed to conquer Bruins tonight.

There'll be no cockiness about these Toronto youngsters at the Queen City this evening. They see those Stanley Cup finals with their grasp and over confidence won't be a cause if they fail to land the finals berth tonight.

WE WERE rather amused at some of those utterances concerning this series. By no means the least source of entertainment was caused by the opinions of our good friend, the columnist in the Evening Patriot. Tuesday he called Bruins and Canadiens as winners and neither one got home in front. Thursday his neck went out again for the Bruins and again our friend was off the beam. Friday he moaned loud and long concerning the type of game he saw the night previous. He really went to town, terming the affair "one of the poorest exhibitions of hockey that we ever watched on a professional or semi-professional level."

That's a fairly large statement and one that's mighty hard to digest. We feel the outcome of the contest had a lot to do with our friend's opinion. When Toronto lost that 5-1 decision in Boston in the opener, there wasn't too much talk about how horrible the game was. But that 4-1 decision Thursday sent the Evening Patriot sports columnist rushing to his typewriter to pound out his condemnation of the entire game.

series against Boston Bruins with a 3-2 lead. If they win the game they'll again ruin the odds-makers by taking the best-of-seven set.

The team, however, doesn't consider the series a cinch. "None of us will be happy until we've won the series for sure," said coach Punch Imlach Friday before putting his team through an hour-long practice. "The players are confident they can win but they're not taking those Bruins for granted."

NO SOFT TOUCH
"Boston is no soft touch. Those guys have a reputation for bouncing back when the outlook is darkest. But then, we haven't done too badly in that department ourselves."

Three weeks ago Leafs were considered also-rans for the 1958-1959 National Hockey League season. They were in fifth place, seven points out of the fourth and last playoff spot.

They won their last five games of the regular schedule and that drive—combined with the sudden collapse of New York Rangers—landed Leafs a spot in the playoffs. The odds-makers figured the Bruins, who finished in the No. 2 spot, would knock off the Toronto club.

Meanwhile Bruins arrived here late Friday afternoon by plane and almost immediately held a practice. The confidence they had after winning the series-opening two games at Boston was missing but they weren't giving an inch.

"Maybe the Leafs will find out they're not the only ones who can fight back," said coach Milt Schmidt. "We had a bit of a let-down in the last couple of days but we know we have to win the next one. I think I can get the team up for that game."

Schmidt is contemplating changes in his lineup for the sixth game. He said probably wouldn't decide who would be involved until this afternoon.

If Bruins win the sixth game, a seventh and deciding contest will be at Boston Tuesday night.

Summerside Curling Four Wins Curran Briggs Trophy

The Curran and Briggs trophy was won by a Summerside rink skipped by Eric Johnston at the Maritime Mixed Bonspiel at the Summerside Curling Club last evening. Other members of the rink were Rita Silliphant, Lloyd Lawless and Mill Carver.

Windsor, Nova Scotia, provided the runners-up with Dr. Mike Smith, skip, and Dora Chaplain, Dave Miller and Eleanor Smith assisting.

The first consolation prizes were won by an Alberton foursome. Fred Millman skip, Vera MacKay, Elmer MacKay and Ruth Millman completing the rink personnel.

Second consolation prizes went to a Charlottetown rink skipped by Earle MacLeod. Joyce Cody, Larry Campbell and Velma Campbell completed the foursome.

Arnold MacLennan of Summerside and his rink won third consolation prize s. Beth MacLeod, Ralph Somers and Marion MacLennan were the other members of the team.

CANNON IS M.C.
Earl Cannon, president of the local club, acted as master of ceremonies and E.P. Foley, M. L.A., presented the C and B Trophy to the winning rink. The rink that won trophies on the four days of competition will play for the Mapco Trophy today, and the week's activities will end up with a banquet and dance.

Results of yesterday's play:
9 A.M.
Maynard MacMillan (C) 2, E. Johnston (S) 9; C. Ives (S) 11 A. Humphrey (C) 4; A. MacLennan (S) 8, E. Tanton (C) 5. 11 A.M.
Earle MacLeod (C) 11, George Schraeder (New Glasgow, N.S.) 7.
Fred Millman (A) 1, LeBlanc (Moncton) 12; Earl Cannon 1, Dr. Smith (W) 8.
E. Tanton (C) 11, George Schraeder (NG) 5; M. MacMillan (C) 11, A. Humphrey (C) 10 E. Johnston (S) 13 Claude Ives (C) 4.
9:00 P.M.
F. Millman (A) 7, E. Cannon (S) 5, E. Johnston 11, A. MacLennan (S) 6 E. MacLeod (C) 6, L. LeBlanc (M) 14.
5:00 P.M.
L. LeBlanc (M) 8, Dr. Smith (W) 10; M. MacMillan (C) Ed Tanton (C) 11 C. Ives (S) 8. A. Humphrey 1.
7:00 P.M.
A. E. MacLennan (S) 6, E. Cannon 5; G. Schraeder (NG) 2, E. MacLeod (C) 7 E. Tanton (C) 3, F. Millman (A) 7.
9 P.M.
A. E. MacLennan (S) 5, L. LeBlanc (M) 4; E. Johnston (S) 7, Dr. Smith (W) 3; C. Ives (S) 8, E. MacLeod (C) 7.

