

SPORTS FRONT

Punch Imlach Had Better Do Better

By KEN MACPHAIL

A man very much on the spot this year is George "Punch" Imlach, coach and general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League.

But anyone who expected Imlach, who never played professional hockey, to mellow in his methods, was in for a rude awakening. The humiliation suffered at Rab hands simply made him drive his charges all the harder in training camp and exhibition games before the regular season swung into action.

The player that will come right out and say he likes Punch Imlach, is as rare as booze at a women's temperance meeting, and the best they can say, is that they respect him, or understand him, or get used to him.

Imlach has to be considered one of hockey's shrewdest traders. He nabbed Red Kelly, who was a once fabulous defenceman, and who seemed to be on the way down to the minors, inserted him at centre ice, and the redhead miraculously climbed out of the grave, and has been one of the Leafs' consistent stars ever since.

Imlach can't force a man to become an effective part of his club, he simply dumps him, whether he's a star or not. Andy Bathgate scored several crucial goals in the last Stanley Cup win in 1964, and the next year told reporters that Imlach was, in effect, a Simon Legree, and that he worked the players to the point of exhaustion.

Brewer was confused and miffed, due for one reason, in the fact that he thought Imlach wasn't treating him like the star he was, when he reported to camp for the '65-'66 season. He was putting sloppy passes right onto the sticks of the opposition, and Johnny Bower was feeling the brunt of his mistakes.

A little more diplomatic handling of the situation might have meant that the Leafs would be higher in the standings today, but George "Punch" Imlach, who was a drill sergeant in the army, is not known for his diplomacy.

THIS AND THAT

More odd behaviours by hockey coaches in the news. Flory Hill Watson, manager of the Quebec Aces, appeared on a television show prior to a game with the Rochester Americans, and suggested that the spectators come out to the game that night at the Coliseum and shower the visiting team with various and sundry articles.

SPORT ECHOES

Wishing You All Merry Christmas

By NORMAN MACDONALD

The Summerside Pope Motor Aces were an all-star team on Tuesday night and every star was twinkling as they played the Parkdale Royals at Civic Stadium. They had PAUL MACWILLIAMS from S.D.U., BILL DICKIE from the Halifax Juniors, FRED DIEBRIGES late of Germany, and a MacKay chap who played with a Nova Scotia team hand to Truro.

start doing a better job in these two categories when they tackle Moncton High School at 9 p.m. on December 27 in the Centennial Hockey Tournament being held at Civic Stadium.

Congratulations to MERE-DITH HARROLD and MRS. MORRISON (Charlie's wife) for their winning of the Island Doubles Badminton-Crown, which gives them a trip to the Winter Games in Quebec City in February. Both these ladies are instructresses in P.T. at Summerside High. While we're in the business of applause let's not forget DAWNA CHAMPION of S.H.S. who was picked as one of eighteen girls to play field hockey at Quebec City during the Winter Games.

And how about those Kensington girls who won the senior volleyball crown of P.E.I. Kensington's Intermediate girls were runners-up to Athena High. The ferns of Kensington made quite a name for themselves in track and field, and now they are dominating the volleyball scene.

Well, looks as if it's ladies' day in this column today. We conclude by wishing both sexes a very Merry Christmas.

Nance Looks For Brighter Future After Winning MVP

By DAVE O'HARA

BOSTON (AP)—Jim Nance, Boston Patriots' jarring full-back from Syracuse, reached a personal milestone Thursday by being named the American Football League's most valuable player by The Associated Press.

"I think I fulfilled my desires—for this year," Nance said. "My goal was to be the best back in the league and being named the most valuable player is quite a thrill."

Winter Games Curling Play

Last night at the Charlotte-Curling Club, eight teams were drawn to playoff beginning December 27 to decide the Prince Edward Island Curling team to play at the Canadian Winter Games in Quebec City after the new year. There were two entries each from the Charlotte-Curling Club, Belvedere, Summerside, and Souris.

The play to decide the Island representative will be a double knockout schedule under the Dominion Curling Association Rules.

Following is the draw: 2:30 P.M. Ice 1: Belvedere 2 vs. Dr. Wen MacDonald.

Ice 2: Souris 1, vs. Bert Hunter, Summerside.

Ice 3: Bill Beer vs. Ron MacDonald, Summerside.

Ice 4: John Squarbriggs vs. Souris 2.

Ice 1: MacDonald, Summerside vs. Squarbriggs, Charlotte.

Ice 2: Souris 2 vs. Beer, Belvedere.

Ice 3: Wes MacDonald, Charlotte vs. Souris 1.

Ice 4: Hunter, Summerside vs. Belvedere 2.

Nance Looks For Brighter Future After Winning MVP

He also showed surprising speed after breaking into the clear. "I ran 65 yards for a touch-down against Buffalo, but I think my 57-yard scoring run against Houston was better," Nance said.

"In that game against the Oilers, I found myself actually outrunning defensive backs. It made me feel pretty good."

"What does a most valuable player do for an encore?" "I want to get better," Nance said. "I'm thinking about next year already. I intend to lose more weight and report at 225 or 227. By getting down finer I think I should be quicker."

