

Abbies Win Mar. Midget Hockey Crown

Red Wings On Threshold Of Greatest Stanley Cup Sweep In Recent Years

By JACK SULLIVAN
(Canadian Press Staff Writer)

DETROIT, April 14 — (CP) — Detroit Red Wings, probably the best-balanced team to come down the National Hockey League pike in years, tonight stand on the threshold of the greatest Stanley Cup sweep in modern-day hockey.

The red shirts need only one more victory over the grossly Montreal Canadiens to take the trophy for the fifth time in 16 seasons and write another chapter in the record books. Five dollars will get you \$7 that it will come Tuesday night.

If it does, it will be an eight-game playoff record, something that has never been seen since the post-season series were increased in 1939 from best-of-five to best-of-seven games.

Red Wings, who coasted to their eighth N.H.L. championship with a 2-2 point spread over the second place Canadiens, took the trophy from Toronto Maple Leafs four straight in the semi-finals and now are on a three-game streak over Canadiens. They took a 3-0 shutout here Sunday after 3-1 and 2-1 victories at Montreal.

But whether or not the Wings clean the board with Dick Irvin's club Tuesday, practically all the hockey fraternity around here are agreed it is just a matter of time. Canadiens, weak down the middle with three centres out of action through injuries — John McCormack, Ken Mosell and Billy Reay — could hardly hope to bounce up off the floor and take the next four.

Meanwhile, the choice conversation pieces here are the shackling

of Maurice (Rocket) Richard, the return to scoring form of Gordie Howe and the now famous "Detroit bounce."

The Rocket, who almost single-handedly shunted the Wings out of the semi-finals last spring with two game-winning overtime goals in Detroit, has drawn a goose egg so far in this series.

Wings are chortling over the inability of the Flying Frenchmen's great right winger to untrack himself, but a greater cause for glee is the sniping of their own Howe.

The big right winger, who had only four assists in the Toronto series and two games at Montreal, burst into his old-time style Sunday to score two beautifully-executed goals. Now that he has found the range, Wings are counting on him tomorrow night.

What did more than anything else to take the stretch out of the Montreal offensive Sunday was Ted Lindsay's 65-foot bloop in the second period that dropped at goal-keeper Gerry McNeil's feet and bounced high out of his reach into the net. Dubbed the "Detroit bounce" by Montreal partisans, it sent the Wings into a 2-0 lead and broke the hearts of the Montrealers, who up to that point had a chance to make it an interesting game.

Both clubs took it easy today. Canadiens stayed at their downtown Detroit hotel while Detroit rested at Toledo.

Beside the loss of three centres Canadiens have defencemen Dollard St. Laurent on the casualty list with a scraped eyeball suffered in Saturday night's game in Montreal.

Dodgers Scout Here Next Week; Possibility Of Night Ball Discussed

By JACK SULLIVAN

BILL O'CONNOR, Brooklyn Dodgers scout for the Maritimes and New England will visit the Province on April 21-22-23, it was learned last night from Brigadier Bill Reid, Director of the Physical Fitness Department and George Francis, President of the Abegweit Association.

O'Connor, who has been visiting here each year, will address students in all City schools, Spring Park, Parkdale, as well as the Charlottetown Rotary and Gyo Clubs and several groups in Summerside.

In each case he will show films of the 1951 World Series between the Giants and Yankees along with films of the Little World Series.

It is also hoped that arrangements will be made for O'Connor to address an interested group in the Holy Redeemer Community Centre.

A minor baseball league similar to that conducted in hockey will be organized here this spring by the Physical Fitness Department along with the cooperation of the Abegweit Club, it was learned.

In hockey, it will be recalled, that all youngsters from age eight to eighteen were given an opportunity to play hockey on Saturday nights throughout the winter. The same thing is planned for baseball only the youngsters will have an opportunity to play on nearly every evening of the week.

The future of junior and intermediate ball may be closely connected with the possibility of night baseball. It has been pointed out that the time element will scarcely permit the playing of minor league junior and intermediate ball in the evening.

Both Mr. Reid and Mr. Francis expressed hope that Memorial Field would be lighted for night sports this summer and expressed their intentions of going ahead and working on such a project.

Total estimated cost of lighting the field is about \$18,000. The lighting equipment costs about \$11,000 while the installation would cost about \$6,000-\$7,000. The poles, which have already been procured by the Physical Fitness Department cost \$1,000.

The biggest drawback in lighting the field would probably be the financing of the operation during the first summer or two if the lights were installed. This problem can be met, it is felt that the lights would be installed this year. Operation costs for a summer would probably amount to \$1,500.

