DOWN THE BACK STRETCH

We regret to learn that G. S. Jackson, President of the Union Trotting and Saddle Club, New Glasgow, N.S., has been laid up through illness. We trust that in a short time he will be around again in good health.

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In the February number of True —The Man's Magazine—is an interesting article entitled "Little Iron Horse" and it concerns John E. Braden 2.04¼ that was almost idolized in the State of Maine in the 1920's. Those were the days when the potato was really King and the growers of "spuds" around Houlton, Presque Isle and Caribou had so much money that they decided to invest in free-for-allers. The rivalry became intense and Woodstock and Fredericton also caught the infection. The United States and Canada were scouted for horses that could win over half-mile tracks and some of the greatest battles in years took place on the circuit which comprised Woodstock, Fredericton, Presque Isle and Houlton. Free For All days were packed grand stand days with thousands that could hardly get standing room.

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The appearance of the little iron horse from Tennessee, purchased by horsemen of the town of Presque Isle did not send any shivers down the spines of the Houlton men for they had the huge Directum J. 2.01½, beside whom John R. Braden looked like a midget. They did not meet until John R. had won several small races but eventually they hooked up in a big Free For All at Houlton and to the delight of the home folk and the great disappointment of Presque Islers Directum J. won easily.

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New horses came in from time to time such as Roy Grattan 2.01½, Jackson Grattan 2.01½, Calgary Earl 2.02½, Colonel Bidwell 2.02¼ and Chesley H. Searcy 2.06. Under the careful training and driving of John Willard, John R. Braden gradually improved and eventually in a three-cornered race which is talked of to this day between Directum J., Margaret Dillon 1.58½, and John R. in which Margaret Dillon stood off Directum J. in terrific drives for two heats, John R. Braden to the delight of his thousands of admirers came through and headed the pair in the final heat. His backers cleaned up a small fortune for Margaret Dillon had been ruled out of the pools.

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In 1921 the Caribou, Maine, Driving Club caught the fever and purchased the Grand Circuit star Roy Grattan 2.01¼ from the Tommy Murphy stable. Roy Grattan and Braden were scheduled to start along with Calgary Earl and Colonel Bidwell in a $1,500 Free for All August 25th. Looking through the records we find the following report of that race . . "With all credit to Roy Grattan and driver Bill Cummings for his winning race which made Caribou a bedlam, no little contributing factor in Braden's defeat is due to Joe H. Johnston who came up from Boston to drive Colonel Bidwell, Roy Grattan's stablemate. It was Johnston's tactics at the score of the second heat which spelled defeat for Braden. A dozen times he brought Bidwell to the wire at a runaway gait and Willard, attempting to score Braden with him, tired that horse. After that it was Roy Grattan in command of the situation.

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"Braden drew the pole at the start, led his field all the way, Grattan trailing and in a dash through the stretch Cummings was unable to catch the Presque Isle Pacer, time 2.07, a new track record. Then came Willard's mistake in trying to score with Bidwell. When finally they got away Braden was in his position and held command until just before the wire was reached when he bobbed and Grattan won by a neck. In the final heat Grattan was a shade the best, although Braden, pretty well tired out, made a game fight of it. Ten thousand people packed grand stands and every available inch of space including part of the track and the Caribou fans went wild. An impromptu parade was formed headed by a band and escorted Grattan and driver Cummings to the stables. John Willard, always a good sport, came over and congratulated Cummings. Calgary Earl (Burroughs) was 3-3-3, Colonel Bidwell (Johnston) 4-4-4."

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Later on that season in a $2,000 Free for All at Houlton, Maine, we find John R. Braden winning with a summary of 1-2-1, Jackson Grattan 2-4-2, Dan Hedgewood 2.04¼, owned by the Woodstock Driving Club and driven by Fred Cameron, 3-3-3, Margaret Dillon 1.58½, driven by Bill Flemming, 4-1-dis., time 1.07¼, 2.06¼, 2.07¼.