Nance easily broke the AFL ground-gaining record by piling up 1,458 yards on 299 carries, also a league high. Only Jimmy Brown and Jim Taylor, both in the National League, have gained more yardage in a single season.

Nance got off to a slow start as a rookie in 1965, ballooning to about 260 pounds before coach Mike Holovac cracked the whip.

He reported to training camp last July trimmed down and immediately became the Patriots' workhorse. Playing at 235-237 pounds—because of a strict diet—the former NCAA wrestling champion punished opposing

linemen. He also showed surprising speed after breaking into the clear.

He received 20 first-place votes for his record-shattering rushing feats. Kansas City quarterback Len Dawson, who guided the Chiefs to the Western Division title, received six votes, while the other went to Boston linebacker Nick Buoniconti.

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Sum-Hi Takes 6-5 Win

SUMMERSIDE — Summerside High School nipped Provincial Vocational Institute of Charlottetown, 6-5, here yesterday in an exhibition high school hockey game.

The Sum-Hi team hosts a Centennial Hockey Tourney here Tuesday and Wednesday. Other teams entered are Colonel Gray of Charlottetown, Moncton High, and Prince County Vocational.

In yesterday's win, Danny MacNeill and Chick MacNally each scored a pair of goals. Other Sum-Hi goal-getters were Grant Summers and Eugene Berard.

For P.V.I., Paul Gallant scored a brace, while six goalless were garnered by Paul Stanley, Barry Harris, and Gary McCarron.

Summerside was ahead, 2-0, in the first period, and held a 4-2 lead after the middle session. PVI had a 5-2 margin in the finale, and made a last ditch effort to tie the game by pulling their goalie with just over a minute left in the game.

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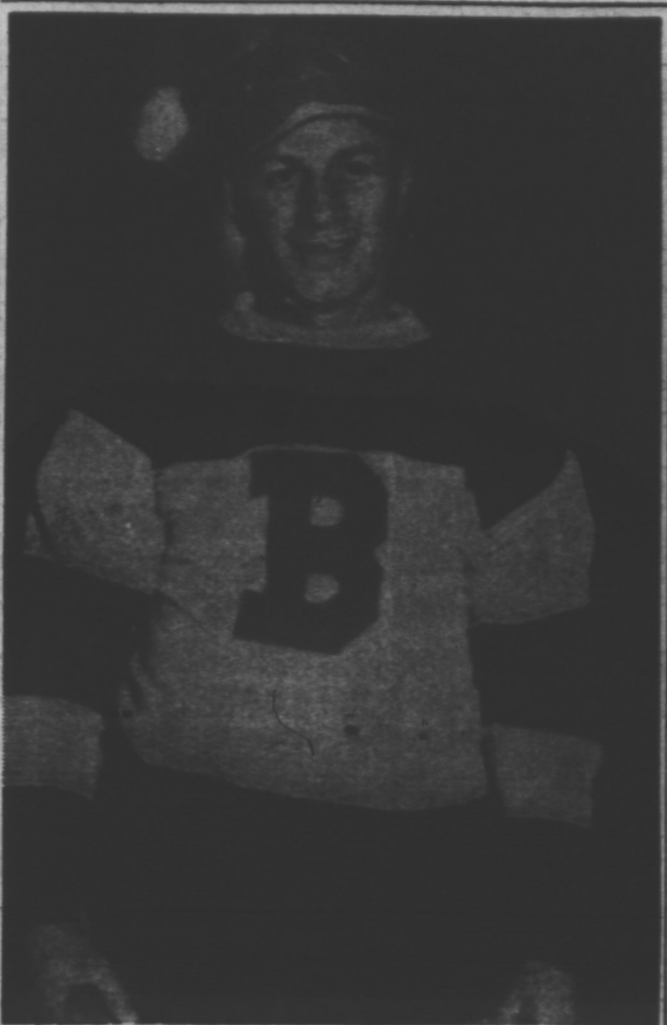
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HE HAS HIS TROUBLES

Eddie Shore, former hockey player with the Boston Bruins and presently manager of the team, with which he is having his difficulties. (CP Wirephoto)

Royals Defeat Borden Nationals

On the two goal performances of Stan Pearson, Gordie Whitlock, and Alfie Flanagan, the Charlottetown Royals managed to eke out a narrow 3-2 victory over the Borden Legion Nationals at the Forum last night.

The Royals' winning goal came at 18:04 of the third period on a close in goal by Darrel Doyle. The guarantee came just over a minute later when the Royals' McGonnell potted one from just outside the blue line.

Until the closing minutes, it was a back and forth game, with the Nationals' Jamie Kennedy dominating the play with an outstanding four-goal performance.

The Royals opened the scoring, with two goals in the first period by Pearson and Whitlock. Kennedy answered for the Nationals and closed off the period scoring at 14:15.

The Royals came out of each leading. In the second, Flanagan scored twice and Pearson,

Whitlock and Carroll added singles to give the Charlottetown Club the edge. Again the lone Borden scorer was Kennedy with two.

