

SPORTS FRONT

Great Names Sell Game

By KEN MACPHAIL

It has been pointed out recently that with the National Hockey League expanding next year and the powers that be very anxious to sell the game to the American public, that the guys with the big names, like Howe, Hull and Beliveau, will have a lot to do with the sale of the product.

There are more men who could be classed in the superstar category, but their names have not yet, and indeed some never, reach the pinnacle of prominence of the above mentioned. Of course, one of the reasons that these three moneymen are internationally known, besides their talent, is that they've been stars of the world's tastiest game, for so long.

Which brings us to the crux of the problem that will be haunting the financial operators of the new franchises in the near future. How much longer will the superstars be around? The ideal situation, most certainly, would be for every team to have one, but this is outright day dreaming. And although there seem to be several who are fast approaching the desired status, it will be a while before they arrive. Will the present heroes be able, or even want to for that matter, stay around until they are able to be replaced as drawing cards?

As we mentioned before in this space, Hull wants to go and live in the country with his family, away from urban living. And soon, Jean Beliveau, 35, has always been somewhat of a loner, and is expected to leave. He is the head of a large family in Quebec City, and is independently well heeled enough to be extremely comfortable for the rest of his life. That takes us to Gordie Howe, considered by most the best ever. He's 38, and coach Sid Abel says that by the time Gordie has to be moved back to defence, he'll have lost interest in the game and quit.

So if the implicated events come to pass within a relatively short space of time, the promoters who put up the millions may have to use their Dale Carnegie courses to get their respective rinks filled.

Expansion may have been brought on too soon, but it had to come sometime. Although frankly, we can see beyond the glory and cents reason for it. When the new members of the league, which will compose the second section, play against the present teams in interlocking games next year, nobody will really expect them to win. And if you are reasonably sure of the outcome of a hockey game, why should you attend? Why, to see Bobby Hull, or Jean Beliveau, or the great Gordie Howe, of course.

A USELESS TASK

Fan magazines are once again running opinion polls comparing the merits of hockey stars of the present to those of the past. Even taking into consideration the fact that there are still people around who watched the old-timers perform, we wonder how many changes in the game over the years.

When Maurice Richard scored 50 goals in a 50-game season, people began comparing him with Joe Malone who tallied 44 times in 22 games back in the NHL's early days. Bobby Hull is being compared to him. Even though the name changes have taken place, then in the post-war years, they began to doubt whether the Rocket could have scored as many as he did, if the conflict overseas had not taken away so many superior players from the big league scene.

Trouble is, that the adjective "greatest" takes too many things into it, and the particular poll to which we are referring asks who is the one player who should carry that tag next to his name. Should it mean exciting? Should it mean powerful? How about a fabulous goal scorer? Or someone who was defensively superb? The poll mentions the names of Maurice, Howe, Richard, Howe and Hull. It's actual fact, Bobby Hull is all of these things, but in comparison to Howe, he is a relative newcomer to the league, and as such he can't as yet be measured for things like durability and total points scored, both of which should be taken into consideration.

There are so many inane and comical questions attached to making choices of this nature, that the persons who are continually striving to bring one name to the fore, and call him the greatest, had best forget the whole idea and sit back and enjoy the game as it is today.

THIS AND THAT

The legendary Bob Feller, one of the finest and fastest pitchers of all time, tossed three no-hitters and twelve one-runners in his career with the Cleveland Indians, but never won a world series game. Quick now, name the man who has scored more goals than anyone else in the past eight years in all of professional hockey? Dick Gamble of the Rochester Americans has scored 285, Bobby Hull of Chicago 267, but the most prolific has been Len Jankowski of the Victoria Maple Leafs of the Western League. He has finished the regular season with a total of 215 times in the eight seasons prior to this one. Tommy Ivan, general manager of the Detroit Red Wings is a man who never played professional hockey. Yet he holds the NHL record for most consecutive regular season championships as a coach. (Detroit, 6 years, 1949-1954).