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From then on John R. Braden stood off all battlers for several years and each fall his club owners would have a grand banquet and at a certain point in it John R. Braden was brought in and received an ovation and his share of the good things. He is the only horse in history as far as we know, that had a bank account and it became quite a large one ere he went into retirement and then that fund was utilized to keep him in comfort during the remainder of his life. Thousands will remember his lowering of the track record at Charlottetown to 2.08¾ where it stood until Eula H. placed it at 2.08¼. John Willard was quite well along in years when he took over the great responsibility of racing the Little Iron Horse from Tennessee, but he was a man of excellent habits, cool, careful and a good sportsman and in all his racing in which he won the majority of the events with John R. Braden, he was never known to do any foul driving or in fact do anything that was in the slightest way dishonorable. Today the names of John R. Braden and John Willard are synonomous with good sportsmanship in the line of horse racing, for they played the game fairly.

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Our friend N. A. MacDougall, Summerside, has very kindly sent us a compilation of the races of the half-brothers raised, and developed by Harry O'Brien, Alberton . . . Lucky Lindy 2.09 and Billy Cope 2.10¾. Mac says: "As you know these two horses have caused many a hot argument, several of which I took a leading part in. Being a brother-in-law of Jim O'Brien, the owner of the sire of Lucky Lindy (Captain Aubrey 2.10¼) I naturally was a Lindy supporter. It is really interesting to glance over the summaries of the races. While Lindy has a little over $1,000 more in earnings than Cope, the latter has won a greater percentage of money raced for. Here are the figures:

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Lucky Lindy raced for $15,800 and won $4,739.26. Billy Cope raced for $11,125 and won $3,708.66. Lucky Lindy won 50 heats at an average of about 2.15¼. Billy Cope won 42 heats at an average of about 2.14¾. Lucky Lindy's fastest mile was 2.09 taken at Woodstock on August 31st, 1934. His slowest mile was 2.26¼ at St. John, July 30th, 1930. Billy Cope's fastest mile was in 2.10¾ taken at Montague, August 10th, 1932; his slowest mile was at St. Peter's, July 22nd, 1922—2.21¼.

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Billy Cope won six races from Lucky Lindy. Of these six races Lindy took two heats from him. Lindy won four races from Billy Cope—12 heats. To put it another way, of the thirty heats they won in competition Cope has 16 while Lindy has 14. They competed 18 times; Lindy headed Cope ten times in the summaries to Cope's eight. Lucky Lindy afterwards raced for G. Blondin Thomas in northern New Brunswick and Quebec and while the races may not have been great performances I would like to know just how many he did start in. Perhaps the information may be obtained from Mr. Thomas some time."

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We thank Mr. MacDougall for giving us the privilege of going over the summaries of two horses we have admired greatly and horses that in our humble opinion had as much speed as any horses that have ever stepped on our race tracks. We timed Lucky Lindy a half over a none too fast track at Charlottetown one morning driven by owner Well McNeill in 1.01½ and considered that it was equal to one minute had the track been run over with the hoops a few times. We personally drove Billy Cope a quarter mile over the new race track at St. John in 1930 in thirty seconds, which was the fastest quarter ever stepped over that oval, and we drove him many quarters in 30 seconds over the Charlottetown track.

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Lucky Lindy was a large horse and a bit more difficult to drive than his half brother Billy. When Billy Cope got straightened out so that he could come out from behind he was about the nicest piece of pacing machinery one could wish to handle. Yes, those horses deserve to be brought to the attention of our readers. No doubt had they been given wider opportunities there is a chance that they would have taken records close to two minutes.

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The Horseman & Fair World, Indianapolis, for January 17th, has the following: "William Murray and Sons, owners of Bonnie Brae Farm, Wellington, Ohio, recently bought the mare Jane Azoff 1.59½ from C. H. Horton, Murray River, P.E.I., and will establish her in the brood mare ranks at the farm, where she will be bred to Cardinal Prince 1.56¾. Cardinal Prince is by Peter Potempkin, dam Lillian L. and is the sire of two three-year-olds with records better than 2.10, also the sire of the half-mile track stars First Cardinal 2.10¼, Cardinal 3, 2.11, Anchors Aweigh 2.12 and Cardinal Abbe 3, 2.15. Jane Azoff is well known throughout Ohio where she was trained for several years by Dr. Parshall, who won many races with her over its half-mile tracks and later she became a Grand Circuit star."

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St. Johnsbury, Vermont, is one of the horsiest small places in America. Charlie Cray, a merchant, owns some of the best property in the town but it is of harness horses he would rather talk. He and his brother Eugene have a string of seventeen—15 of them wintering now at Pinehurst, N.C. Eugene lives at Bellows Balls, Vermont. It was he who went into partnership with "Doc" Parshall and bought King's Counsel as a colt for $4,600, raced him successfully and then sold him for $20,000 to E. J. Baker, owner of Greyhound. The Crays have raced their horses at all the leading tracks in the east and on the Grand Circuit.

