

SPORTS FRONT

By FUS CALLAGHAN

WE HAVE BEEN GOING to rinks around Charlottetown for a long time—a lot longer than we care to think about. During that long period we have seen just about every type of hockey game, great ones, fair ones and horrible ones.

We have seen great performances by individual players, performances that drew the plaudits of the folks in attendance. These outstanding shows were given by players in every position and many of them have really been terrific.

However, we saw a display Tuesday night at the Sports Arena that was as good as anything we had ever witnessed here. It was provided by Perfection Penguins' netminder Thane Doyle in that Island Senior Hockey League game between Summerside's P.E.L. Aces and Lorne Hennessey's boys. The Perfectionists won it by a 5-1 score but this was one time the score certainly did not tell any true story about the game. The visiting Aces could easily have won the battle by three or four goals but they didn't because this Mr. Doyle was performing at his very best.

TIME AFTER TIME, the Hoganites were in on top of Thane and appeared to have him beaten but Doyle boarded up the cage. The only disc that got by was a screened one and Doyle never saw it until it was too late. Especially in the first and third periods did the Penguins' goalie treat the fans to some spectacular goaltending. Thane was in high gear all night but it was in these two periods that he soared to his greatest heights.

WE WERE NOT ALONE in the thought that Doyle had given an exceptional performance. Penguins players, members of the Aces team, Parkdale players who were in attendance as well as veteran fans all had the same word—really great job of goaltending.

The goalies have really been worked in this league to date and their goals-against average isn't too impressive. However, teams have been playing the type of hockey that has left the netminders all by their lonesome on many occasions. It has been the type of hockey that has been pleasing to fans but it has given the custodians of the twines a great many anxious moments. Considering the excessive work thrown their way, the goalies have measured up in great style. There have been the usual amount of soft ones get-by, but these always occur in the best of leagues.

AND SO WE are glad to salute all the goaltenders. Their job and very often they are called upon to do chores that should never land on their doorstep. Poor clearing, lack of backchecking and the like add more work to the goalie's job. It's a big enough assignment at anytime but if the boys out in front of you fall down on their jobs, the task becomes that much bigger.

All the boys between the pipes treated Island Hockey League fans to good exhibitions of goaltending but we know that no one will dare disagree with our statement that Thane Doyle's show of Tuesday night was by far the greatest.

We expect to see good goaltending all through the season but we don't for a minute expect to see any display to equal Thane's performance. We'll be happy if some other netminder makes us eat those words but we feel very safe that this won't occur. You don't see exhibitions like Tuesday's very often and we have the idea it will be quite a time before we see another to equal it. So hats off to Thane Doyle for a big league performance.

DESPITE THE RUSH that always accompanies the Christmas season, crowds have been surprisingly good at Island Hockey League games. The Aces' home contests have failed to attract what you would expect but the Sports Arena patrons are there in greater numbers than a year ago. Of course nobody is getting rich fast but at least the numbers of persons attending are encouraging and they give promise of much greater things once the holiday season is at an end.

The brand of hockey the teams are serving up is surely deserving of the full support of the public. We venture to say that nowhere in the Maritimes are hockey fans getting as thrilling entertainment as they are in this league here.

Boss man Ivan Doherty is happy about the entire situation, and he has every reason to be. We must admit we had our misgivings about the success of the league when it was in the planning stage but those kind of thoughts have long since been dispelled from our minds.

SACKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL team has ambitious hockey plans for the coming season.

Island folks will be interested in their performances because Marcelus MacGuigan of Charlottetown is coaching the squad. Marcelus is a member of the Saint Dunstan's 1958 graduating class and played hockey with the Valley team. He is now a member of the Sackville High School teaching staff.

Reports out of Sackville indicate that the standard of hockey has improved to such an extent that two members of last year's senior team failed to make the team this season.

Coach-MacGuigan is working hard with his squad and hopes to get in several games with school teams from neighboring towns.

Islanders will be watching how these lads fare out under their Island pilot.