Curt Simmons Is Given Raise

PHILADELPHIA, April 14 — (AP) — Curt Simmons got a raise today for a job well done two years ago.

The 22-year-old left-hander signed his 1952 contract with Philadelphia Phillies for an undisclosed amount. Club president Bob Carpenter declined to reveal the terms of the contract but admitted it was "more than Curt got for winning 17 games in 1950."

Simmons, who was discharged from the army last week, already is working out his valuable left arm. He pitched for more than an hour today and then did some running at Shibe Park.

"I was throwing that ball real hard," said Simmons after signing his contract. "I even broke off a few curves. I felt real good although my legs still are a little stiff."

LITTLE SPORT
By Rouson

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IN THIS CORNER

Brooklyn, Cleveland Are Pennant Favorites As 1952 Season Opens

By JACK HAND

NEW YORK, April 14 — (AP) — Brooklyn and Cleveland, both beaten in the stretch run last fall, are the pennant favorites as 16 Major League clubs head into tomorrow's opening day of baseball.

Some 250,000 fans are expected to turn out Detroit's sellout throng of 52,954 undoubtedly will be topped.

Although the memory of Bobby Thomson's pennant-clinching home run still is green in the Polo Grounds, New York Giants find themselves second choice to the Dodgers.

Three straight pennants and world championships weren't enough to make Casey Stengel's New York Yankees the chalk horse in the American League. The odds makers swung to Cleveland as the 9 to 5 pick with the Yanks 2 to 1.

Freshmen dot the rosters and many of them will take part in the opening. But the managers plan to stick to the veterans for pitching, leading with their aces in most cases.

Leo Durocher will shoot his best — Sal Haglie (23-6) — against the Phillies No. 1 — Robin Roberts (21-15) at the Polo Grounds.

Bob Elliott will replace the injured Monte Irvin in left and Dave Williams, a youngster from Minneapolis, takes Eddie Stanky's place at second base in the Giant order.

Dodgers will field the same club that lost the flag last Oct. 3 with preacher Roe (22-3) doing the pitching against the Braves at Boston.

Second baseman Billy Reed, third baseman Ed Matthews and Shortstop Jack Cusick will be new-

comers in the Braves line-up behind Warren Spahn (22-14). Rookie Jim Frazier in left field will be the only big change in Cleveland's line-up when Early Wynn (20-13) faces Chicago's Billy Pierce (15-14) in Chicago.

Manager Paul Richards of the White Sox will use only one rookie — third baseman Hector Rodriguez, last year with Montreal Royals of the International League.

Jackie Jensen has inherited Joe DiMaggio's old centre field job with the Yankees and third baseman Gil McDougald takes over the Jolter's nod No. 4 spot in the batting order. Manager Casey Stengel sends Vic Raschi (21-10) against the Philadelphia A's.

Team he has beaten 20 of 22 starts. His opponent at Philadelphia's Shibe Park will be left-handed Alex Kalher (11-14).

President Truman will toss the first ball at Washington, where Boston's Mel Parnell (18-11) will face Bob Porterfield (9-8), Catcher Gus Niarhos is the only new Red Sox starter, batting ninth in the latest "Boudreau shift" that was the pitcher hitting eighth.

Rogers Hornsby will trot out a new St. Louis Browns club behind Ned Garver (20-12) to oppose the Tigers' Dizzy Trout (9-14) at Detroit.

The National League will have one night opener at St. Louis where 30,000 are due to see Eddie Stanky make his managerial debut against Pittsburgh Pirates. Stanky decided on Gerry Staley (19-13) to oppose Murray Dickson (20-16).

Cincinnati's customary sellout opener at Crosley Field will find Herm Wehmeier (7-10) getting the call over Ewell Blackwell to pitch against Chicago's Paul Minner (6-17).

Sell-Out Expected For Robinson-Graziano Bout

By JERRY LISKA

CHICAGO, April 14 — (AP) — A block-busting brawl looms in Wednesday night's middleweight title bout between champion Sugar Ray Robinson and challenger Rocky Graziano, but nobody will get hurt financially.

Interest is so intense in the meeting of these two knockout specialists that a sell-out crowd of more than 19,000 may jam Chicago Stadium.

A capacity house would produce a \$201,000 gross gross and a net gate of \$201,000. In addition, there is an \$80,000 television-radio windfall.

On this basis, Robinson's 30 per cent slice would be around \$84,000 from both gate and TV-radio. Graziano, trying to recapture the 100-pound crown he held four years ago, would receive about \$70,000 on his 25 per cent share.

Blacking out of Chicago on TV has been a stimulus to ticket sales. However, the L.B.C. already has \$200,000 in the till with two days left to go.