Chicago Cubs' Pilot Checks In At Ball Park

CHICAGO, Feb. 23 — (AP) — Charlie Grimm, Chicago Cubs' pilot, checked in at the ball park yesterday to begin preparations for the Cubs' training season opening March 8 at French Lick, Ind. "As I see it," Grimm said, "It's up to the managers to be optimistic and do the best they can. I've looked over the 30 fellows we have listed for this season and if we can keep most of them we'll be all right."

On paper, the Cub roster is composed of 16 pitchers, five catchers, 11 infielders and seven outfielders, but whether they all assemble at French Lick, Grimm said, depends on manpower regulations.

REMEMBER WHEN

Johnny Risko, Cleveland baker boy, continued in his role as "spoiler" of heavyweight boxing ambitions when he outroughed King Levinsky in 10 rounds at New York 12 years ago tonight. Risko got his nickname of "spoiler" from the late Tex Richard after he "robbed" Jack Sharkey of a title bout with Gene Tunney with a decision over the Boston sailor.

SPORTING NEWS

Large Crowd Witness West Kent Ice Sports

Featured by a 2-all draw in the annual hockey game between West Kent and Summerside High School hockey squads the West Kent School ice sports last night proved a big success with a capacity crowd that jammed the Forum to its doors in attendance.

The various races provided close, keen competition in every event with many of the youngsters displaying undoubted ability on the steel blades.

The hockey game was one of the hardest fought in recent years. West Kent, after being held scoreless in the first period went into a 1-0 lead in the second period on the strength of Bill Bevin's goal, the smart little centreman being an important cog in the West Kent cause all evening.

The local school kids to all appearances had the game all sewed up when Skippy Carver came through with their second goal shortly after the eight minute mark had been passed in the third period; but Jordan in the West Kent nets, who shared starring honors with the visiting goalie all evening, was beaten twice in the last seven minutes of play on goals by Gordie McKay that gave the visitors their well-deserved draw.

The relay race was won by West Kent School.

Following is the summary of the races:

Girls 8 Years
1. N. Hyndman.
2. G. Jamieson.

Boys 8 Years And Under
1. U. Cobb.
2. L. Vessey.
3. B. Venars.

Tricycle Race
1. Robert Allen.
2. Elsie Wakelin.

Boys 9 Years
1. M. Carmody.
2. J. Squarebriggs.
3. M. Robbins.

Girls 10 Years
1. Claudette McMillan.
2. Eleanor Stordy.
3. A. Horne.

Boys 10 Years
1. I. Reddin.
2. L. McMillan.
3. D. Nicholson.

Girls 13 Years
1. J. McEachern.
2. C. McMillan.
3. H. Pickard.

Boys 11 Years
1. R. Atkinson.
2. M. Joyce.
3. L. McMillan.

Prince Street School Races
Boys 12 Years and Over
1. L. Anderson.
2. C. Huestis.
3. N. McKay.

10 and 11 Years
1. S. McLure.
2. E. Ford.
3. L. Anderson.

Boys 12 Years
1. G. Scantlebury.
2. O. Barbour.
3. F. Howatt.

Team Race
1. Barrett and Acorn.
2. Douglas and Howatt.
3. Carter and Bustin.

Boys 13 Years
1. Bill Acorn.
2. Jack Acorn.
3. Phil Jardine.

Boys 14 Years
1. Bill Acorn.
2. Skippy Bear.
3. P. Jardine.

Broom Race
1. Emmie Lou Douglas and Alan McInnis.
2. Barbara Quigley and Wayne Jamieson.

Boys 15 Years
1. G. Henderson.
2. B. Carter.
3. J. Acorn.

Girls 11 Years
1. Claudette McMillan.
2. Carol Creelman.
3. Sally Cudmore.

Girls 12 Years
1. Carol Creelman.
2. Claudette McMillan.
3. Minnie McKenzie.

Girls Novelty Race
1. H. Pickard.
2. Emmie Lou Douglas.
3. Carol Creelman.