Early Wednesday evening we were again asked by that same die-hard Bruin fan in Southport, to come up with a likely score of the Toronto-Montreal game. We thought 3-1 sounded about right (for the Leafs, of course), but the Habs crossed us up and scored two goals. Sorry about that. Vic, Hey, maybe you'd like to wager a couple of bucks on King Abbe. . . The New York Yankees have announced that they have Tom Tresh and Mel Stottlemyre available for trade. It would seem to be a rather foolish move to let either of these players go. They are just approaching their prime, and if such a deal is made, we feel sure that both of them will come back to haunt Yankee Stadium many a day. . . The Sporting News says that Al (Junior) Langlois, Forbes Kennedy, and Charlie Buras are good bets to be picked up in the NHL expansion next year.

High Flying Royals May Be Shot Down By Aces Tonight

SUMMERSIDE — "Keep out of the penalty box and win hockey games" was a maxim that used to bring results, but Charlottetown Royals apparently don't believe it.

The Royals — who visit against Summerside's Pope Aces here tonight at 8:15 p.m. — have been in the penalty box the most often of the three teams in the Island Intermediate Hockey League, but yet are atop the loop standings with two wins — 12-3 and 8-0 — in their first starts.

The Pope Aces think so, and they will be out to stop the play-makers, causing all the Royals' trouble — Alie Flanagan, Angie Carroll, Dave Lawlor, Gordie Whitlock, and Daryl Doyle.

Flanagan, in the two games has checked on six different occasions, and has assisted on three others. Carroll has three goals and four assists, Lawlor two goals and four assists, Whitlock three and two, and Doyle two goals and three assists.

RIFLE SHOOT

Table with 2 columns: Name and Score. Includes Scott MacDonald (100), Heather MacDonald (100), Ray Beaton (100), Kent Brown (99), Ernie Prowse (98), Gordon Mills (98), Bruce Robertson (97), Agnes Rush (97), Ken Smith (96), Sheila Younger (95), Gordon MacDonald (94), Faye Hutchinson (94).



THE PRINCE Edward Island Harness Racing Club met to discuss a very successful year last night at the Basillea Recreation Centre. ABOVE, assistant Lorne Kelly scan a report of last season's financial returns.

Harness Club President Reports Successful Year

"Now who says we can't raise race horses on Prince Edward Island?" The author of this statement is J.A. Amner, president of the Prince Edward Island Harness Racing Club which held its annual meeting last night at the Basillea Recreation Centre.

Mr. Amner at present is a patient in the Prince Edward Island Hospital. His report was read to the meeting by secretary-treasurer W.G. "Bill" Gillespie.

The president was glowing over the fact that a bay gelding, Little Art, had trotted the fastest mile that will ever trotted over the Charlottetown oval. The Dean Gallon offspring, dam Marlon L, owned by George Semple and trained by the outstanding veteran, Trundle Semple, gave himself a 2:06 mark during the 1966 Old Home Week celebrations.

MINOR HOCKEY

The following is the Charlottetown Minor Hockey League Schedule for this weekend: PEE WEE Saturday Dec. 3rd - 7:00 a.m.—Elks vs Lions; 7:45 a.m.—Coyotes vs Rams; 8:30 a.m.—Bisons vs Caribous; 9:15 a.m.—Otters vs Springers; 10:00 a.m.—Ice cleaning; 10:15 a.m.—Raccoons vs Seals; 11:00 a.m.—Foxes vs Zebras. MOSQUITO Sat. Dec. 3rd, 4:00 p.m. Ice 1—Redbirds vs Yellowbirds; Ice 2—Bluebirds vs Blackbirds. PAPERWEIGHT Friday Dec. 2nd—5:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. Skating for Paperweights and Mosquitos. Sat. Dec. 3rd, 4:00 p.m. Ice 1—Jays vs Hawks; Ice 2—Gulls vs Crows. 5:30 p.m. Ice 1—Eagles vs Owls; Ice 2—Ravens vs Falcons.

SPORT ECHOES League Needs Balancing Badly

By NORMAN MACDONALD

We've been listening to what the fans are saying as to what should be done to achieve balance in the Prince Edward Island Hockey League. But perhaps you haven't heard of the plight of the P.E.I. Royals. Royals from Charlottetown came to Civic Stadium and trounced the Summerside Aces 12-3 and the Borden Legion Nationals 8-0. The fans weren't exactly sitting on the edge of their seats. There is the odd sports pollyanna with eyes closed tight, saying if they don't look at it, it will go away. But most fans haven't enough ostrich blood in them for that kind of reasoning. They think something should be done to bring about games before the fans decide to stay home and play crockinole.

