SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

Playoffs Underway

MONTREAL Canadiens and Toronto Maple Leafs will be trying their mightiest to grab 2-0 leads in their best-of-seven semi-final sets with Chicago Black Hawks and New York Rangers tonight.

Both the Habs and Leafs managed to squeeze out close verdicts in the openers Tuesday night at Montreal and Toronto. It's the same stage for tonight's shows and both Canadiens and Leafs are hoping the outcome will not be different.

Although victors in the first games, the Montrealers and the Imlachmen have memories of what happened one year ago. Canucks and Leafs took their opening games on that occasion but it's what happened after that game which scares Tuesday night's victors.

Canadiens won easily from Hawks in last year's opener and Leafs managed an overtime victory over Detroit Red Wings. However, Canadiens were able to win only one of the next five games and Leafs lost four straight to the surprising Detroiters after that opening decision.

OF course Rudy Pilous and Doug Harvey will keep reminding their players of those events of a year ago. Toe Blake and Punch Imlach need not tell their clubs about the happenings because they can't just get those memories out of their minds.

However both Imlach and Blake know a quick cure for such thinking. It is to go out and win tonight's hockey games and destroy any similar pattern of last spring's action.

Canadiens and Leafs feel that a split in these first two home games isn't good enough. They insist they should be able to garner decisions on their home ice and go into Chicago and New York sporting comfortable 2-0 cushions.

Tonight's Action

IT'S true that neither Canadiens nor Leafs had anything about which to crow on Tuesday night. Hawks and Rangers extended them to the wire and the games were in doubt until the final minute. Leafs' margin of two was made possible by the removal of Gump Worsley in favor of an additional attacker in the final minute.

However it's our guess that both Canadiens and Leafs will go a repeat tonight and send the visitors back home still minus a playoff decision. From what we saw of Canadiens-Hawks tussle on Tuesday, the Blakemen were better than one goal. Apparently earlier in the contest they tried to play Chicago at a burning game and it almost cost them.

But Canadiens looked mighty sharp in that third session and their supporters are expecting them to be just as sharp tonight. If they are, then Rudy Pilous will be talking to himself as the teams head toward Chicago.

This is the game the Canadiens want in the worst way and these Habs have a nasty habit of getting what they want.

Great Goal Tending

THE goaltending was terrific in that Montreal opener as Plante and Hall excelled themselves before the packed Forum audience.

Of course, on their play throughout the season this was to be expected and we look for both goalies to keep up the great work right through the series. Plante made 36 saves to Hall's 34, making their work just about even for the night. The Montreal goalie gave his greatest display in the first stanza when he handled 17 drives without a single mistake.

We hear plenty of folks who 'cry down' Plante. However, we certainly don't think you have to be a Montreal supporter to appreciate his talents. This season he has been a real leader and he didn't change one bit in the first game of the playoffs.

WE listened to the Toronto-New York game and it was a rather exciting tilt. The writeups claim it was loosely played but you would never know it from listening to that New York announcer. Rangers worried the Leafs especially in the third period but Bower came through with one of his greatest shows.

What will happen tonight on both fronts? We like the Canadiens and Leafs once again.

What about you?

AT PARET'S BEDSIDE

His wife, Lucy, and His manager, Manuel Alvaro, keep vigil at bedside of unconscious boxer Benny (Kid) Paret at New York's Roosevelt Hospital. The 25-year-old Cuban fighter is in critical condition as result of injuries received in bout with Emile Griffith in which he lost his welterweight title. He underwent brain surgery shortly after being battered unconscious. A tracheotomy was also performed to aid his breathing.

WARNS TOE BLAKE

Habs Must Tighten Up To Get By Black Hawks

By LAURENT CHIASSON

MONTREAL (CP) — Coach Toe Blake warned his Montreal Canadiens Wednesday they'll have to tighten up if they hope to get by Chicago Black Hawks in the Stanley Cup semi-finals.

"It's going to be a tough series and I think we can win it," said Blake after sending the Canadiens through a light workout.

But he was displeased with a defensive letdown in the third period of the best-of-seven series' opener here Tuesday night which Canadiens won 2-1.

"The fellows just relaxed after he got a 2-0 lead," said Blake. "The Hawks are too good a team for us to make mistakes and expect to beat them."

Chicago's only goal, scored while the Canadiens held a one-man advantage with less than two minutes to go, was Blake's chief point for criticism.

"Our fellows started to dance around with the puck instead of rushing it and sure enough, we were scored on."