The following are the line-ups and summary of the hockey game:

Summerside High School: Goal, D. R. Morrison; defence, Don MacNeil, Neil MacLeod, Howard MacFarlane, Alec MacInnis; forwards, Alan Lecky, Garth Gay, Carl Woodside, Ivan Stright, Lowell Huestis, Alan Stewart, Gordon McKay, Stanley Deighan, Layton Schurman.

West Kent School: Goal, S. Jordan; defence, H. Thompson, R. MacLennan, R. Howatt; forwards, J. MacGregor, D. Larter, J. Brown, K. Carver, B. Bevins, B. MacGregor; subs, C. Howatt, A. Avard.

1st Period
Scoring: None.
Penalty: Woodside.

2nd Period
1—W.K.S., Bevin, 3:14.
Penalties: Woodside (2).

3rd Period
2—W. K. S., Carver (MacIntyre) 8:51.
3—Summerside, McKay (Deighan) 12:24.
4—Summerside, McKay (Walker) 14:30.
Penalty: Gay.

Officials
Referee: John Squarebriggs.
Starter: James Herrell.
Judges: Jackie Kane, Earl MacDonald, W. E. Scantlebury.
Scorer: A. Matheson.
Patrol Judges: Gordon MacDonald, Fred Moore.
Announcer: D. F. Bethune.

S'side Flyers Defeat Goose Bay Team 6-0

Summerside Flyers took a six-goal lead last night over Goose Bay R. C. A. F. in the first game of a total-goal series in the Eastern Air Command semi-final playdowns.

Shooting two goals in the opening period, netting another in the sandwich session and then winding up with a power-laden display with three goals from the stick of Evans in the final session, the Summerside team were always in command despite the wet, soggy condition of the ice.

Both goalies, Nixon of Summerside, and Thompson of the visiting squad, performed sensationally throughout the game, with the visiting net-minder coming through with numerous miraculous saves as the winners offensive thrusts continually harassed him from all angles.

Although the Summerside squad took a commanding lead that they should hold in the second game of the series, which is scheduled for tonight, a capacity crowd saw both squads put on an exciting display throughout each and every session with clean, clever hockey and fine stick-handling predominating.

Winner of this series advance to another semi-final round against the winner of a Debert-Sydney series in a home and home, total-goal series which begins on February 25 and concludes on February 28.

Line-ups:

Goose Bay: Goal, Thompson; defence, Rumer, Lundy, Tooney, Fripps; forwards, Heenan, French, Bundy, Douer, Lebeque, McLean.

Summerside: Goal, Nixon; defence, McPherson, McDivitt, Miller; forwards, Walker, Bower Gauthier, Evans, Kerr, Winn, Midghall, Whyte.

SUMMARY
First Period
1—Summerside, Whyte (McDivitt)
2—Summerside, Whyte (Gauthier).
Penalties: Gauthier, Tooney.

Second Period
3—Summerside, McPherson (Walker).
Penalty: Miller.

Third Period
4—Summerside, Evans (Winn, McDivitt).
5—Summerside, Evans (Kerr).
6—Summerside, Evans (Winn).
Penalties: None.

Strangler 54, Has No Idea Of Quitting

WINNIPEG, Feb. 23 — (CP) — Ed (Strangler) Lewis has been through more than 6,200 wrestling matches during a 38-year career but still has no idea of quitting the ring.

Lewis, 54 years old and weighing 274 pounds, said today: "I like the game and I am having too much fun to ever think of quitting."

Five times champion of the world, the Strangler is here to participate in an all-star grunt and groan card tomorrow night. It will be the first here in nine years.

Despite his age, he wrestled three or four times a week. He has lost only 30 matches during his spectacular career.

Lewis, who operates out of Minneapolis said he is the oldest active grappler in North America today, but not in the world. There are some in India more than 70. During one of his five world tours, he wrestled a man in that country 73.

In his spare time, the Strangler is much sought as a public speaker. He has addressed service clubs and church groups and his topics have ranged from athletics to metaphysics. Recently he completed a 16-week lecture tour for the United States army, instructing in jiu-jitsu.

Rugby Union Meets Today

TORONTO, Feb. 23 — (CP) — Controversial proposals for playing rule changes hold the centre of interest in the annual meeting of the Canadian Rugby Union here tomorrow. The proposals are to be discussed first at a morning meeting of the rules committee which will report its findings to the annual meeting in the afternoon.

Football followers expect the keenest debate to centre on Quebec Rugby Football Union recommendations for a 10-yard interference zone for linemen and for forward-passing behind the line of scrimmage and on an Ontario Rugby Football Union suggestion that six points instead of five be awarded for a touchdown.

