

Irvin's Goaded Of Rocket Ended His Montreal Days

TORONTO (CP)—National Hockey League fans received a jolt back in 1955 when coach Alvin Irvin of the mighty Montreal Canadiens switched to a similar post with the Chicago Black Hawks.

Those were rough days for the Black Hawks. They had finished in eighth of the Stanley Cup playoffs in eight of the previous nine seasons. In both the 1953-54 season and the following one, they had finished a distant last.

Why would Irvin give up a successful career with the Canadiens to take over the pathetic Chicago club?

Most fans figured it was a matter of money and they were partly right. Irvin did receive a healthy boost in salary.

Texans Take On Houston

HOUSTON (AP)—Dallas Texans and Houston Oilers will be in near perfect physical condition for Sunday's American Football League championship game.

The Texans, however, still will be without Chris Burford, the all-AFL end who caught 13 touchdown passes before being sidelined Nov. 25 with a torn knee cartilage.

Both teams kept injured players out of final regular season games last weekend but all are expected to be ready Sunday.

Coach Hank Stram of Dallas kept halfback Frank Jackson, linebacker Sweeney Stover, guard Curt Merz, and defensive end Bill Hull out of the San Diego game.

ALL SEEM READY

Although Merz may see no more than limited action.

Both teams are expected to meet on Friday, although Merz may see no more than limited action.

Frank (Pop) Ivy, ex-coach of Edmonton Eskimos, and the third head coach to lead Houston into an AFL title game, said Hogan Wharton, an offensive guard who will be at top speed.

The Oilers have been made 6½-point favorites to win their third straight championship.

But there was another side to Irvin's surprise departure from Montreal. The manager of the Canadiens, Frank Selke, tells about it in his recently-published book, Behind the Cheerings (McClelland and Stewart Limited).

It was Irvin's goading of the volatile Canadiens star, Maurice (Rocket) Richard, that ended his coaching days at Montreal.

Selke writes that during the 1954-55 season, Irvin's fighting qualities had an adverse effect on the Rocket.

"Never a shrinking violet in dealing with those who opposed him, Maurice became involved in several unprecedented outbursts."

One night in Toronto, Richard engaged in a fight with Bob Bailey of the Maple Leafs. Retired Red Stover ordered Richard to the dressing room. As the Rocket was leaving the ice, Irvin leaned over and said something to him, Richard immediately returned to the fray with Bailey and also became involved with the referee.

Near the end of the season, Montreal was losing to the Boston Bruins and Irvin tried to raise his players with a lecture between periods.

The pep - talk was aimed mainly at Captain Butch Bouchard, Selke writes, but "it was Richard who responded to the whip. He fairly stizzed with rage."

Hal Laycoe of the Bruins, "probably by accident," cut Richard for eight stitches in the scalp. "Partially stunned and certainly boiling over, Richard went after Lay, one who beat a hasty retreat."

The Rocket then scuffled with the linemen and the outburst resulted in him being suspended for the balance of the season by the league president, Clarence Campbell.

Curling Draw For Montague

Montague Curling schedule, Saturday:

7 P.M.

Ice 1 — Mae Jamieson, S. MacDonald, A. Beers, G. Len Murphy vs. H. Clair, P. MacDonald, R. M. MacDonald, E. Poole.

7 P.M.

Ice 2 — B. Smith, M. W. Wigginton, L. Sinclair, B. Bryant vs. C. Gordon, G. Nicholson, D. O'Connor, T. Hooper.

8 P.M.

Ice 1 — E. Clay, P. McIntyre, Mrs. Anner, K. MacDonald vs. C. Stewart, Doc Johnston, K. Hughes, E. Dixon.

Ice 2 — M. Nicholson, D. McGowan, B. Mabon, G. Worth vs. D. Nicholson, H. Mear, P. Johnston, B. Brehaut.

SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

Habs' Fans Anxious

MONTREAL Canadiens' fans are getting anxious for a victory on Montreal ice.

On Thursday December 13 the lowly Boston Bruins held the Blakemans to a draw. Two nights later the fifth place Rangers came to town to best the Habs 4-2. This past Thursday the hated Toronto Maple Leafs were visitors in Forum and the best Montreal could do was hold the Imlach crew to a 4-4 tie.

So it's only natural that the folks who pack the Forum each night when the league leading Chicago Black Hawks blow into town and who are something the Habs' supporters are accustomed to Toronto rivals last year, the Leafs are in the driver's seat. Previously the Canadiens were almost sure to hold the edge of them. Leafs and Canadiens have met seven times this season. Toronto has won three, Montreal two and two were ties.