The Canadiens practised for about one hour. The Hawks meanwhile, scheduled an optional workout and seven players turned out for a skating session.

SWITCH TO CHICAGO

The second game of the round will be played here tonight, starting at 9:30 AST. The scene then shifts to Chicago for the third and fourth games April 1 and April 3.

If further games are necessary, they'll be played at Montreal April 5, Chicago April 8 and Montreal April 10.

The Hawks had some regrets, but no beefs as a result of the first game setback.

"We didn't capitalize on our chances when we had a man advantage four times in the first period," said Hawk coach Rudy Pilous.

"But this series is far from being over. Remember, we lost the first game last spring and we came back to win. We can do it again."

One of the surprises of the opening game was Chicago's lack of hitting.

The Canadians did most of the hitting in the first game, but Pilous didn't seem to be worried.

"They'll never outbump us and a longer series will aid us too," said Pilous.

Goalie Jacques Plante and defenceman Lou Fontinato did not participate in the Canadians' workout.

Plante asked for the day off after a 36-stop performance in the opening game and Blake said 'the rest won't do him any harm."

HAS GROIN INJURY

Fontinato is hampered by a recurring groin injury.

The husky rearguard started the first game despite the injury and took a regular turn until midway through the third period.

"The pain was getting almost unbearable and he asked to be taken off the ice," said Blake.

On the Hawks' side, Elmer Vasko, Murray Balfour, Bronco Horvath, Reg Fleming, Jerry Melnyk, Bob Turner and Merv Kuryluk showed up for a skating session.

Kuryluk, a 24-year old left winger, was brought up Tuesday from Sault Ste. Marie of the Eastern Professional Hockey League as a replacement for injured Ron Murphy. He dressed for the first game, but wasn't used.

Pirates Capture City Hoop Crown

Pirates captured the City Basketball League title last night at Saint Dunstan's gym when they defeated Junior Varsity Saints 70-53 in the second game of a best of three final series.

The champs were given a tough time in the first half and were leading by only three points at halftime with the score reading 29-26 int heir favor. The opening session had been tight ball but the teams opened up in the final half and as a result the Ross-coached Pirates outscored the collegiants 50-24.

Dave Hyndman spearheaded the Pirate attack with 23 points. Pete McGonnell racked up 17 and Wendell MacLean were right behind with 16 and 15 points respectively.

LEAD SAINTS

Mike Wong and Pete Grant were the big guns for the Saints. The two players, in defensive positions, racked up 16 and 15 points respectively and most of these baskets came on long shots. Teammate Pat Smith came with 11.

Referees for the game were Ed Hilton and Scott Stewart. Here are the lineups:—

Pirates:—P. McGonnell 17, D. Hyndman 23, W. MacLean 16, J. Gratian 4, W. MacDonald 15, R. McGonnell 4, L. Baglole. Total 79.

Saints:—P. Smith 11, P. Grant 16, M. Wong 15, J. Hogan 8, H. Callaghan, P. Mullilally 2, B. Pelrine, J. Chinery, J. Maddock 1. Total 53.

Winsloe Downs Stanhope 3-1

Winsloe defeated Stanhope 3-1 last night at North River Rink in the first game of a best of three final series for the North River School Hockey League trophy and the MacKinnon trophy, emblematic of same.

Hampshire Tops Kingston 16-8

Hampshire Aces walloped Kingston All-Stars 16-8 in an exhibition hockey game at North River rink last night.

Vern White was top scorer for Hampshire with six markers. Other goals were by B. Wilson 3, A. MacDonald 2, G. Larter 2, D. Godfrey 2, and B. Smith.

Kingston snipers were H. Smith 3, B. Newson 3, Green 2, Doherty.

Ball Rink Is Winner

The Nelson Ball foursome won the Old Spain competition for first and second year curlers last night at the Charlottetown Curling Club when they defeated the Bus Jones rink 10-6.

The prizes were presented by Myron Bell.

Members of the winning rink are Nelson Ball, skip; Charlie Micheal, mate; Rod MacKenzie, second; Doug Reid, lead.

Runners-up rink members are Bus Jones, skip; Allison Gill, mate; Alex Wilson, second; Gerald Dunbar, lead.

Curling Draw For Montague

Here is the Montague curling schedule for today (Tuesday).

7 P.M.

Ice 1—Leon Johnston, E. Cudmore, E. F. MacDonald, H. Campbell vs E. Shaw, E. MacLure, Bill Brehaut, D. O'Connor.

Ice 2—A.W. Jones, Sandy MacDonald, R. Ferguson, E. White vs K. MacKenzie, E. Clay J. Whalen, P. Warner.