Sugar Robinson Gains Decision Over Lamotta

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 — (AP)— Ray (Sugar) Robinson, "uncrowned king of welterweights," absorbed everything Jake Lamotta threw at him at Madison Square Garden tonight and went on to gain a unanimous 10-round decision over the Bronx battler.

In beating Lamotta for the third time in their four meetings and increasing his record to 54 victories in 55 bouts, Robinson boxed rings around the only man to hold a decision over him.

Except for the sixth round when Lamotta backed him into a corner and rocked him with lefts and rights to the head, Robinson jabbed Jake at will as well as landing counter uppercuts.

TODAY'S SKATING

AFTERNOON—3 to 5
NIGHT—8 to 10

GOOD SKATING The FORUM

Canadians Take Three Goal Lead In Island Juvenile Playoff Series

A second period scoring splurge that saw them net three counters without a return from their opponents paved the way for a 5-2 victory for Juvenile Canadiens at Kensington Thursday night in the opening game of a two-game total-goal series to determine the Island team that will meet the New Brunswick champions in a sudden-death game for the two-province title and the right to enter the Maritime playdowns against the winners of the Nova Scotia crown.

But, outside of their second period scoring efforts, the defending Maritime champions were kept in close check by a surprisingly strong Kensington team who were minus the services of two of their key players. Young Larter guarding the twines for the Canadians turned in a great performance throughout the encounter, with Saunders, goalie for the Kensington team being equally as brilliant throughout all three periods.

The first period was over eleven minutes old before Blanchard, centering Canadiens' first attacking unit took a pass from Al Carver to beat the Kensington net minder from close in. Kensington, fighting back every minute knotted the count at 1-all at 13:59 of the session when Woodside's waste-high drive from 25 feet out caught the open corner of the net.

In the first three minutes of the second period, Canadiens struck sharply for two goals. Spearheaded by Wallie Shepherd, elusive, tricky, forward, they went into a 2-1 lead two minutes and 12 seconds after the start of the session, with Shepherd firing home Dowling's pass; one minute and 19 seconds afterwards, Shepherd was back again for his goal, being on the receiving end of a passing play with Blanchard and Carver.

Carver shot the winners into a 4-1 lead in the last 53 seconds of the period when he picked up a pass from Blanchard to beat the Kensington goalie cleanly.

The two squads divided two goals during a closely fought third session. Blake combined with Quigley at 1:56 of the period to score the prettiest goal of the night, the former taking Quigley's pass at the penalty shot line to blast a drive into the twine from close quarters.

There were four minutes of the game left when Kensington struck for their second goal of the game, Watson's shot slipping through Larter's skate to trickle across the goal line.

The second and final game of the series is scheduled for Charlottetown Monday night.

The lineups:—

Kensington: Goal, Saunders; defence, Semple, Howard, Pendergast; forwards, Woodside, Kennedy, MacLean, Woodington, Kelly, Watson, Caldwell.

Canadiens: Goal, Larter; defence Wellner, Moore; forwards, Dowling, Molyneaux, Shepherd, Irvine, Quigley, Blake, Blanchard, Carver, McGregor.

The summary:

1st Period
1—Canadiens, Blanchard (Carver) 11.04
2—Kensington, Woodside 13 59
Penalty: Quigley.

2nd Period
3—Canadiens, Shepherd (Dowling 2.12
4—Canadiens, Shepherd (Blanchard, Carver) 3.31
5—Canadiens, Carver (Blanchard) 14.07
Penalties: Semple, Quigley, Carver.

3rd Period
6—Canadiens, Blake (Quigley) 1.56
7—Kensington, Watson 11.01
Penalty: Quigley.
Referees: Power and Davison.

Collegians In 7-5 Victory Over Mt. A.

[Special to The Guardian]

SACKVILLE, N.B., Feb. 23—Playing minus the services of McAdam and Hennessey, their defence duo, Collegians from Charlottetown here tonight came from behind a one-goal deficit early in the first period to whip Mount Allison University team 7-5 in an exhibition game played at the Sackville rink. It was the second straight win for the Collegians over the Mounties, having shut out the Mount A. team 5-0 in a game played at Charlottetown recently.

