

SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

Juniors Start Playoffs

OLD Spain Penguins start on the trail tonight which they are hoping will bring them to a Maritime championship and the trip to Ottawa Valley to participate in the Eastern conference junior playoffs.

The opposition tonight is being supplied by Fredericton Juniors who last Saturday won the New Brunswick crown by easily defeating the Aces in an overtime session. The series is a two-game total affair, with the return battle going Thursday night in the New Brunswick capital.

'BUCKO' Trainor's boys should conquer in this one tonight but they need to make sure they are in as many goals as possible. They'd like to go back to the mainland with a big cushion, one that Fredericton just couldn't overcome.

Passing the case, the Penguins had better get their shooting eyes in order. Far too often this season, the young Birds passed up beautiful scoring chances. They were as wild as March hares and this was particularly true in the exhibition game against Halifax-Dartmouth All-Stars. It's true they rolled home six goals in that final period but they missed at least a dozen in the first 40 minutes.

BUT since that time, the Old Spennies have shown plenty of improvement. They waged good battles against Royals in the semi-finals and should be in top form when they take the ice against the Fredericton boys.

It is hoped that the rink will be crowded for this big one as the club needs a financial lift to help them along the championship trail. We figure that will be standing room only for this opening tussle and that's the way it should be.

The sponsors of hockey during the regular season and their only hope is to get a bit of it behind the playoffs. Both Penguins and The Sports Arena deserve a break tonight and Sports Town hopes they get it.

Hawks Can End It

MONCTON Hawks will try tonight to finish their series with Prescott-Kempville Combines.

The Monctonians lead the best-of-five set two games to one as a triumph tonight will send them into Quebec in the second round of the Allan Cup playoffs.

We saw Hawks beaten 6-2 by the Combines last Friday night and the visitors were richly deserving of their triumph. The Hawks were never on the ice long enough to play hockey. They kept parading to the penalty box right from the opening whistle. They were never in the pressure get him. Despite boss in abundance, he kept firing the Hawks off for every offence they committed. We thought they did an excellent job of handling the game through the Hawks' didn't agree. They tried for a change but Mr. Roberts stayed on the job.

Sunday night, the Maritime champions apparently decided that hockey games are won on the ice and not in the penalty box. They drew only five penalties and outplayed the visitors from the Ottawa Valley. We think they should finish the job tonight unless they revert to the crazy tactics they showed last Friday.

Crowds Are Great

THE series has surely taken a grip on the citizens of Moncton. Tickets are sold out a few hours after they are put on sale and the Stadium is bursting at the seams for every contest. It is great to see the interest coming back in hockey and it should be a good omen for the 1968-69 season.

If the Hawks can sideline the Combines, it wouldn't surprise us one bit if they worked their way into the Eastern Canada finals against the OHA winner. In order to do that they would need to outlast the Combines and outplay the opponents of the survivors of the Hawks-Combines series. We have the feeling that Moncton might indeed turn back these Quebecers.

But first of all they must get rid of the Combines. If they fail tonight, then Wednesday's tussle will be all the marbles.

Stanley Cup Playoffs

TONIGHT The Stanley Cup playoffs begin in Toronto and Chicago.

We like the Leafs to beat the Canadiens and the Red Wings to surprise with a triumph over the Black Hawks.

Probably be one hundred per cent wrong.

APPS FIRES THREE

Royals Defeat Capitals 5-3

FREDERICTON (CP) — Apps Arsenal scored three goals to lead Charlottetown Royals to a 5-3 win over Fredericton Capitals and a 1-0 lead in their best-of-five Maritime Intermediate A hockey semifinal series.

The second game also was decided here tonight (Tuesday). The third, fourth and fifth, if necessary, will be played at Charlottetown Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Series survivor meets the Royals Scotia champion for the Maritime title, won last year by Antigonish Bulldogs.

The other Royal goals were scored by Dick Carroll and Bob McIntyre. Clasy centre-man Angie Carroll collected four assists.

Bob Mabile scored all three Cup goals.

Fredericton coach Bob Dunphy said following the game he expected a much better showing from his charges here tonight. "We fell behind 3-0 within the first 10 minutes which was a pretty hard deficit to overcome against a team like Charlottetown."

Butch Ward kicked out 25 shots in the Charlottetown net. Charlie MacTavish booted out 21 in the Fredericton goal.

Long River Cops Opener

Long River defeated Rustico 5-0 in the first game of the best of five finals for the North Shore League title at Kensington last night.

Scoring for the winners were G. Doughart 2, F. Doughart 2 and W. Lamont.

Rustico goalkeepers were B. Doucette, N. Gallant, E. Pineau and B. MacNeill.

Today's Minor Hockey Draw

Following is today's schedule of activities for minors:

11:00-12:00 — Skate — Rochford Square and Notre Dame Girls.

4:00-5:30 — Interscholastic Playoffs — QCHS vs. BHS.

Bombers Top Covehead 6-4

West Royals Bombers dominated Covehead 6-4 in Sunday League playoff action at Saint Dunstan's last night.

West Royals goals were evenly distributed between L. Kelly, P. Piquet, S. Simms, I. Brown, C. MacIsaac and L. Duron.

Covehead goals were scored by E. Blot 2 and G. Malone.

FOIL EVIL SPIRITS

In deference to the Chinese who believe evil spirits emanate from corrupt courts, the British built sharp angled roads in Hong Kong.