Cutcliffe, Kennedy, MacWilliams and Roberts scored one after the other in the third period in what looked like a Borden come-back. They tied the score but a dying minute effort by the Royals resulted in the two quick goals by Doyle and McGonnell, guaranteeing the game.

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Cuban Gomez Wants Canadian Papers

TORONTO (CP) — Avelino Gomez is home with his family for a few things: the North American riding championship and his Canadian citizenship.

"I've applied for Canadian citizenship and I'm waiting for them to call me," said the Cuban-born jockey on his return from Mexico City where he rode his 318th thoroughbred winner this week.

Gomez, 30, must wait until the end of the year before knowing if he has won the title, but he's in a good position. His closest rival, with 286 winners, is Brazilian Borna of Panama who went on vacation Dec. 10 at New York's Aqueduct track and does not expect to resume riding here next Monday.

Another threat is Jorge Velasquez, another Panamanian, who resumed riding Thursday after a five-day suspension at Tropical Park in Miami leading 30 victories to catch Gomez. He had also racing days to go.

Gomez, who can't ride in the United States because of draft trouble that arose several years ago during the Korean war, did not know when he would hear if he has been accepted as a citizen of Canada.

Gomez, a strong family man, did not relish the idea of missing Christmas with his wife and three children and decided to come home from Mexico early.

Gomez rode 305 winners at tracks in Ontario and Quebec, becoming the first rider in Canada to surpass the 300 level, before the season ended Nov. 26. He then went to Mexico City to keep alive his chances for the North American crown.

He doesn't think Velasquez can catch him. "I don't think he can do that as I come home early," he said. "But a week ago I think I miss Christmas at home because my wife give me big scare. She said on telephone that some boy riding like crazy in Miami and had 297 winners over the season I find out a few days later she got wrong information somewhere."

Gomez said he would have returned to Toronto sooner but his wife made him stick it out in Mexico.

Gomez, riding even though he had a cold, didn't think much of the horses in Mexico.



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Minor Hockey Schedule

The following is the Charlotte-Minor Hockey League schedule of play for the remainder of this week and up to and including Saturday, December 31st. Please note the change in regular play on Saturday, that because of Christmas activities, will be played next week.

PEE WEE Saturday, Dec. 24th: 7 a.m.— Pee Wee All Stars vs Bantam Bisons; 7:45 — Elks vs Coyotes; 8:30 a.m. — Lions vs Bisons; 9:15 a.m. — Caribou vs Rams; 10 a.m. — Ice cleaning; 10:15 a.m. — Otters vs Racoons; 11:00 a.m. — Springs vs Foxes; 11:45 a.m. — Zebras vs Seals.

Wednesday, Dec. 28th: 6:25 to 7:15 p.m. — Summerside Pee Wees vs Charlotte Pee Wees.

MIDGET-JUVENILE Monday, Dec. 26th: 8 a.m. — Canadians vs Black Hawks; 9:00 a.m. Bruins vs Blazers.

Tuesday, Dec. 27th: 7:30 a.m. Royals vs Red Wings; 5:30 p.m. Midget Canadiens practice.

Wednesday, Dec. 28th: 12 to 1 p.m. Canadians vs Black Hawks.

Thursday, Dec. 29th: 10 a.m. — Bruins vs Maple Leafs; 11:00 a.m. Royals vs Rangers; 1 to 3 p.m. Charlotte-Minor Midgets vs Summerside Midgets.

Saturday, Dec. 31st: 12:30 p.m. Red Wings vs Blazers.

PAPERWEIGHTS Wednesday, December 28th: 9 to 10 a.m. Ice 1 — Hawks vs Ravens; Ice 2 — Crows vs Eagles; 10 to 11 a.m. — Ice 1 — Gulls vs Owls; Ice 2 — Jays vs Falcons; 5 to 6 p.m. — Summerside Paperweights vs Charlotte-Minor Paperweights.

Friday, Dec. 30th: 8 to 9 a.m. — Ice 1 — Crows vs Ravens; Ice 2 — Hawks vs Falcons; 9 to 10 a.m. — Ice 1 — Owls vs Jays; Ice 2 — Gulls vs Eagles; 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. — Skate for Paperweights and Mosquitoes.

MOSQUITO Wednesday, Dec. 28th: 11 to 12 a.m. — Ice 1 — Redbirds vs Yellowbirds; Ice 2 — Bluebirds vs Blackbirds.

Friday, Dec. 30th: 10 to 10:45 a.m. — Ice 1 — Redbirds vs Blackbirds; Ice 2 — Yellowbirds vs Bluebirds.

BANTAM Monday, Dec. 26th: 4:30 p.m. — Hornets vs Bisons; 5:30 p.m. — Blades vs Indians; 6:30 p.m. — Clippers vs Mohawks.

Tuesday, Dec. 27th: 8:30 to 11 a.m. Practice for Bantam All Stars. Note: See tonight's Patriot for Bantam All Star lineup. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. — Comets vs Aces.

Wednesday, Dec. 28th: 7:45 to 8:45 p.m. Summerside Bantams vs Charlottetown Bantams.

Thursday, Dec. 29th