Blanchard, pivoting the first line of the Collegians, shot four goals during the encounter, with Nicolle getting two and Robertson, third member of the dynamite trio, shooting the other counter.

Mac Beck, former star of Prince of Wales, was outstanding in the Mount A. cause, figuring in three of the losers' goals. Angus MacDonald, young, rugged defenceman played an outstanding game behind the blue line for the winners, going the entire length of the game without relief.

The game was closely fought throughout Collegians had a 3-2 lead at the end of the first period; both teams split a pair of goals in the second session; with the winners outscoring the Mount Allison team 3-2 in the final 20 minutes of play.

Armstrong Writes Life Story In Book

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23—Henry Armstrong has just finished the story of his life in a book depicting his struggle for three world championships, but he left unanswered the question put by many sports chroniclers here in his home town.

Why, is Armstrong still fighting, three years after he lost his last title?

Henry, regarded by many as the greatest fighter of his day, suffered the first knockout of his brilliant career as featherweight, lightweight and welterweight champion when Fritzie Zivic stopped him in the 12th round in New York City, Jan. 17, 1941.

He said he was through with fighting. One knockout was enough. Hadn't he scored 26 knockouts in 27 fights in 1937? He knew what happened to fighters once they began going downhill. But the war took many of the topnotchers from the game and Henry saw a chance to make some money, and he started a highly successful comeback—successful at least from the financial standpoint.

Armstrong says he has earned $1,000,000 in the 16 years he has been in boxing, but since the war he has made more money than during the years he was a champion.

Wild Life Conference At Ottawa

OTTAWA, Feb. 23 — (CP) — Delegates to the Dominion-Provincial Wild Life Conference were informed today that waterfowl in general in Canada were reproducing in satisfactory numbers and that Canada geese were scarcer in the far eastern districts this year.

Lt.-Col. H. Ritchie, chief game warden for New Brunswick, was named chairman of the conference, which opened its sessions at the national museum. R.A. Gibson, Director of the Lands, Parks and Forests branch of the Mines and Resources Department, read a message of welcome from Mines Minister Crerar.

Delegates from Western Canada said that 100,000 ducks had wintered on the prairies during 1943-44, an unusual occurrence explained by the mild winter and the increased water supply, due in part to the work carried out under the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act."

Juvenile Canadiens made an auspicious start Thursday night in defence of their Maritime crown when they skated and passed their way to a hard-earned 5-2 victory over Ken MacLean's Kensington Brook Macs in the opening game of a two-game total goal series.

But Canadiens had to go all out to win their opening victory. The Kensington team, minus two key players made a mighty battle of it all the way and with the exception of defensive lapses in the middle period were just as good as the defending Maritime champions.

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Second and final game of the series is scheduled for Charlottetown on Monday night and although Canadiens are odds-on favorites to retain their Island title—the first step toward the Maritime playdowns—they are expecting and will receive a mighty tough battle from the Kensington standard bearers, a bunch of kids most of whom are still eligible for play in the midget ranks.

• • •

Crawling up in years but still displaying the same keen interest in sport that made him an outstanding figure in his younger days "Big Jim" Pendergast was one of the very interested spectators at Thursday night's game in Kensington.

• • •

The writer had the privilege of being a guest at Jim's home overnight. Naturally, when gathered around the sitting room the topic turned to various branches of sporting activities. Jim spun many a yarn to your writer's ears before retiring and they all proved very interesting. They had to do with tales of prowess many years ago in which the speaker played no little part, and although advancing years have checked any active participation, nevertheless "Big Jim" still retains the keen interest that one time in the late nineties made him one of the Island's outstanding athletic figures.

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Jim's family, now growing up, are also keen followers of athletics. In fact, he had one of his boys playing defence on the Kensington team Thursday night. Tall, rugged, with promise of filling out, the youngster, still eligible for the midget ranks, gave promise of developing into quite a hockey player. He did not see much service against Canadiens Thursday night but with the experience he gained should be an outstanding juvenile defence player when next season rolls around.

• • •

Another youngster, and another defenceman, caught the writer's eye in the person of young Semple, son of William Semple of Kensington and a grandson of Tyndall Semple, well known Island reinsman.

• • •

Times without number, Semple broke up Canadiens' attacks with a sweeping poke check that he employed throughout the game with devastating effect. Before the encounter, the kid was a doubtful starter for the Kensington team, he just recovering from a heavy cold, but he justified the faith of Manager Ken MacLean by turning in an outstanding performance.