There is good reason Chicago fight fans are expected to over the fight. They remember seeing Robinson and Graziano in rousing title conquests here.

In 1947, they poured into the coliseum the largest indoor gross in boxing history, \$422,000 to see Graziano take the middleweight title from Tony Zale.

On Feb. 14, 1951, they saw Robinson win the middleweight crown from Jake Lamotta.

Robinson, the dapper, dancing ex-couturier of boxing, scored 83 knockouts in his 130 wins against 21 defeats since his 1940 debut.

Graziano, who fights much like Lamotta has flattened 52 foes in winning 67 and losing eight bouts since he started as a pro in 1942.

Robinson, who will be 32 on May 3, and the 29-year-old Graziano are considered over the hill. A slugger, they say, fades slower than a boxer. But slugger Graziano still is a 3-1 underdog to boxer Robinson in the betting.

The New York Giants have shown up rather poorly in their spring training tour with the Cleveland Indians. To date the Giants have lost about 13 out of the 15 games which the two clubs have played. The loss of Monte Irvin will be deeply felt and for that reason we will disagree with the experts who are picking the Giants for second place and put them down a notch into "third."

Mickey Mantle and Jackie Jansen may have top notch seasons and Andy Carey may be the rookie of the year but we'll take a chance in predicting that the Yankees, who have won the A. L. pennant for the past three years, will end up in third place. On our side will be the law of averages which says that the Yankees are due for a poor year.

Baseball Odds

NEW YORK, April 14 — (AP) — Here are the odds on the 1952 Major League pennant races:

National League	American League
Brooklyn 8-5	Cleveland 9-5
New York 5-2	New York 2-1
Phil. 9-1	Chicago 9-1
St. Louis 8-1	Boston 9-1
Boston 10-1	Detroit 10-1
Cincinnati 50-1	St. Louis 50-1
Pittsburgh 75-1	Phil. 75-1
Chicago 100-1	Wash. 100-1

Hockey Scores

By The Canadian Press
Allan Cup
Eastern Canada Finals
Penbroks 7 Stratford 4
(Stratford leads best-of-seven series 2-1).

Truman To Make Final Pitch In Big Leagues Today

WASHINGTON, April 14 — (AP) — Harry S. Truman, the only ambidextrous pitcher working in the major leagues, tomorrow makes what probably will be his last presidential pitch.

For the seventh year in a row, President Truman will be opening the baseball season here. This time his toss will send Boston Red Sox and Washington Senators away on the 1952 season.

Weather permitting, all 16 major league teams will begin their season tomorrow.

Since Truman has said he won't run again, this presumably will be the last time he presides over a ceremony that began back on April 14, 1910.

A big, husky gentleman who once played amateur baseball in Cincinnati threw out the ball that day. And what William Howard Taft began, every President since has more or less faithfully followed.

None has been more faithful than Truman.

Only Franklin D. Roosevelt attended more openers, eight. But he also sent out a substitute four times.

The pre-game festivities always overpowered the ball game itself. This year, with neither the Red Sox nor the Senators regarded as candidates for greatness, it's more true than ever.

Racing Season Opens Tonight At Yonkers Raceway

YONKERS, N. Y., April 14 — (AP) — They snap on the 100,000-000 candle power, light's tomorrow night at Yonkers Raceway, opening the big time harness racing season in the east for what is expected to be the sport's greatest year.

A crowd of some 25,000, if the weather is kind, is expected to tune out for the opening program, which has split divisions of the inaugural pace as the feature.

Seventeen crack pacers were named for the race. Eight were in the first section, and nine in the second.

Stanley Dancer's Musciana is the early 3-1 choice for the first division, worth \$4,500. Prince Adios, one of the outstanding three-year-old pacers of 1951 and handled by Clint Hodges of Candebove, Ont., is tabbed at the same odds in the second division, worth \$4,500.

Wayoff won the inaugural in 1951 when he braved cold and rain opening night at the former Empire City running track which was reduced from a mile to a 1-2 mile oval in 1950 for the trotters.

This is the longest harness season in metropolitan New York history, with the horses going continuously for 186 days here and at Roosevelt Raceway on Long Island. The season closes Nov. 15. There will be 35 nights at Yonkers before Roosevelt opens.

Gil Turner Scores Seventh Round TKO

PHILADELPHIA, April 14 — (AP) — Gil Turner, Philadelphia's unbeaten welterweight, scored a seventh-round technical knockout tonight over Chico Varona of Havana when the Cuban refused to come out of his corner, complaining vehemently of being sick in the stomach from "17 low blows."

Turner weighed 146 1-2 and Varona 143 1-2 for the scheduled 10-rounder.