The ideal thing to do, of course, would be to build up the other two teams so that they could stand up and give Sandy's Royals a fair share of you know what. "But," one fan asks, "where are you going to dig up these extra players?" We reckon there are quite a few of those on the Island if they could be persuaded to join the Aces and Legion Nationals. Maybe a few could be recruited at the Canadian Forces Base. Then there are others, still capable, who have reached the lazy stage of life, and prefer curling or bowling where there isn't any bodily contact. And who can blame them for this? Some eligible prospects live too far from the teams' bases of operations, and therefore present a transportation problem. We hate to be pessimistic, but it might be a permanent-sized job to get two other teams as strong as the Royals.

So we come to another fan's suggestion: "break up the Royals into two teams, with the help of other capital city players (after all, they do have the population). Have a four-team league, and if the Royals wanted to join up again for the spring play-

downs, more power to them. This, the fans claim, would make a balanced league, as the Aces and Borden are pretty well balanced now.

Another fan's bright idea: give Borden and Summerside a net that is half as wide and goal-tenders that are twice as big. Aw, Mr. Gus-Fan, that's downright silly!

Just give a look at some of the boys who haven't been playing this year. For Borden — JIM MACLEOD, one of the best team men in the area. His accurate passes put potential scorers in the clear again and again. DONNIE MACWILLIAMS, the leading scorer of last year's league — suff said DALE MACKWILLIAMS, a fast skater and a deadly shot. CHARLIE BARR, rugged and willing. BILL NOONAN (now with S.D.U.) one of the best, if not the best, defencemen in last year's league. For Summerside — GREG DEIGHAN, always handy the top in scoring goals. COKE GRADY — slipping a little, but still pretty capable. VANCE HARRIS, in his heyday the fastest breaker in these parts, runner, and still pretty fast. There are newcomers in the league this year on the Summerside and Borden teams, but as yet they haven't proved that they are equal in prowess to the drop-outs.

REMEMBER WHEN . . . Lou Salica of New York, world bantamweight boxing champion, defeated Small Montana of the Philippines 25 years ago tonight.

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Howe Scores Winner As He Paces Wings To Win

DETROIT (CP) — Veteran Gordie Howe scored the winning goal and assisted on another Thursday night to pace Detroit Red Wings to a 4-1 victory over Boston Bruins in a National Hockey League game.

The victory snapped a six-game losing streak for the Wings, who also got a pair of third-period goals from two players just called up from the minor leagues.

Dean Prentice opened the scoring for the Red Wings in the first period, blazing a 30-footer past Terry Cheevers. Johnny Bucyk tied it. Hank Bassen stopped his first shot, but Bucyk lifted the rebound over the fallen goalie for the score.

ETH FOR GORDIE Howe fired his fourth goal of the season late in the first period. Pete Goegan stopped a clearing pass at the blue line, skated it a couple of strides and scored on a long shot in the third period.

Ray Cullen scored less than five minutes later, breaking in alone on Cheevers and beating him from close in.

The Wings grew stronger as the game went on and dominated the play in the third period.

First period—1. Detroit, Prentice 4 (Bergman) 8:17; 2. Boston, Bucyk 6 (Stewart, Martin) 11:48; 3. Detroit, Howe 4 (Tulman, Delvecchio) 14:00. Penalties—McKenzie 8:45, B. Watson 9:58, Marotte 12:27.

Second period—No scoring. Penalties—Martin, F. Smith double minors 16:04. Third period—4. Detroit, Goegan 1 (Howe, Delvecchio) 8:25; 5. Detroit, Cullen 1 (Hampson, Boivin) 11:18. Penalties—Goegan 4:43, Marotte 12:47. Shots on goal by Boston 19 13 8-31 Detroit 13 8 13-34 Attendance 12,350

Princess of Wales walked away with another lopsided victory last night, this time over Rogers Rangers. Scoring in every period, the Weismen finally closed the scoring at 7-1 at 18:03 of the third period on a backhand shot from right wing by Bob Doherty.