9 P.M.

Ice— A.C. Robertson, G. Kennedy, E. Poole, D. Jones vs D. McGowan, D. Nicholson, G. Warner, B. Mabon.

West Royalty Takes Opener

West Royalty Bombers downed Southport 5-3 last night at Saint Dunstan's rink in the first game of a two-game total goal series for the Sunny Isle League championship.

Wendell Cannon paced the winners with three goals while singles were scored by Len Kelly and Gerry Melanson.

Southport scorers were Smallwood 2 and Rice.

The next game in this series will be next Wednesday night at S.D.U.

Big Cove Squares Hockey Series

SUMMERSIDE — After 11 minutes of sudden-death overtime, which followed a regular 10 minute overtime session, Albert Levi of Big Cove, New Brunswick scored the winning goal and tied up the series with Lennox Island for the Indian hockey championship of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. The final score 2-1.

The third game will be played at Civic Stadium tonight and will begin at 7.15 p.m.

SUMMARY

First Period: No score. Penalties—Chas. Sark and Pete Sock.

Second Period: No score. No penalties.

Third Period: 1.—Big Cove, John Augustine (Vincent Joseph, Albert Levi) 1:14; 2.—Lennox Island, Ray Lewis (Fred Scully) 15:14. Penalties — C. Sark, R. Labobe, P. Sock.

First Overtime: No score. No penalties.

Sudden Death Overtime: 3.—Big Cove, Albert Levi 11:45. Penalties — Vincent Joseph.

Referees — Joe Bernard and Benny Grady.

SPORT ECHOES

By Norman Macdonald
Summerside Bureau of The Guardian

O'Leary Maroons Worthy Successors

After seeing the Hampshire Bulldogs in action against the O'Leary Maroons, we can't understand how Parkdale Intermediates trimmed the O'Leary team in that Physical Fitness series. The Bulldogs must have turned in their season's worst game, for certainly they didn't appear to belong in the same division as the hard-skating, hard-checking, hell-for-leather Maroons.

We understand Parkdale and O'Leary played their home and home series in two natural ice rinks, O'Leary and Murray Harbour. This may provide the key to the riddle. O'Leary's skating and passing would be hobbled quite a bit in smaller rinks with natural ice, especially at this time of year. We think the O'Leary boys are worthy successors of the Cape Traverse Rovers, (who blossomed into the Evirudes two years ago), and we wish the Maroons success against New Brunswick's Dalhousie.

Hope River, Seabrooks Tied

Hope River and Seabrooks of Kensington are now tied at two each in their final series for the championship of the Farmers' League. Hope River had taken a game lead, but were cut down to size by the Seabrook sextet Tuesday evening.

Hope River which finished at the bottom of the playoff quartet in the regular schedule have proved themselves veritable prize packages in the play-offs. But they are now up against a tough team in the Seabrooks who have some aggressive hockey players, a sensational young goaler in Edwin Johnston, and they have the advantage of having the managerial magic of "Punch" Murphy to help them along. It will be a tough row to hoe, Hope River.

Another Puzzle

Another puzzle, folks, and we think this is a harder one. In paying tribute to the Summerside Pee-Wees, Prince Edward Island champions, we penned a rollicking old song, which was very popular a good many years ago. Our parody is doubtless a bit rougher than the original in spots, but it does have the same rhythm and rhyme scheme. A box of chocolates to the lucky guesser of the tune. If more than one correct guess come in before Monday, we'll have to put them in a hat and pick one. Address Box 777, Summerside. There's a band of Pee-Wee players,
They can beat all the rest,
Defeated the best,
They showed their fancy wares
In the play-offs held this year.
They took the Natick boys into camp, the score was 9-2.
And then they trounced the Slemon Park kids and moped up Charlottetown too.
They are small, but, gee,
they're mighty.
When the ice they all hit,
They go lickety split,
Sure, that blinkin' light is bound to glow;
Just watch those boys score,
They set the rubber more and more,
Three cheers for Summerside's great Pee-Wees

REPLACED BY STEWART IN OPENER

Punch Imlach Worried By Shack's Performance

By BILL MacDOUGALL

TORONTO (CP) — Right-winger Eddie Shack tonight gets rid of the bench splinters he acquired in the first game of the Stanley Cup semi-final.

The peculiar-skating winger, a great fan-pleaser in Toronto all season, was replaced after the first period of Tuesday night's game by Ron Stewart as Toronto beat New York Rangers — Shack's former teammates — 4-2 in the opener of the best-of-seven series.