CASEY STENGEL thinks the Giants made a really great move when they acquired Billy O'Dell from the Baltimore Orioles. Old Casey has high praise for the moundsman and we have the feeling that Casey is delighted he won't have to face him in 1960 unless it's in the world series.

Says Stengel, "Getting O'Dell from Baltimore could mean the pennant for the San Francisco Giants. Billy is a helluva pitcher. He's a lefty with excellent control and for a power hitting club like the Giants could very easily win 20 games. And the rumor that he has arm trouble is a lot of apple strudel. He shut out my Yankees the final week of the season."

And Mr. Stengel is a shrewd gentleman.

Royals, Penguins Clashing Tonight

The Island Senior Hockey League lead is up grabs tonight when Sandy Frizzell's Parkdale Royals and Lorne Hennessey's Perfection Penguins tangle at the Sports Arena.

Right now the Penguins are in first place, .042 percentage points ahead of the Parkdale boys. The Birds have six wins in nine starts for a .667 mark compared with the .642 percentage of the Frizzellmen. Sandy's boys played 8 games, won 4, tied 2 and lost 2.

There is terrific rivalry between these two outfits. Sports Arena patrons are certain of bang-up entertainment each and every time these squads clash. With the top rung of the ladder going to tonight's victor, you can be sure this will be one of the schedule's greatest battles.

Coaches Angle Carroll and Lorne Hennessey will ice their strongest lineups in an effort to pull this one out. Players on both teams are openly predicting victory for their club and they'll give it everything they have to make those predictions come true tonight.