In all this discussion about this and that hockey great, a lot of people seem to be losing their sense of humor, if not of perspective, says Baz O'Meara.

• • •

For instance those who claim Richard is the greatest hockey player of all time, and some actually do, should tone their claims down to make him best of the present day, as well as a really good player which should be sufficient.

• • •

Perhaps five years from now, if he plays that long against the sturdier opposition that is sure to come up in succeeding years, we will be better able to appraise his worth. For us he is, for instance, a better right wing than Babe Dye ever was, in spite of the latter's accurate long or short range shot, with plenty of zip on it.

• • •

We wouldn't say, for instance, that he is better than Charlie Conacher was when the latter was in his prime, for Charlie was not only a great shot, probably as good as Dye, but he was a great brain on the ice, a veritable colossus.

• • •

Nor would we say is better than rubber-legged Bill Cook, who starred in two great major leagues for over ten years, who was the greatest over-all right wing in the history of the game, because he made headway through the strongest of opposition, the most bone-shattering defences.

• • •

Richard is a fine player and we think if he had been with the great Ranger teams, the great Bruin teams, the old Canadiens or the old Ottawas, he would have been a fine player too, because he has in him the essence of greatness, a flaming spirit, a will to work and win, plus terrific strength and shooting ability.

• • •

There is some attempt to belittle Richard because he didn't meet such wingmen as Dumart, and other great checkers for instance, but that doesn't prove anything. In our recollection we fail to remember any checking wing man who excelled Bob Davidson of the Maple Leafs very much. It is a question if Dumart was better than Bob.

• • •

Most of the great left wings of the past fifteen years have been strongly offensive. In the department of back checking and in doing a noble chore of holding his wings scoreless we guess rugged Robert stands at the top, yet Richard has done very well with him tagged on his coat collar.

• • •

Say you put him in with a feeder like Nighbor and with a left wing like Darragh, Hec Kilrea or Cy Denneny when they were at their peak. He would produce quite a few goals even under the old style defensive hockey just as Dye did in his heyday.

Former Islander In Lively Action With U. S. Forces

WITH THE 45TH DIVISION OF THE 7TH ARMY IN FRANCE—Crawling to within 20 yards of a German machine-gun emplacement, Private Michael J. Doherty of 21-15 45th Avenue, Long Island City, knocked it out with a rifle grenade. The action occurred on the 45th "Thunderbird" Division's front in France when Doherty's company was halted in its advance by the "Kraut" gunners.

"We had been advancing through one of the most heavily-wooded sectors I have ever been through when the Jerry gun opened up and pinned us down," Doherty declared.

"The layout of the front was such that we had to go through a break in a ridge right where the enemy gun was located.

"We all crawled around through the brush and tried to get a shot at the gun with our rifles. But the trees and bushes were too thick. Everybody took some shots but we could not stop it.

"As the bushes and trees were working entirely in favor of the Germans I decided they could serve to our advantage also," Doherty continued.

"So I worked my way over to one side of where we were pinned down and started to crawl in a wide circle which, if things came out okay, would bring me right up to where I could get the gun with a hand grenade or a rifle grenade.

"The only trouble was I didn't know exactly what else I would find in the underbrush as I circled around. However, as it was, things came out all right but I could only get within about 20 yards of the gun.

"It was too far to throw a hand grenade so I shot a rifle grenade at it, or rather where I thought it was. After the grenade exploded the gun didn't shoot any more.

"In a little while we all worked our way to the position and found the grenade had done the work. The gun was finished," Doherty concluded.

Doherty's wife, Mrs. Rose Doherty, and their three-year-old son, Michael, Jr., make their home at the Long Island City address. The soldier has been awarded three campaign stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Good Conduct Medal.

(Pvt. Michael J. Doherty is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Doherty, Vernon Bridge, P.E.I. He enlisted in the U.S. 7th Army, 45th Division, and has been in Italy for the past two years. Michael has two brothers in the Canadian Army, Gnr. Owen Doherty in France, and Cpl. Dennis Doherty in Holland.)

THE HUNTER'S CORNER

The music of the hounds will be heard no more echoing o'er the wintry landscape, and from hill and dale, not legally at least, until next Nov. 1. The hunting season on foxes and rabbits closed on Feb. 15. Hunters of the wily reynard enjoyed good sport but the prices of pelts were barely half of that received last season. It took a good red to fetch $10.00 for its pelt this winter, whereas last season prices of $20.00 and $21.00 each were not uncommon. Mink and muskrat may be legally trapped until March 31. Mink pelts are much in demand this season, while muskrat showed a slight decline over last year.

