

SPORT ECHOES

By NORMAN MacDONALD

The P.E.I. Aces gave the old Maritime champ try in the third period Monday night and managed to skate off the ice with no worse than a tie in their contest with the high flying Royals. When fans are hungry for success they manage to kick up quite a bit of jubilation over even a tie, particularly if their team comes from behind to pull it off. The Aces did pretty well, but we still think they need at least one more grade "A" large, (with accent on the "large") defenceman. There were plenty of leaks showing up in the Ace defensive zone last night. What kept the Royals down to a mere quartet of goals was some of the most erratic shooting we've ever seen the Royals, or for that matter any team, come up with.

We repeat — the Aces need another good defenceman like an infant in arms needs its mother. We are writing this on Dec. 8 and the deadline for the playing roster is, we believe, Dec. 15. Seven days to latch on to a rearguardman capable of changing Hogan's hijacked hockey team from a so-so "also-ran" club to real contenders in the ISHL. There was some hope that Garth Gay might be transferred to Summerside and join the Aces, but that hope seems to be growing dim. Gay, if he hasn't lost his effectiveness in the five or six years since we saw him play, might be the frosting and candles that would change the present Ace lemon loaf into a birthday cake.

MACARTHUR NEEDED
Ron MacArthur may or may not join the 1960 Aces. If he does, and if his injury handicap doesn't prevent him from playing at peak form, Ron should spark the Aces to a real ding-dong battle for Island honors this year. If he decided not to play, we certainly wouldn't be inclined to argue the point considering the fact that his doctor advises against it.

Frank Steele has returned to the fold after a year's absence and he is certainly a welcome sight out there behind the blue-line. We don't think he is the complete answer to the Aces' problem, however. He'll help a lot, but as we see it, not quite enough. Don Leahy, another air-force boy was pressed into service and has now played two games. Leahy does a fairly good chore out there, and what is encouraging, his second appearance was an improvement over his first. He was more than willing to trade hip for shoulder with the enemy. Once in the first game he aimed a bazooka along the boards that was calculated to tear up the tracks, but the freight had already gone through. This bit of mis-timing can, of course, be done by the very best defence men on rare occasions. Maybe it's a bit early to pass judgement on Leahy, but he doesn't seem to us to be the card to fill the Ace's royal flush.

ANOTHER PROSPECT
The Aces have another prospect, a clergyman hailing at present from Lot 16. He played for Dalhousie University, and rumor: a sometimes deplorably unreliable gossip, says he can handle himself well, to say nothing of the boys who try to sneak by him on errands of sabotage to the citadel in the rear. He will be trying out with the Aces fairly soon. Let's hope he's the gift that will make the Ace management exclaim: "Just what I needed to make a real happy Christmas."

The Ace forward lines are doing all right and will not be far behind the champs of last year with more practice. No one can persuade us, however, that the Ace defence as now constituted is much more than a big healthy looking boy sent on a man's errand. If it isn't bolstered further, we're going to feel a little blue about the whole thing, and not even the news that the Montreal Canadiens haven't won a game in four starts will completely cheer us up.

NEW LEASE OF LIFE
The Canadian Sportsman, oldest turf journal in America, which was established in 1870 and has always been published in Tillsonburg, Ontario, is taking on a real new lease on life with Clifford Chapman as news editor.

The latest number, for December 3, has a splendid article entitled: "The Good Ones Can Come As Bargains", and he gives as the first example—Dr. Stanton. He writes: "Dr Stanton has always been called the 'Cinderella' horse, having been purchased for a reported \$500. The original owner, having wanted a trotter, and this horse could do nothing but amble, sold him to W.L. Fraser, Forest, Ontario. He was by Bonnycastle and acquired a record of 2.00 and won \$171,922 in his racing career that ended in 1953. "Another example was in the thoroughbred class, when Symbic, that won over a million dollars, or very close to it, was claimed for \$1,500. It looks like ability to train makes as much difference as having the money to purchase.

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