Tonight the Black Hawks expect to run into an outfit that will not be filled with the Christmas spirit, the Canadiens that had better start moving upward if they intend to challenge for first place again this season. The Habs' themselves, haven't exactly been any ball of fire of late and their fans, like the Montrealers, are growing uneasy.

Tonight the Canadiens found out a win in this clash with the Hawks tonight.

Rangers At Toronto

AT Toronto, the Leafs will attempt to stop the New York Rangers who, in their last two outings, tasted of victory. Last Saturday they surprised just about everybody by upsetting the Rangers and they followed this upset with a decision over the ambitious Detroit Red Wings.

The Rangers have been idle all week and should be ready for this big one in Maple Leaf Gardens tonight. Despite the fact that the Rangers have had a couple of recent decisions, we don't think they'll be able to upset the rampaging Leafs.

Then Comes Sunday

DETROIT and Boston are idle tonight but all six teams looking into action on Sunday.

As Canadiens make a pre-Christmas visit to Detroit and we're sure the Bruins will be looking for a win, the Habs are holding on in pretty fair fashion but the Habs are due to give them a lesson on Sunday. We figure Sunday night as good a time as any. After all, Boston has won three of its last four games and night and hung a defeat on the amazing Motor City outfit. And by the way, Forbie is doing all right for himself. He got his third goal since joining the Bruins on Sunday night.

So, Dinger, we're sorry but all good things must come to an end and that defeat of Detroit by Boston surely must have spoiled a few Christmasmas.

SUNDAY night the Black Hawks breeze into Madison Square Gardens and we expect the present league leaders to suffer their second defeat of the weekend. Rangers are tough in their own backyard and we'll pull out all the stops in an effort to upset Rudy Plouf and his Hawks.

The Boston Bruins are entertaining Toronto Maple Leafs and we pick them to win. The Bruins' power forwards are making a lot of noise. They've had a lot of success in the past few weeks but that last time Leafs were in Beantown that the Bruins hung a 5-2 defeat on them. The same thing could easily happen again if Bruins start playing the type of hockey they sometimes display.

Merry Christmas

BY the way, this is the last time we'll chat with you before the great feast of Christmas and we can't let the occasion go without sending a greeting.

Our wish is that all of our readers may have the happiest Christmas ever. We hope that things go well for all of you and that you come back to work after the holidays, thinking that Christmas 1962 was tops of them all.

Selke Is Willing To Trade Johnson

in a National Hockey League game.

"He was booted all night," said Selke. "On one goal by the Montreal Canadiens, Johnson was directly responsible for it, not Johnson, and that was that. That caused most of the fuss."

"Certainly he shouldn't have to take that sort of thing. Here he has been playing with an injured wrist and gets that sort of reception he gets."

"In appreciation for what Johnson has done for us in the long time he has been with the Canadiens, we'll give him the approval of Senator Molton, (president of the club) who will be glad to make a trade."

Johnson, a native of Balour, Man., he will be 33 years old next Feb. 18. He has been a regular with Canadiens since the 1950-51 season. He made the NHL All-Star team in the 1958-59 season and the second team in 1955-56.

Lions' Pilot Gets Raise

DETROIT (AP)—Coach George Wilson of Detroit Lions got an early Christmas present Friday—a new three-year contract with a substantial pay boost.

The Lions tore up Wilson's current two-year contract, which had one more year to run and gave him the longer pact.

The Lions released no figures on Wilson's new salary, but usually well informed sources said that with \$20,000 in bonuses, Wilson had made \$40,000 this year.

It was reported that the Lions raised his base pay to around \$22,000.

CURLING DRAW

The following is the curling draw for Saturday at the Charlottetown Club.

1:45 P.M.

Ice 1 — T.W.L. Prowse, C. Angus, H. MacNeil, E. Douglas, I. W. L. Welner, I. Horne, E. Matheson, A. Ragnall.

Ice 2 — H. Spillitt, E. T. Norton, H.R. Carruthers, Dr. Gallant vs. S. Beaton, R. Spillitt, G. MacNeil vs. J.S. MacDonald.

Ice 3 — A.I. Saunders vs. Alan Smith.

Ice 4 — Geo. Vessey vs. Ron Ketch.

Ice 5 — Clary Fleming vs. Andy Humphrey.

7:30 P.M. All Ice Open

8:15 P.M.

Ice 1 — Open.