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The lowly bunny furnished good sport to many hunters who enjoy shooting rabbits over a beagle or rabbit hound. Some sportsmen are inclined to believe that rabbits were scarce during the season just passed. Observers who have travelled widely throughout the country this past month or so, particularly fox hunters, report rabbits herded into "pockets." For instance one may travel several miles through apparently good rabbit country, and where they were plentiful in past years, and see only the odd track, and then will reach a swamp or similar locale and find the snow simply padded down with beaten trails criss crossed in all directions. One observer estimated approximately 25 or 30 rabbits in swamp of less than 5 acres in extent. If no epidemic hits them this spring there is abundance of breeding stock left, enough to furnish plenty of sport next winter.

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Several gunners out after rabbits found themselves the richer of a red fox pelt, when the fox dodging the rabbit hound ran squarely into the muzzle of a 12 guage. Two local sportsmen, well known in business and social circles, had a rather disappointing experience with a fox. They were set out near Tracadie sand bar for ducks and geese. It was the last day, or nearly so, of the season and ice had formed along the edge of the marsh. The wooden decoys were set out on the fringe of ice. After several hours spent in the blind with a cold north wind playing tag with their ears and hands, and no ducks or geese appearing to enliven the monotony, the two nimrods decided to call it a day, and forthwith unloaded guns and made preparations for departure. Suddenly one of the gunners exclaimed: "Look, what's that?" and two pairs of eyes became glued to a beautiful silver out among the decoys, sniffing first one and then another, as much as to say by his actions: "Surely I'll find one edible duck among the lot". Awakening from their trance (and believe me they were not seeing things) there was a wild scrambling in pockets for shells. Startled by the movement the fox lost no time in getting out of the vicinity and a belated shot at extreme range only resulted in increasing an already fast rate of speed, and Brer Fox made the safety of the sand hills with a whole skin. Needless to say this is one fox who will think twice, and maybe three times, before he will again investigate a "stool" of decoys. To say that our hunters were disappointed, is putting it mildly.

The WEEK at S.D.U.

On Wednesday morning, February 21, His Excellency Bishop Boyle addressed the students in the first of a series of lectures on the Co-operative Movement. His Excellency outlined the history of the Movement and showed its increasing importance in the present day world.

Sgt. Francis MacAulay, R. C. A. F., ex '40, and Gnr. Stephen Larkin, R. C. A., ex '38, both of whom returned from overseas recently, were very welcome visitors to the College during the week. Sgt. MacAulay spent three and a half years overseas, and saw service in North Africa and Italy. At present he is spending a well-deserved furlough at his home in Souris Line Road. Gnr. Larkin enlisted soon after the outbreak of the war, went overseas in 1940, and was seriously wounded in Italy last September. At present he is receiving hospital treatment in Halifax. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

An inter-class debate between teams representing the Senior-Junior and Sophomore debating classes was held on Thursday morning. The subject of the debate "Resolved: That the system of family allowances as provided by the Family Allowances Act is detrimental to social welfare", was supported by Francis J. O'Keefe and James Kelly, and opposed by J. E. Green and Francis Bolger. The judges, Rev. J. A. Sullivan, M.A., Rev. R. G. Ellsworth, D.D., and Rev. G. A. Macdonald, M.Sc, declared the supporters of the affirmative side the winners by a small margin in points. Mr. Cletus Murphy was chairman of the meeting.

The cast of "The Masterful Monk" presented their play in Kinkora on Tuesday night, February 13th.

We are pleased to announce that A. J. MacAdam has recovered from his recent illness and has returned to the College. Our "four-letter" man is well known in Island hockey circles, and has been turning in sensational performances this winter on the Collegians' defence. Welcome back A.J.

The Saints defeated the Heartbreakers in an exhibition game of hockey played in the College Rink at the beginning of the week. The former were sparked by shifty left-winger, Harold "Dimps" Dunphy.

Students were sorry to learn that Claude Shea, popular member of sophomore class, injured his shoulder last Saturday. Fortunately, the injury was not serious, and Claude is about as usual, but for the present has his arm in a sling.

LIGHT BINDING