League officials predict the

HOCKEY TONIGHT

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PENGUINS vs. ROYALS

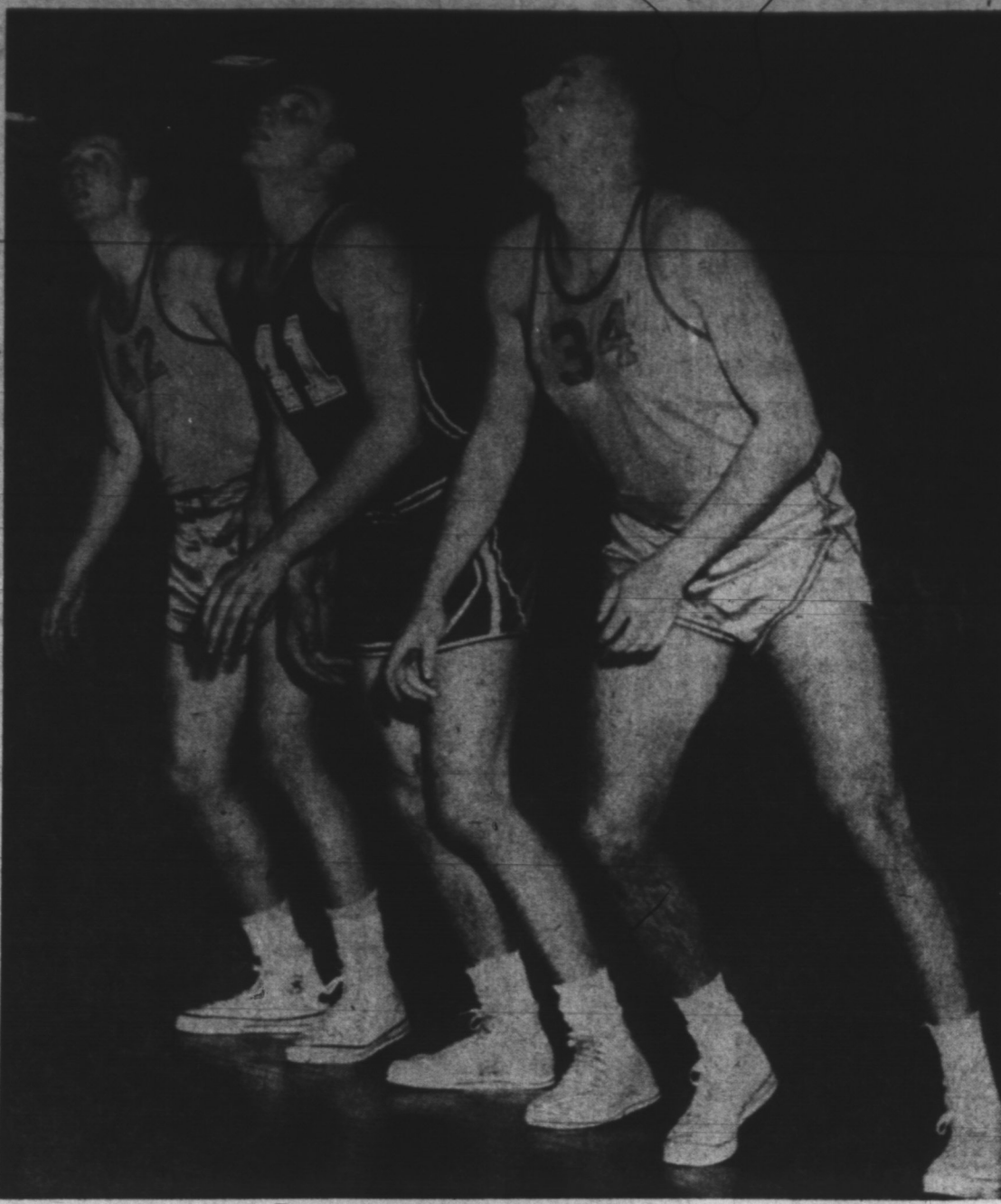
Game time 8:30

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The hypnotic object of these gaping stares is a basketball being thrown during an Edmonton game between University of

Alberta Golden Bears and University of Montana Northern lights. Left to right are Alberta's Jack Hicken Neil John-

son of Montana, and Dave Thomson of Bears. The Bears won 61-53.

Johnny Wilson Astounded At Being Top Shot In NHL

TORONTO (CP)—Johnny Wilson, Toronto Maple Leafs utility left winger and penalty killer, was astounded to learn he owns the most accurate shot in the National Hockey League.

"That's a shocker," said Wilson when informed by a reporter Tuesday that NHL records put him ahead of such sharpshooters as Detroit's Gordie Howe and Maurice Richard of Montreal Canadiens.

"I always thought I had one of the poorest shots in the league," NHL figures, complete for the first third of the season, show Wilson scores one goal for every 2.33 shots he takes on the net. He needed only 30 tries to sink his first nine goals.

Abbies, Vics Battle To Tie

Juvenile Abbies and Vics battled to a 4-all draw yesterday at the Sports Arena. Snipers for the Abbies were J. Malone (2), S. Dowling and M. Doyle. Alan Dover scored twice for the Vics. F. Dow and S. Doiron each scored once.

Tigers Reject Bid For Kaline

DETROIT (AP)—Detroit Tigers disclosed Wednesday they turned down a recent offer for Al Kaline this would have brought them three regulars reported to be worth \$500,000 from Pittsburgh Pirates.

"But that was as far as the Pirates got," said Detroit general manager Ick Ferrell. "We gave it no consideration." Ferrell said the Pittsburgh offer for the Tigers' centre fielder was made at last week's major league meetings in Miami.

biggest turnout of the season for this encounter which gets away promptly at 8:30.

Members of the Mount Stewart Canadian Legion and their wives are guests of the executive and the Sports Arena management at tonight's tussle.

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TOP OFFENSIVE, DEFENSIVE TEAMS

Grid Battle Pits Colts Against Rugged Giants

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A look at the final National Football League statistics released Wednesday indicates the championship battle Dec. 27 pits a potent offensive Baltimore club against a rugged New York defence.

For the second year in-a-row the defending champion Colts, western conference title winners, captured first place in total offence with 4,458 yards and in scoring with 374 points.

Thanks to the passing of quar-

terback Johnny Unitas and the receiving of Ray Berry, Lenny Moore, Jim Mutscheller and company, the Colts supplanted Pittsburgh for top honors in total yardage gained passing with 2,753 yards.