Turner, No. 1 challenger for Kid Gavilan's welterweight crown, gained his 31st straight victory and 25th knockout.

However, the 21-year-old Philadelphia Negro came closer to defeat tonight than at any time in his pro career. In the third round the smallest Cuban smashed a vicious right that sent Turner reeling to the ropes and almost to the canvas.

Turner bounded off, staggered momentarily and then fell into a clinch.

The Giants also announced the option of pitcher Joe Schmitt to the Minneapolis farm club of the American Association. Schmitt, acquired from Philadelphia Phillies in a deal for Jack Lohrke last winter, is recuperating from a mild attack of scarlet fever.

Schmitt, a lefthander, had a 10-14 record at Baltimore in '51.

Give Brilliant Display In Defeating Halifax Seagulls By A 4-2 Count

HALIFAX, April 14 — (CP) — Charlottetown Abbies tonight won the Maritime midget hockey championship defeating Halifax Seagulls 4-2 in a sudden-death game.

A hard-plugging team of young puckchasers, Abbies outplayed Halifax for two periods, then had enough left to match a pair of third period goals despite the wide margin in play enjoyed by Seagulls in the finale.

Abbies shot a goal in each of the first two periods and never trailed. Employing a close-checking game and waiting for the breaks, they gave Don Muldowney in the Halifax cage a rough time in the first two periods.

Halifax didn't get going until the final chapter. They hammered the island cage most of the 20 minutes but could only get two pucks by Joe Summers, brilliant Charlottetown goalie.

Ralph Whitehead, Don MacLeod and Angie Carroll led Abbies victory. Whitehead shot two goals and assisted on a third, MacLeod picked up two assists and Carroll netted one and set up the play for another. The other island rifleman was Pineau.

Don Hill, Bullet Kelly, Don Caldwell and Kennedy Mantin were Halifax's stars, with Kelly and Mantin scoring the goals.

Lineups
Charlottetown—Goal, Summers; defence, Wood, Tweedy, Smith, Mullins; forwards, Carroll, Pineau, Duffy, Don MacLeod, Dave MacLeod, Whitehead.

Halifax—Goal, Muldowney; defence, Kelly, Haley, Hessian; forwards, Hill, FitzGerald, Street, Caldwell, Mantin, Grant, Lusby, Grantham, Almkov.

SUMMARY
First Period
1—Ch'town, Whitehead (D. MacLeod) 13:25
Penalties—Mullins, Caldwell, Grantham, Kelly.

Second Period
2—Ch'town, Whitehead (Penalties—Hessian, D. MacLeod, Caldwell, Haley).

Third Period
3—Halifax, Kelly 5:15
4—Ch'town, Pineau (Carroll) 6:00
5—Halifax, Mantin (Caldwell) 6:30
6—Ch'town, Carroll (Whitehead, MacLeod) 19:08
Penalties—Mullins, Kelly.

WEST BEXFORD, Mass., April 14 — (AP) — Two eager anglers today set up a living room—complete with bridge lamp—in a 12-foot rowboat to while away the hours before the Massachusetts fishing season opens at 4:30 a.m. EST tomorrow.

George Long and Edward Czarnicki said they will lounge around Stille's Pond in the craft until they can legally begin fishing.

Along with the lamp, which runs on a six volt battery, the rowboat also has a library table and two kitchen chairs.

Eager Anglers

ST. LOUIS, April 14 — (AP) — St. Catharines, Ont., collegiate gained a good lead in the Dominion juvenile basketball semifinals by defeating Dalhousie Duke 54-30 tonight.

The second and deciding game of the total-point series will be played here tomorrow night, and the winning team will play the Comets at Halifax for the Canadian title.

Browns Buy Catcher

ST. LOUIS, April 14 — (AP) — St. Louis Browns today bought catcher Darrell Johnson from San Antonio of the Texas League.

The 23-year-old player, who trained with the Browns this spring, had a batting average of .266 with San Antonio last season. The Browns said manager Rogers Hornsby was impressed with Johnson's showing this spring.

Too Late To Classify

FOR SALE—1951 BUICK, TWO tone, reasonable. Phone 381.

FOR SALE—AT HUNTER RIVER one cow and two heifers, freshened. Also four horses. Week Farm Equipment.

BOOKING ORDERS FOR QUANTITY seed barley (Charlottetown 80) at Weeks Farm Equipment.

FOR SALE—USED TRACTORS Massey Harris No. 22 with hydraulic lift at Herbie Craig's Middleton; Massey Harris No. 20, at Mrs. Dan Nicholson's, Albany; Farmall A, 49 model at Monty Jelly's, Eldon. All tractors in good condition, appearance like new. Weeks Farm Equipment, Kent Street.

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