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

Rockingham Park, Salem, New Hampshire, opened their season's racing yesterday with a good attendance, considering the conditions. Horses are continually moving in, and expectations are high that, given good weather, it will be the most successful season of all time.

According to the Moncton papers, Moncton Raceway may not operate this season, Frank Ryder, who has been mainly responsible for keeping harness racing to the front in the Hub City, stated in an interview that the possibility of racing at the Dieppe oval this season is still indefinite.

Walter B. Cluff, the president, and Les Stiles, the vice-president, of the Moncton track, both of Woodstock, N.B., are out of the province at the present time, and decisions will be indefinite until they return.

We sincerely hope that harness racing enthusiasts in Moncton will get together and have the Dieppe oval in operation this year, and in the future.

FOUND DEAD
Edwin Meyer, of Ridgeville Delaware, was found dead last Monday in a field off Burnham Parkway in Brighton, Mass. The medical examiners said he had died of lobar pneumonia. His body was discovered by two 12-year-old boys strolling near the Charles River.

Edwin Meyer took up harness racing at an early age, following the footsteps of his father, and was one of nine sons who had driven in harness racing on tracks throughout the United States. He was born July 17, 1909 at Ridgeville, Del., which was his residence.

Last year he made 196 starts, was 48 times first, 46 times second and 44 times third for an excellent percentage of .450. His stable earnings were \$25,208. A brother, Allan Meyer, was one of the most prominent drivers in the East last season, winning 71 firsts, 84 seconds and 79 thirds.

And here is something that will make Johnny Mulligan of Kinkora, owner of Jolilly, feel proud. In the April issue of "Hooftbeats" appears a list of leading sires in 1958, and under the heading "Leading Sires of New and Reduced Standard Record Performers in 1958"—(with thirty or more), we find Jolilly the sire of two trotters and thirty-three pacers for a total of 35.

The top of the list, of course, is taken by Adios, with six trotters and seventy-six pacers for a total of 82. Next comes Rodney, with sixty trotters and eight pacers for a total of 68.

Below Jolilly on the list are such prominent United States sires as Algiers, with thirty-four; De Sota Hanover, thirty-three; Jimmy Chief, thirty-two; Alpha Hal, thirty-one; Colby Hanover, thirty; Good time, thirty; Wilmington, thirty.

Here is the U.S.T.A. definition of a "standard record"—"A standard record is a record of 2:20 or faster, for two-year-olds, and 2:15 or faster for all other ages. However, any race-winning record in a purse race, acquired at a mile distance in 2:20 or faster, shall be considered a standard record, and credit shall be given to the sire and dam for an additional performer."

The harness horsemen of Ontario are considerably perturbed by the fact that Premier Frost will not permit night racing. The reason he gives is that the big American racing rings, which he charges are "shot through with graft and corruption," will move in and take over.

Mr. Frost when the matter was brought up in the House, thundered: "I am not going to allow those American operators to send horses into this province to make suckers of our little people."

As a matter of fact, the number of American horses that would race in Toronto at a night racing track would be few, as nearby tracks in Michigan offer much bigger purses than Ontario could provide, and plenty of opportunities to race for the horses owned in that state.

The opinion is that the thoroughbred people, who control the largest and most expensive track in Canada, are adverse to giving harness racing a chance to increase in popularity through night racing. But bitter "frosts" is always succeeded by spring, and then summertime, so don't give up hope, you Ontario owners of harness horses.

Upwards of one hundred owners and drivers of harness horses in this province attended a meeting in the Clover Club, Charlottetown, last Tuesday night.

sponsored by the Provincial Exhibition Association.
The president of the Association, Cecil Stewart, was present, and the discussions were opened by E. Frank Acorn, race secretary, who announced plans for racing season. Mr. Acorn presented a purse program of upwards of \$110,000 which is, by far, the largest amount ever put up in this province, and would only be exceeded by the amounts put out by Sackville Downs and Coldbrook Track, Sain John last season.

Last year Sackville Downs led with \$138,912 paid out in purses; Sain John was second with \$105,400; Charlottetown was third with \$83,725.

Chicago Black Hawks Face Elimination By Canadiens

MONTREAL (CP) — Montreal Canadiens left for Chicago Friday, guardedly optimistic about their chances of ending their Stanley Cup semi-final series against the Black Hawks with a victory tonight.

