



IN THE CORNER
Hockey action is going to be very scarce until the turn of the new year, it now appears.

It is probable that league officials might have been able to contact some mainland teams, but with very much doubt concerning the strength of any Island team they could band together, it was felt that it would be a better policy to let matters slide for the present time.

Despite the open dates, interest in the league should not wane, however. Especially in the case of the Service teams where anything can happen on a given night. At present the two Air Force teams are considered to be the strongest, just which one, however, is problematical.

But with drafts both going and coming either one can become stronger or weaker providing just what fortune they have in the drafts. Navy also steps into the picture, for with a few additions they can move right into a contending position.

So in the two weeks' interval falls on any one of the Service teams will be followed with interest and more so just how changes, if there are any, will affect the teams concerned.

In the meantime the Collegians will likely ice the same squad—a squad that showed plenty in their first game. Only stars and a few of followers who are ready to lay it on the line that they will prove the surprise packages of the league.

Boston Bruins may not win many honors this season, but they are more than likely to win the Calder Trophy, or, as it is more popularly called, the prize rookie award.

A heckler hastens to interpose: "Don't forget Art Ross, he wins the Calder dinner speaking championship."

The young man in question is known to the brightly lit rink as the Bruins' new Typing Line. Players all over the loop speak very respectfully of him, and only stars and a few of his ability.

Since one-third of the N.H.L. schedule has already been run, it is not too early to take a look around the league and earmark the players who have given impressive performances to date. Boston has a couple more youngsters in Harry Bennett, young netminder, and Frank Smith, Smith's linemate, who are well up among the newcomers.

Chicago Black Hawks have the Horeck and Bus Braxton, who are represented by Anis Adams, and the Leafs by Frank McCulloch, Smith's linemate, who are well up among the newcomers.

Rated strictly off the figures in the scoring race, young Mr. Smith is still the smartest kid in the class. Pete Horeck and Alie-rono have given him no rest, neither of them displays the all-around these and know-how of the Boston club.

Canadiens once had a string on the youngster who is now shaping up so well. This is in contrast to the start of the 1941-42 season along with Cyril Biegler and the late Red Tilton.

There is no telling how good a hockey player Red Tilton would have been had he survived the war. Many hockey-wise observers thought Mr. Tilton was better than Red or Bill Ezlinicki, another youngster who made a name for himself playing for Oshawa. Ezlinicki started the present season with Toronto Leafs, but during the brief time he was in the league he did not look as impressive as Smith.

SPORTING NEWS

Navy Wins Opening Game Of Basketball Playoffs

Coming through with five field goals in the last six minutes of play after their opponents had whittled down a seven-point lead to one solitary counter, Navy basketball team last night took an eleven-point lead in the fight for first sectional honors of the City Basketball League when they defeated the Air Force All Stars 32 to 23 in the opening game of the two game total point series.

Next game of the series is scheduled for the Y.M.C.A. on Wednesday night at 7:30. Starting at a fast clip, both teams failed to find the basket in the first five minutes of play with the Air Force drawing first blood to go into a 2-0 lead. Navy went ahead with two baskets for a 4-2 lead but the Air Force, carrying the offensive, forged into a 7-4 lead. From this point on Navy started to show an edge and before the half interval had gone to the front by a 16-9 count.

For the first six minutes of the second half it was all Air Force, scoring six points without a return to set to within one point of their opponents, but again Navy drew away to build up a 10 point advantage, leading 26-16. The losers again fought their way to within three points of their opponents but in the final six minutes Navy, on the strength of Williams and McDonald's accurate shooting through with four field goals to build up their eleven point lead, which they will carry into the second and final game.

The scoring:
NAVY FG FS FT Pts.
Jubenville 0 1 2 1
Letts 4 0 0 8
Williams 4 0 0 8
McDonald 0 0 0 0
O'Shea 2 1 2 5
Widley 1 0 1 2
Read 1 0 1 2
Totals 16 2 11 34
R.C.A.F. FG FS FT Pts.
Shechter 4 5 3 13
Dulbers 0 0 2 0
Ramsay 1 0 1 2
McLeod 1 0 1 2
Weiner 0 0 1 0
Ashby 0 0 1 0
Smith 0 2 0 2
Duncan 1 0 0 2
Totals 7 8 7 23
Referee: George Sinclair.

Byron Nelson Picked As U.S. Athlete Of The Year

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (AP)—Byron Nelson, who averaged less than 200 strokes for 78 rounds of big time tournament golf, is 1944's athlete-of-the-year.