The P.W.C. defence, spearheaded by Kenny Ballen and Gordie Ellis held the Rangers away from the net consistently, breaking up most of the Ranger plays at the blue line. The Rangers scored only one, a lucky goal by Ranger Allison MacLean from behind the net. The puck came from behind, hit goalie Barry Ellis' skate and squeaked inside the crease between the slide and the post on the narrow side to rob him of a shutout.

The Ranger defence in contrast was ineffective, although they did use lost of muscle in an attempt to break the Welsh tide. The one player who stood out on the Ranger lineup was Bobby Stewart who played a strong game from the opening whistle until he was injured and had to leave the game in the third period.

Stewart moved in to break up a Prince of Wales play at the goal mouth at the fifteen minute mark of the third period when goalie Frank McNally slid out of his net to cover the play and caught Stewart above the ear with his skate. Doctor A. Roberts attended him at the forum clinic and he was taken to the P.E.I. Hospital. The hospital released him immediately after treatment.

Scoring opened on a rebound off McNally's pads by David Campbell at the 4:52 mark of the game. The winner was potted two minutes later when Gus Houston took the puck away from a Ranger defenceman inside the blue line and scored his first goal of the evening.

Houston's second goal came at the open of the second period and he was backed up with two more in that stanza off the sticks of Brian Macintosh and Bob Doherty. This score of Doherty's combined with his efforts in the third, gave him and Houston both two for the evening.

STANDINGS National League W L T F A P Chicago 10 5 2 62 46 22 Toronto 7 4 7 47 5 21 New York 8 6 5 62 48 21 Montreal 7 8 1 34 43 15 Boston 6 9 3 55 62 15 Detroit 5 11 2 51 64 12

MINOR HOCKEY RURAL Dec. 2 and 3, 1966 FRIDAY, DEC. 2, 1966 Basnam—Lions vs. Cougars 6:00 - 6:45 P.M. MIDGET-JUVENILE—Falcon vs. Jets 6:45 - 7:30 P.M. Cougars vs. Bears 7:30 - 8:15 P.M. Raccoons 8:15 - 9:00 P.M. SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 1966 PAPERWEIGHT—7:00 - 8:00 A.M.—Ice 1 Aces vs. Barrows 7:00 - 8:00 A.M.—Ice 2 Bisons vs. Clippers 8:00 - 9:00 A.M.—Ice 1 Blades vs. Flyers 8:00 - 9:00 A.M.—Ice 2 Cascahs vs. Seals

No game Saturday night as St. Dunstan's are using the rink.

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HOCKEY TONIGHT, FRIDAY CIVIC STADIUM 9:15 P.M. POPE MOTORS ACES VERSUS SANDY'S ROYALS Admission: Adults 75c — Students 50c

FORUM NO SKATING FRIDAY NIGHT THIS WEEK (Sherwood and Parkdale Ice Sports) FORUM SKATING Saturday, Dec. 3rd—2:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. Children 15c — Adults 25c SENIOR TEENS & ADULTS SKATING SUNDAY NIGHT 8:30 — 10:00 P.M. (50c admission, sponsored by Minor Hockey)

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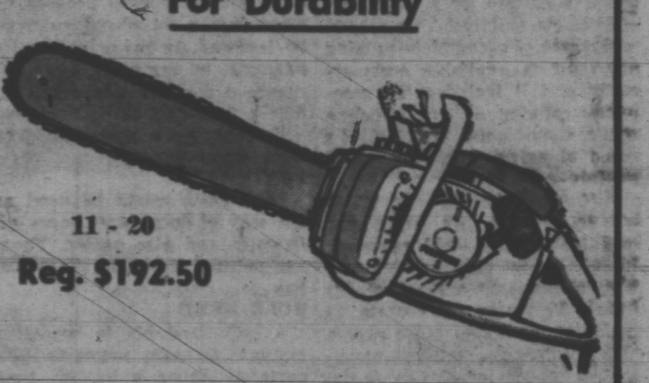
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