It was the first time this season the Leafs benched Shack and Toronto coach Punch Imlach indicated Wednesday he is worried about his recent performance.

"When Shack's at his peak, you can stop him but it's tough," Imlach said. "When he's got the puck there's hardly a better player around.

"But he's lost something, and I don't know why."

Imlach conceded that injuries probably have played a part in slowing down the 190-pound six-footer, who had two six-week layoffs during the National Hockey League season because of injuries to his left knee.

START SAME WAY

Also, said Imlach, it "may have something to do with his confidence."

"But I'm going to start the same way I did Tuesday night."

This season Shack scored seven goals and had 14 assists. He started Tuesday night on a line with centre Red Kelly and left winger Frank Mahovlich. He had hardly worked up a full head of steam before Imlach sentenced him to the bench.

Shack and five other Leafs—Stewart, centre Billy Harris, defenceman Larry Hillman and goaltender Don Simmons, all spares except Stewart who plays mainly as a penalty - killer—participated in a full - length practice Wednesday. The rest of the club had a brief skating session.

The Rangers also held a small - scale practice with six men including their spare goaltender. The regulars on hand were defencemen Irv Spencer and Larry Cahan and left wingers Hannigan, Jean Guy Gendron and Vic Hadfield. Playing coach Doug Harvey watched from the seats.

EXALTED LAND

The "lowlands" of Basutoland in southern Africa stand between 6,000 and 7,000 feet above sea level with mountain country higher.

IN 86-MINUTE MARATHON

Ottawa Grabs Opener; Shades Kingfishers 2-1

By WALTED HAYES

HALIFAX (CP) — Defenceman Mike Blum fired a shoulder-high shot into the corner of the net Wednesday night to give Ottawa Montagnards a 6-5 overtime victory over Halifax Kingfishers and a 1-0 lead in their best - of - five Eastern Canada Memorial Cup quarter-finals.

Blum's shot ended a game that lasted more than 80 minutes and climaxed one of the most gruelling hockey shows seen here in recent years. Second game will be played here tonight.

The game was fast and bone-crushing from start to finish, punctuated by several fights and 3,500 fans—biggest crowd of the season at Halifax Forum—shouted their approval throughout.

Neither team held a commanding lead at any point. The loss was a heartbreaker for Kingfishers, who battled back four times to tie the score and held off a determined Ottawa drive in the first overtime period while two Halifax players were in the penalty box.

The first goal was scored by Carol Guenette with Halifax defenceman Dennis Gates in the penalty box to put Ottawa ahead 1-0 going into the second period.

GETS EARLY GOAL

Halifax moved to the attack at the start of the second with Don Bauld potting one at the 28-second mark. Ray Cadieux put Montagnards ahead again five minutes later with a 50-footer. Halifax's Keith Blenkhorn evened the count. Mike Fitzpatrick moved in from the blue line and with a blazing shot that caught the corner of the net to move Ottawa out in front. Two quick goals by Oscar Gaudet and Dave Boyd ended the period 4-3 for Halifax.

Play in the third period slowed with only one goal off the stick of Ottawa's Allan Stitt at 5:42.

SUMMARY

First period: 1. Ottawa, Guenette (Gagne) 14:08. Penalties: Gallant 5:25, 11:34, Gates 13:32, Guenette 17:25.

Second period: 2. Halifax, Bauld (Gaudet, Croucher) :28; 3. Ottawa, Cadieux (Stitt, Fitzpatrick 5:25; 4. Halifax, Blenkhorn (Boyd, Gaudet) 10:54; 5. Ottawa, Fitzpatrick (Finerty, Aldrich) 15:02; 6. Halifax, Gaudet (Gallant) 16:42. 7. Halifax, Boyd (Blenkhorn, Roach) 18:40. Penalties—Finerty 1:13, Blenkhorn (major) 4:18, Finerty and Gates 7:42, Gagne 16:00, McNeil 18:52, Bradley 20:00.

Third period: 8. Ottawa, Stitt 5:42. Penalties—Croucher and Blum 9:30, Gallant 15:31.

First overtime period: 9. Ottawa, Stitt (Cadieux) 1:30; 10. Halifax, Bauld 8:23. Penalties—Croucher (major), Dean (major and misconduct), Blum (major and misconduct) 6:21.

Sudden - death overtime: 11. Ottawa, Blum (Stitt) 17:01. Penalties—Lebel 1:41, Gallant 10:33.

Saves					
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Matthews	7	8	13	6	6—40

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