Seventy-nine sports writers scattered their affections on 40 different athletes, named Nelson as the winner. Nelson's smooth-as-silk performance on the fairways brought him the most votes, 34, and he was well as 16 first-place votes in the present tabulations. Each ballot was worth three points with the winner receiving 108 points.

Ann Curtis Named Woman Athlete Of The Year In U.S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18 (AP)—Ann Curtis, swimmer from San Francisco who holds a national swim record for each of her 18 years today was named the woman athlete of the year by sports editors throughout the United States who were polled by the Associated Press.

The coast mermaid picked the same name in the vote getting that she displayed in the United States outdoor championships when she annexed all four free-style titles, the third time the trick ever has been done.

At the recent National Amateur Athletic Union convention Miss Curtis sought approval for 18 United States swim records. Twelve were recognized, the remaining six being rejected because they had been superseded by Miss Curtis herself.

Seventy-one editors participated in the poll with the coast beauty listed first on 31 ballots. The Queen of the 22 swimmers thus roams beside Byron Nelson, Toledo, Ohio, golfer, whom the voters previously elected the male athlete of the year.

Nelson, winner of approximately \$40,000 in war bonds during the year, averaged a fraction less than 70 for 78 rounds of big-time tournament golf in 1944.

Today's honor climaxes a two-year campaign by Miss Curtis in which she has won eight national titles, 18 United States records, and surpassed the world times for both the 800-metre and 890-yard swim.

She has rejected various movie offers in hopes of carrying the colors of the Great Plains Swim Club at San Francisco into Olympic competition.

Three points are awarded for each first-place vote, two for second and one for third. The table lists the outstanding women athletes of 1944, with the sports in which they competed (first-place votes in parentheses).

Ann Curtis, swimming (31) 105
Mildred Didrikson Zaharias, golf (29) 80
Pauline Betz, tennis (10) 29
Dorothy Gorman, golf (2) 29
Patty Berg, golf (3) 18
Betty Hicks, golf (4) 14.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 18.—There appears to be no stopping Paul Courtreau, Providence ace, and apparently perennial leader in the American Hockey League's individual scoring race. He tallied four goals for the second consecutive week to bring his total today to 36 points.

The big battle is for the runner-up post which finds Pete Leswick and Byron McDonald of Indianapolis and Tom Burlington of Cleveland in a triple tie, six points off the leader, Tony Bukovitch of Indianapolis, last week's occupant of second, slipped down the scale somewhat.

Frank Kane of Indianapolis spent four minutes off the ice to bring his total to 38, three more than Pete Bessone of Cleveland to top the rules violators.

Leading scorers:
Courtreau, Providence 22 14 35
Leswick, Indianapolis 15 15 30
MacDonald, Indianapolis 15 15 30
Burlington, Cleveland 7 23 30
Bukovitch, Indianapolis 13 23 29
Gracie, Pittsburgh 10 18 28
Halderson, Buffalo 13 13 28
Walton, Pittsburgh 12 15 27
Fergie, Hershey 13 14 27
Pozzo, Hershey 12 14 27

SKATING THE MAIN TO-DAY ATTRACTION 3-5 AND 8-10

OUR CANTEN IS ATTRACTIVE

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"Tiny" Thompson To Be Black Hawks' Scout

TORONTO, Dec. 18 (CP)—Ft. Lt. Cecil (Tiny) Thompson, former star goaltender with Boston Bruins and Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League, will soon be named Chief Scout for Chicago Black Hawks. Globe and Mail sports editor Vern Degeer said in a story today.

A Thompson recently was released to the R.C.A.F. reserves after two years' service. He is a brother of Paul Thompson, Black Hawk coach.

BITTER FOREIGN—

do something about Greece. There, he said, people were being "shot like dogs" with weapons he saw were provided British by the United States.

A. B. (Happy) Chandler, Kentucky democrat who died the world in an Army bomber, said he didn't want American diplomats who "follow the British lead."

Burton K. Wheeler, Montana Democrat, asserted it was not the so-called isolationists, but those who had toppled the United States' early intervention in the war, who were fighting the nominations.

Stassia and Britain, he said, were looking after their own interests first but "anybody here says he is for America first, he's an isolationist." What could the United States do, he asked, if Russia says it is going to take the Balkans, the Mediterranean and Finland?

The candidate, Florida Democrat who said he has nearly always followed the President's lead, said that the career of Roosevelt was right, called the nominations a mistake. He sought to deny action on them until after the new year.