Canadiens led the best-of-seven series 3-2 following their 4-2 victory over Hawks here Thursday night. One more win for Canadiens would clinch the series and a berth in the Stanley Cup final against either Toronto or Boston.

"I don't plan any lineup changes," said coach Toe Blake of Canadiens. "But I plan to make more use of veteran centre Kenny Mosdell in place of rookie Ralph Backstrom."

Mosdell was called up from the Canadiens Montreal farm club when high-scoring centre Jean Beliveau was sidelined — possibly for the season — with two fractured vertebrae. Veteran Maurice Richard, recovering from a fractured ankle, is not to see a .on in the Chicago series.

On the basis of the season's record Canadiens should be top-heavy favorites to end the series quickly. In 14 games against the Hawks this season, Canadiens won eight, lost one and tied five. They didn't lose a game during the regular season in Chicago.

But the season's records have gone by the boards in the playoffs. It has been strictly a homer series so far, with Canadiens and Hawks winning all their games in their home rinks.

And Hawks are confident they will extend this trend through tonight's game. "WE'LL BE BACK" "We'll be back Tuesday," said coach Rudy Pilous as he and his players boarded a plane for the trip to Chicago. A Chicago victory would bring the team's back here Tuesday for the seventh and final game.

"We're not beaten yet," said Pilous. "The Canadiens are not always going to have things their own way."

Canadiens, who fired all their goals in the first period Thursday night, were not particularly gleeful over their night's work. Defenceman Doug Harvey, who assisted on three of Canadiens' goals, heaved with exhaustion at the end of the game.

"We're getting closer," he said. "That's what counts."

Xaverians Down Saints In Opener

Saint Francis Xavier Varsity basketball squad carry an eight point lead into tonight's battle with Saint Dunstan's.

The Antigonish scholars, intercollegiate champions of the Maritimes, downed the local Red and White at the S.D.U. gym 60-52 in the first of a two-game total point series for the Nova Scotia — Prince Edward Island Senior 'B' crown.

However the visiting collegians, heavy favorites to trounce the Father Walter MacGuigan coached outfit, ran into a determined bunch of local hoopers who battled the X-men all the distance.

Saint Dunstan's jumped into an early lead but the hustling Antigonishers soon got it back and led 31-27 at the half. The Nova Scotians again enjoyed a four-point margin in the closing session, outscoring their opponents 29-25.

Davenport of St. F. X., a really classy performer, was top pointgetter with 26; Saint Dunstan's Gerry Tingley and Gil Collins were next in line with 18 and 15 respectively.

The teams resume their series tonight at 8 o'clock with the Red and White determined to do something about the eight point deficit.

Earl Nicholson and Donnie MacLean handled the whistles. Saint Dunstan's — Morrison 2; Noonan 2; MacGuigan 10; MacKinnon 0; Tingley 18; Murphy 0; Fearon 2; Collins 13; McGonnell 5; Linegar 0. Total — 52.

Saint Francis Xavier — Moran 5; Davenport, 26; Foshay 12; Walsh 7; Monterio 4; Sanborn 4; Kelly 2. Total 60.

Bill Skowron Is Bothered

SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Bill Skowron, injured New York Yankees first baseman, will be flown home Sunday for further treatment of a strained back muscle.

It is still doubtful Skowron will be ready to open the season April 10.

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CURLING DRAW

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2 P.M.
Ice 2 — Ed. Tanton, E. Beaton, Chris Gailani, Fred MacMillan, vs. J. S. MacDonald, M. R. MacGuigan, Russ Spillett, H. Spillett
Ice 3 — H.C. Atkinson, F. Cannon, J. Gorrill, H. Harford vs. Dr. Giddings, Wm. Haywood, W. Willis, L. Johnston.
Ice 4 — W. R. Jenkins, Chas. Aspray, C. Cudmore, C. Dowling, vs. Ken MacDonald, Geo. Dillon, L. Doyle, B. Partridge.
Seagrams Finals
Ice 5 — Winner of Sec. A and C vs. winner B.
3:30 P.M.
Ice 2 — G. Greenough, G. Anderson, Dr. O'Hanley, B. Phillips vs. Allison MacDonald, Bob Leclair, C. Praught, J.W. Carr.
Ice 3 — Doug Saunders, W. Mellich, S. Carson, N. Kelly, vs. Don Wannacott, O.K. Presby, K. Myers, P. Whitlock.
Ice 4 — R. A. McLeod, R. Boyne, L. MacPhail, B. Daley, vs. W. R. Burnett, R. Chambers, W. Scantlebury, Dr. Drysdale.
Ice 5 — Dr. Prowse, H. Dobson, H. Howatt, N. McLeod, vs. Had McInnis, M. Kennedy, Chet Whitlock, B. Moore.

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