PENGUINS PLAY TONIGHT

Old Spain Penguins start on the junior playoff trail tonight when they host Fredericton Juniors in the first game of a two-game total goal series for the New Brunswick-Prince Edward Island championship.

The second game goes at Fredericton this Thursday evening. At left is Dave Lawlor and at right Willie Gallant. Both these players are expected to give 'Bucko' Trainor's Birds a big fight tonight.

Don Ramsay Resigns As Hawk Manager

MONCTON (CP) — Manager Don Ramsay of Moncton Hawks resigned Monday in the latest development in an executive squabble.

The pudgy Prince Edward Island native claimed he was not backed by the team executive in his dispute with playing-coach Doug McPhee, who left the team Saturday for a 24-hour period. McPhee, a veteran Maritime campaigner, returned in time to handle the team in its 4-3 victory over Prescott-Kempville Combines Sunday night.

Moncton leads the best-of-five series 2-1 with the fourth game scheduled here tonight (Tuesday).

Crux of the rift between Ramsay and McPhee was whether defence-man John Ford should be in the Hawks' lineup. Ford, who signed a tryout contract with Chicago Black Hawks earlier this year, has been sidelined with a back injury, but now says he's ready to play.

After the Hawks were crushed 6-2 last Friday night by the OHA champions, McPhee stormed out of a meeting with the manager and asked for his pay. He got it, but changed his mind before Sunday's game. Ford did not play.

Flyers Grab Hockey Game

Covehead Flyers defeated West Royals Bombers 6-3 in an intermediate C playoff game at St. Dunstan's rink on Saturday night.

Scoring in Flyers nets was outstanding.

Gillette for the winners were Gordon Vessey, 2; Gerard Malore; 2; Denny Hughes.

For the loser, the goalkeepers were Kelly, Doyle, Simms.

Highwaymen Are Champs

Highwaymen captured the City Commercial League crown last night, defeating Maritime Electric 6-4 in a sudden death battle at the Sports Arena.

Williams, L. Dunn and MacDonald were the big gunners for winners with a brace of goals each. Monaghan and Carver added singles.

Paquet, Kelly, W. Dunn and MacKinnon were the Mar. Electric triggermen. Jack Kane of the losers picked up a lone assist.

Immediately following the game Keith Carmichael, past president of the league and former player, presented the Carmichael trophy emblematic of the City Commercial League to Graham Thompson, captain of the Highwaymen.

Referees Brian Lewis and Don Gunner McCormack handed out a total of 12 penalties, seven going to Maritime Electric.

N.B. Juniors Are In Town For Opener

Fredericton Juniors arrived in town last evening for the first game of a home-and-home Maritime semi-final series with Old Spain Junior Penguins at the Sports Arena tonight.

Following is the lineup of the Fredericton team: goal — Don Sherwood; defence — Col. Terry Bilmes; forwards — Col. Fraser, Wayne MacPherson, Edgie Hudson, Doug Cain, Ernie Lean, Garnet Stairs, R. D. Thomson, Tony Cameron, Eddie Reed. Pen. P. A. coach — Dave McQuade; manager — Ed Haggerty; trainer — Doug Crockett.

Tickets for tonight's game will go on sale at noon today at the Old Spennies.

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Montreal Coach Worried About Series With Leafs

BY BRUCE SIVEL

MONTREAL (CP) — Coach Toe Blake is worried, and you can hardly blame him. He is in Blake's Canadians, whose 3-2 third-place finish in the National Hockey League was their worst in 12 seasons, left Monday for Toronto, where they open their Stanley Cup semifinal series against the first-place Maple Leafs tonight.

Canadians managed only three wins in 14 regular-season games with Leafs, losing six and tying five. At Maple Leaf Gardens, site of the first two games of the best-of-seven series, they were even worse, winning one and tying twice seven games.

"That's one thing about this series—we won't be going there as favorites," Blake said Monday.

"We aren't planning any changes for the first game. But after that, we won't hesitate. "We can't afford to stand pat with the same players unless they show some improvement," he said.

The temperamental Blake has guided Canadians to six league titles and five Stanley Cup victories in seven previous seasons as Montreal coach.

Blake didn't say what the changes might be after tonight's game, but pointed to three players "we're taking along with us." They are injured regulars Tom Johnson and Phil Goyette and spare forward Gord (Red) Heronson.

Goalie Ernie Wakely, called up from Spokane of the Western Hockey League, is going along as spare netminder behind Jacques Plante.

Blake is hoping Johnson will be ready to return by the second game Thursday night. The 35-year-old defenceman fractured his left cheekbone in practice Feb. 28.

Johnson said the only thing preventing Goyette's return is double vision caused by the swelling on his cheek.

Goyette, who suffered a fracture, ankle Christmas night in Chicago, said he has been ready to return to play for the last two weeks.

Questioned about Goyette's return, Blake said: "We aren't sure how well he really is." As for fresh injuries, Blake said, "at least we're all right in that way."

Canadians' main concern in the series will be with their defence. Two of the four regulars are inexperienced rookies — Terry Harper, 23, who has played 14 games since taking Johnson's place, and Jacques Lapierre, 21, who has played only six games in place of Lou Fontinato, who fractured his neck March 9.

The other two defence regulars are Jean-Guy Talbot and J. C. Tremblay.

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