Arthur Vandenberg, Michigan Republican who thought the election out of all proportion to the confirmation question involved, called for a statement of foreign policy by President Roosevelt.

In a prepared address, Joseph P. Guifey, Pennsylvania Democrat, said the issue was human versus property rights. He asked if Roosevelt would support the United States' early intervention in the war, who were fighting the nominations.

These attacks prompted Senator Owen Brewster (Rep.-Me.) to accuse Senator Pepper and the voters who are seeking to defeat the nominations of attempting to "in the confusing exchange, witnessed by packed galleries, the Senate often seemed to lose sight of the real issue."

Senator Pepper and his opposition colleagues made it plain, however, that they intend to use delay as their chief weapon. They hope the Senate will get tired and quit, thus forcing recess appointments, suspension of names to the new Congress.

GERMANS ADVANCE

reported. The Germans also were hammering at the 9th's positions with big railway guns on an increased scale.

Once more some Belgian civilians, fearful of a major German breakthrough, were picking up and fleeing to the east. They just as they had done before the onslaught of Hitler's legions in 1940.

Far to the southwest four United States divisions edged forward into the German Palatinate's Siegfried line, extending from the Rhine westward. One tank division penetrated seven rows of the line's dragon teeth barriers north of Wissembourg.

The German-manned Maginot fortifications along the Rhine were crumbling under combined assault of infantry, engineers and artillerymen.

Parties went east on the United States 3rd Army front, infantry pushed to the eastern edge of the Siegfried fortified city of Dillingen, and punched out half-mile gains in the southern Saar.

On the 1st Army front, the German winter offensive had gouged out the greatest gains yet scored by the enemy since the Allies invaded Europe.

If the German counter-offensive succeeds even moderately, the end of the war will be delayed many months. A full-scale victory for Field Marshal Von Rundstedt would give the Germans time to prepare fresh blows that would drag the war throughout 1945.

The Germans led heavy concentrations of armor into key points. Front-line dispatches told bluntness of enormous numbers of tanks and armored vehicles supporting the infantry.

To one extent the German counter-offensive failed. It failed to force the 1st Army to let up pressure on the crucial Roer River front, gateway to the Rhineland.

Billy Conn In Rescue Feat

SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE, Dec. 18 (AP)—Cpl. Billy Conn and his troupe of boxers touring army bases in Britain, France and Italy, rescued an American fighter pilot from his burning plane in Italy, it was disclosed today. The plane crashed in a swamp. Conn and other boxers nearby, in a jeep fought through the flames and dragged out the unconscious pilot.

Famous Soldier Anxious For Action

LONDON, Dec. 18 (CP Cable)—Lucien Dumais Montreal man who led a famous Horseback Patrol in the Tunisian campaign and won the Military Medal at Dieppe, is back in England after leading an underground group in France for nearly a year. And he's willing to get into action again.

A veteran of 14 years with the Fusiliers, De Mont Royal, Dumais arrived in France in November, 1943, and for nine months was one of the many French-Canadian resistance fighters in the secret machine for sprouting Allied fighters out of German territory into Britain.

But when the invasion came the indomitable Dumais—his only five feet tall—decided to go in for serious slaughter of Germans.

33 More Jap Ships Sunk By U. S. Subs

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—American submarines have sunk 33 more Japanese ships, including a light cruiser, three destroyers and six escort vessels in their latest forays in the Pacific, the navy reported today.

The new tally brings the total of enemy ships of all types sunk by submarines since the start of the war to 907, with 94 of them destroyed.

The 21 cargo ships reported in today's announcement ranged from 1,000 tons to 10,000 tons, and small cargo vessels. The United States undersea boats now have sent down 13 enemy cruisers and 45 destroyers.

U. S. Agrees To Russian Demands Concerning Poland

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 (AP)—The United States today declared its agreement in principle to a partition of Poland, demanded by Russia and approved by Britain.

The United States agreement set forth in a statement by State Secretary Stettinius, was made conditional on agreement in principle by the United Nations directly concerned in the new Polish frontiers.

By these Nations, it was established in agreement in principle and the Soviet Union, which seeks the eastern third of Poland.

The State Secretary interlarded the statement with references to the war and that Poland could have United States assistance in transfers of population and rehabilitation of devastated areas.

As a substitute for an American guarantee of Poland's frontiers, the Poles were offered the general security envisaged under the United Nations organization.