The Giants, with big Sam Huff holding up the middle of the line, showed they were the best defensive team against rushing for

the second straight year. They allowed 12 opponents a total of 1,261 yards, an average of 3.3 yards on each of 379 carries. New York also was first in total defence, giving up 1,329 yards. Fullback Jimmy Brown heisted Cleveland Browns to their second straight rushing title. He picked up 1,329 of the total 2,149 yards. Chicago Bears showed the best pass defence. Their rivals completed 43.2 per cent of their 333 attempts.

Punting honors went to the Colts with an average of 46.5 tenths of a yard better than Detroit.

The Colts' 4,458 total offense this year was only 81 yards less than they rolled up in 1956. The 374 points were only seven less than a year ago.

RAMS SECOND BEST Los Angeles, which turned to be a disappointing club, finished second place honors in total offence for the second year in a row. The Rams picked up 2,745 yards passing and 1,778 rushing for a 4,523 total. New York was third with a 4,173 total.

In rushing offence, behind the Browns were Washington, 196 and Green Bay, 1,907.

The Browns finished No. 1 in the most accurate passing category, completing 57.6 per cent of their tosses.

Second in scoring was New York with 284 points followed by Cleveland with 270.

Pittsburgh Steelers took the No. 2 spots in defensive rushing with a 3.7 mark while Chicago Cardinals and Detroit tied for third with 3.9 marks.

The Steelers also were second in pass defence, giving up 44 per cent. New York was third with 45.1.

Hawks Blank Bruins 4-0 In Rough, Bloody Battle

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago Black Hawks backed up Glenn Hall's shutout goaltending with a bristling attack to whip Boston Bruins 4-0 Wednesday night in a rough, bloody National Hockey League battle.

By winning the Black Hawks moved out of the league basement by one point over the idle New York Rangers. Chicago now trails fourth-place Boston by four points.

Hall's shutout was his first of the season and, except for a mild Boston flurry near the end of the game, came rather easily.

The veteran netminder was required to make only five saves in the first period and seven in the middle period. Boston fired 12 shots at him in the final session, however, most of them coming during a two-minute stretch midway in the period when Chicago's Elmer Vasko was serving a penalty.

Chicago concentrated its scoring in two quick bursts in each of the first two periods. In the first Ted Lindsay broke the scoring ice at 16:07 and almost two minutes later Erik Nesterenko made it 2-0 while his wide was short-handed.

Pierre Pilote converted Eddie Littenberger's pass at 8:05 of the middle session for the third goal and Billy Hay wound up the scoring at 12:45 while each side was shy a man.

Referee Matt Pavelich called a total of 15 penalties during the rough match, with six coming out of one spectacular fight in the second period.

Dunstaffnage defeated New Glasgow Road 4-2 in an exhibition hockey tilt at Saint Dunstan's rink last evening.

Bob McGee got the hat trick for the winners. Preston Scott picking up the other one.

Scorers for New Glasgow Road were Ernie Barrett and George Bernard.

almost every player on the ice was involved.

Lindsay and Armstrong each were given five-minute fighting penalties, while Stan Mikita and Pilote and Dick Metzner and Leo Bolvin of Boston all drew two-minute roughing raps.

SUMMARY First period: 1. Chicago, Lindsay (St. Laurent, Wharram) 16:07; 2. Chicago, Nesterenko 18:06; Penalties: Hay 8:48, Vasko 16:16, Gendron 18:41.

Second period: 3. Chicago, Pilote (Littenberger) 8:50; 4. Chicago, Hay (Pilote, Hull) 12:45; Penalties: Armstrong (major) 4:55, Lindsay (major) 4:55, Bolvin 4:55, Meissner 4:55, Mikita

4:55, Horvath 10:41, Armstrong 11:39, Sloan 11:38.

Third period: No scoring. Penalties: Labine, Littenberger 2:21, Vasko 12:16.

Stops: Simmons 16 10 6-32 Hall 5 7 12-24

STANDING -

BY THE CANADIAN PRESS

National League W L T F A Pts Montreal 17 5 7 97 62 41 Detroit 14 8 7 79 69 35 Toronto 13 9 6 70 72 32 Boston 10 16 5 98 114 25 Chicago 7 15 7 74 82 21 New York 7 15 6 84 103 19

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