Ice 2 — B. Dillon, C. McGregor, I. MacKinnon, K. Bolger vs. A. Llewellyn, M. Toole, D. Douglas.

Ice 3 — R. MacGregor, A. Tralmer, W. Wood, F. Bowness vs. B. G. MacNeil, G. MacNeil, G. Lidstone, N. Andrew.

Ice 4 — E. F. MacDonald, G. MacNeil vs. G. Anderson, K. Douglas, S. Bryenton, M. Peib vs.

Ice 5 — Open.

8:30 P.M.

Ice 1 — Open.

Ice 2 — Open.

Ice 3 — R. Carr, H. Love, N. MacNeil, M. Blakeney vs. A. MacDonald, D. LeClair, I. Webster, H. Edwards.

Ice 4 — Art Love, S. Carr, E. Kennedy, D. Corner vs. I. Blakeney, D. Eastbrooks, G. Newnam, M. MacNeil.

Ice 5 — Open.

Rubin Rules As Favorite

NEW YORK (AP)—Rubin Carter, the newest sensation of the middleweight division, is a 2-to-1 favorite for his 11th round fight against Gomoer Brennan in Madison Square Gardens tonight.

Carter has flattened his last three opponents in building his record to 11 victories and two losses. All of his victories have been through knockouts, including a 68-second bout of contender Florentino Fernandez at the Garden last Oct. 27.

Brennan has compiled 52-75 record of wins, losses and ties, including 27 knockouts. His seven years as a pro.

Ice 1 — Open.

Ice 2 — Open.

Ice 3 — Open.

Ice 4 — Open.

Ice 5 — Open.

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THIS isn't exactly the same view that Floyd Patterson had of Sonny Liston's hand three months ago, but it is the one that pushed him from the heavyweight throne. He wants to fight Ingemar Johansson next.

Mary Stewart is Selected Female Athlete Of 1962

By JACK SULLIVAN
 TORONTO (CP)—Mary Stewart, a matter-of-fact little miss from Vancouver who lets her swimming do her talking, is Canada's outstanding female athlete of 1962.

The 19-year-old swimmer was given a resounding vote for the honor by the country's sports editors and broadcasters for the second consecutive year in the 28th annual Canadian Press year-end poll announced Friday night. She had the title locked up a month ago.

An all-time record 156 selectors filled in ballots, and they didn't have to jog memories to put the finger on the pony-tailed youngster who celebrated her 17th birthday just three weeks ago.

Twenty other athletes were mentioned by the voters who were asked to name the three individual performers a month ago, in order of preference. Votes were computed on a 3-2-1 basis and the final returns were reminiscent of the great post-Second World War years when Ottawa's Barbara Ann Scott, world figure skating queen, swept the CP poll.

The five-foot-three Miss Stewart, holder of the 100-yard and 100-metre butterfly, was all alone in front just as she was a month ago when she whipped a starry field to capture a gold medal for Canada in the British Empire Games at Perth, Australia.

She received 146 first-place votes, eight for second and one for third and one voter passed up the question. On a point basis, she received 435, considerably more than all others combined.

Last July in her home town she proved herself at least five seconds faster than any female butterfly swimmer in the Commonwealth Games by a closing of 1:07.3 to the 100 yards, a world mark. This means, in effect, that she either have to drown or swallow water to miss out on a gold medal at Perth.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Green Bay Packers put on the pads Friday and thundered through the kind of 90-minute drill that customarily winds up preparations for a Sunday National Football League game.

However, considerably more of the same is yet to come, since the defending NFL champions are preparing for the 1962 championship against the Giants at Yankee Stadium Dec. 30.

With the temperature a breezy 25 degrees—tennis shoes, gloves and knit caps were the uniform of the day.

Nelson Touben, the linebacker who missed the last two games with an injured vertebrae and still is on the disabled list, turned out for the first time to watch his mates make ready.

"It's much more nerve-racking, not being a part of the active preparations," he said. He still is wearing a bulky brace.

Packers Go Into Action

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Swim Star Is Elated

VANCOUVER (CP)—Vancouver swim star Mary Stewart Friday greeted word of her selection as Canada's outstanding female athlete for 1962 with a five-second pause of speechless surprise, then gazed.

"Oh my goodness! How wonderful!"

For Mary, the announcement of her selection by sports writers as Canada's outstanding female athlete for the second straight year, comes as a late but welcome surprise. She celebrated her 17th birthday Dec. 8.

"It's so exciting I had hoped I wouldn't be selected, I had hoped I wouldn't be so soon."

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