Mr. Stettinius, in the statement, presumably issued with the approval of President Roosevelt, made clear that the United States was not forcing on the Poles acceptance of the Curzon Line, proposed by Russia as the eastern border of Poland's eastern border, with compensation of territory from East Prussia.

He expressed "full understanding and sympathy for the interests of the Polish people," an unequivocal stand for a "strong, free and independent Poland," untrammelled right of the Polish people "to determine their own future."

It has been the consistently held policy of the United States Government that questions relating to boundaries should be decided in absence until the termination of hostilities," Mr. Stettinius said.

Recalling the previous statement of the former State Secretary, Cordell Hull, that this policy did not rule out immediate agreement on some questions, Mr. Stettinius said:

"In the case of the future frontiers of Poland, if a mutual agreement is reached by the United Nations directly concerned, this Government would have no objection to such an agreement which would make an essential contribution to the prosecution of the war against the common enemy."

The statement continued: "The U. S. Government is working for the establishment of a world security organization through which the United States together with other member states would assume responsibility for the preservation of general security."

Some hope was held here that the indirect American assurance of security might be an acceptable substitute for specific guarantees the Polish Government had been demanding as a conditional acceptance of the Curzon Line.

Vatican Paper Sees Seeds Of New War

VATICAN CITY, Dec. 18 (AP)—L'Osservatore Romano, commenting today on Prime Minister Churchill's stand in support of Russia's frontier demands on Poland, said today "the example of Poland makes one think of Versailles, where the last war was going to be buried and a new one was planted."

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Editor Of Chicago Tribune To Wed

CHICAGO, Dec. 18 (AP)—Mrs. Maryland Mathison Hooper of Chicago and Col. Robert R. McCormick, editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune, will be married Thursday in the apartment of the publisher's cousin, Chauncey McCormick, and Mrs. McCormick.

Veteran Lawyer, Politician Dies At Toronto

TORONTO, Dec. 18 (CP)—Sir Alfred B. Morine, lawyer and one-time leader of the Government in the Legislative Council of Newfoundland, died at his home here. He was 87.

A native of Port Medway in Nova Scotia, Sir Alfred's career as a journalist, lawyer and politician was divided between Canada and Newfoundland.

He had been studying law and graduated as a Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University in 1892, was called to the Bar of Nova Scotia in 1894 and to the Bar of Ontario in 1906. Two years later he was made a King's Counsel in Ontario.

He had been elected to the Newfoundland Legislature in 1896, he was re-elected several times and held the portfolios of colonial secretary, receiver general, finance and fisheries, as well as attorney-general. He was twice defeated as a candidate for the House of Commons in Nova Scotia constituencies.

He devoted much of his active life between the two Dominions, much of his time in Canada spent in editing the Bar Notes, a law journal. He often served as Crown counsel at assize court criminal trials in Ontario.

He was knighted in 1928. "The Mining Law of Canada," published in 1929, was one of his best-known works. He was a member of the Royal Society, the Ontario Bar Association and the Ontario Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Prominent Baptist Clergyman Dies

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 18 (AP)—Rev. Walter L. Palfreman, 79, active in the Baptist Church for 50 years, died at his home here today after two years' illness. He was born in Nassau, South Africa, and moved to England as a child.

He was associated with the magazine "The Bits" and was later sent to New York as its representative. He came to Canada in 1934, attended McMaster University and was ordained at Barston, Que., in 1938. Among the churches he served were Lakeside, North Bay and Glamis. Surviving are his widow, a daughter, Mrs. Walter Burgess, Fanny Solms and son, Lelew Palfreman, Val D'Or, Que.

Coal Inquiry To Begin Jan. 16

LETHBRIDGE, ALTA., Dec. 18 (CP)—Canada's Royal Commission, appointed recently to investigate the Dominion's coal industry and its post-war prospects, will open its inquiry Jan. 16 at Sydney, N.S. It was announced today by Justice C.C. McLaurin of Calgary, member of the three-man commission.

Report Big Increase In Railway Expenses

WINNIPEG, Dec. 18 (CP)—R.C. Vaughan, chairman and president of the Canadian National Railways, in a statement today said railway expenses in Canada have increased at an enormous rate during the war.

The C.N.R. payroll will be \$40,000,000 more in 1944 than it would have been at 1939 rates and material and other costs even groups in 1944 than they would have cost at 1939 prices, he said.

Under increased competition from highway and air travel after the war and added "I believe Canadian railways have demonstrated the most dependable form of transportation in war as well as peace."

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