

SPORT ECHOES

Ball Season Drawing Near

By NORMAN MacDONALD

April is fading out and the game of softball is just around a couple of corners. Which reminds us that the Prince County softball league wasn't exactly what you'd call exciting last year. Mainly because the R.C.A.F. whose players used to form a solid core of each of the teams in the league decided to collect their best players all in one team — the R.C.A.F. Eagles, which under the capable coaching of Jim Jenkins went on to win the Maritime title. This naturally gave them a great deal of satisfaction, but all summer they made a shambles of the Prince County League. They were too good, and in the absence of closely contested matches, fans started to dwindle in numbers until very few bothered to attend the games.

We don't blame the R.C.A.F. management for gathering together all the stars so that they could win Maritime honors, and we're not sure that this can be arranged in any other way. Perhaps the Eagles could divide their players evenly among the teams in the Prince County league, thus insuring the necessary balance and not register their best team for Maritime play. If this could be done, we could have a close exciting league, and the Eagles could still go after the Maritime bacon at the end of the season. If this cannot be done, or if the RCAF refuse to do it, then we strongly recommend that the delegates at the annual meeting vote against including the Eagles in the Prince County League. This might attract a lot more boys from Summerside and vicinity to play softball, and gradually raise the standard of play of such a league. For a while the caliber of play would undoubtedly be lower, and we'd certainly miss the smooth play of the Airforce boys, but at least the games would be closer, and close games are a must to hold the attention of the fans. The occasional lopsided game is bound to occur, under any circumstance, but no one wants to see a dreary monotony of such contests throughout the summer.

We were talking to Paul MacWilliams during his stay in Summerside. Bill Dickie and he are going back to Halifax to attend some banquets in honor of the Junior Canadiens before they return to Summerside for the summer. Paul said he got an invitation to attend the Montreal-Canadien Juniors hockey camp this year. He said Riey, the boy from Pictou, N.S. also got an invitation. Paul gives full credit to Shawinigan Falls for their victory in four straight games, but said the Canadiens had just finished a rough series with Cornwall and didn't have enough rest before they tackled Shawinigan Falls.

The S.H.S. junior basketball teams, both boys and girls, lost their first games by small margins, but they still have a chance to be the final winners if they can take two straight from Birchwood High boys and Queen Charlotte High girls. The next games are expected to be played in Civic Auditorium Friday afternoon. The S.H.S. senior boys volleyball team won the Island championship, as did the Kensington High junior boys. So we're collecting a few titles down here in the west. Kensington has four Island crowns during the year. We were away, and didn't get a chance to see Tyne Valley Clever Feathers hockey team win the Island title by defeating Murray Harbour and Pownal. Congratulations, boys.

Ken Boyer, Smith Help New Teams

NEW YORK (AP)—The stock prediction by both teams that a baseball trade will help each is holding up well in the cases of third baseman Charlie Smith of St. Louis and Ken Boyer of New York Mets. The deal was completed last Oct. 20 and Monday, more than six months later, Smith was the National League batting leader with a .406 average and Boyer was fourth with .382. Smith, who hit only .244 for the Mets last season, collected 10 hits in 19 times at bat, a .526 pace, last week. Al Jackson, a left-handed pitcher, accompanied him to St. Louis in the Boyer trade. Jim Ray Hart of San Francisco is the NL runner-up with .442. He is followed by Curt Flood of St. Louis, .415; Boyer, .375; and Pittsburgh's Willie Stargell, .375. Boyer, the circuit's most valuable player in 1964, batted only .200 for St. Louis in 1965.

Willie Mays, the Giants' star who slammed a record-equalling 51th home run Sunday, heads the National League in homers with six and in runs batted in with 15. In the American League, Frank Robinson of Baltimore, the former Cincinnati slugger, tops the batting with .467. He also leads in runs scored with 13. Floyd Robinson of Chicago White Sox is second with .429. Then come rookie outfielder Jackie Warner of California and Max Alvis of Cleveland in a third place deadlock at .406 and Brooks Robinson of Baltimore, .405. Floyd Robinson and Minnesota's Tony Oliva tied for the AL home run lead with four each, while Brooks Robinson is the pace-setter in runs - batted in with 16. Juan Marichal of San Francisco and Claude Osteen of Los Angeles top the majors in pitching. Both have won three games and lost none.

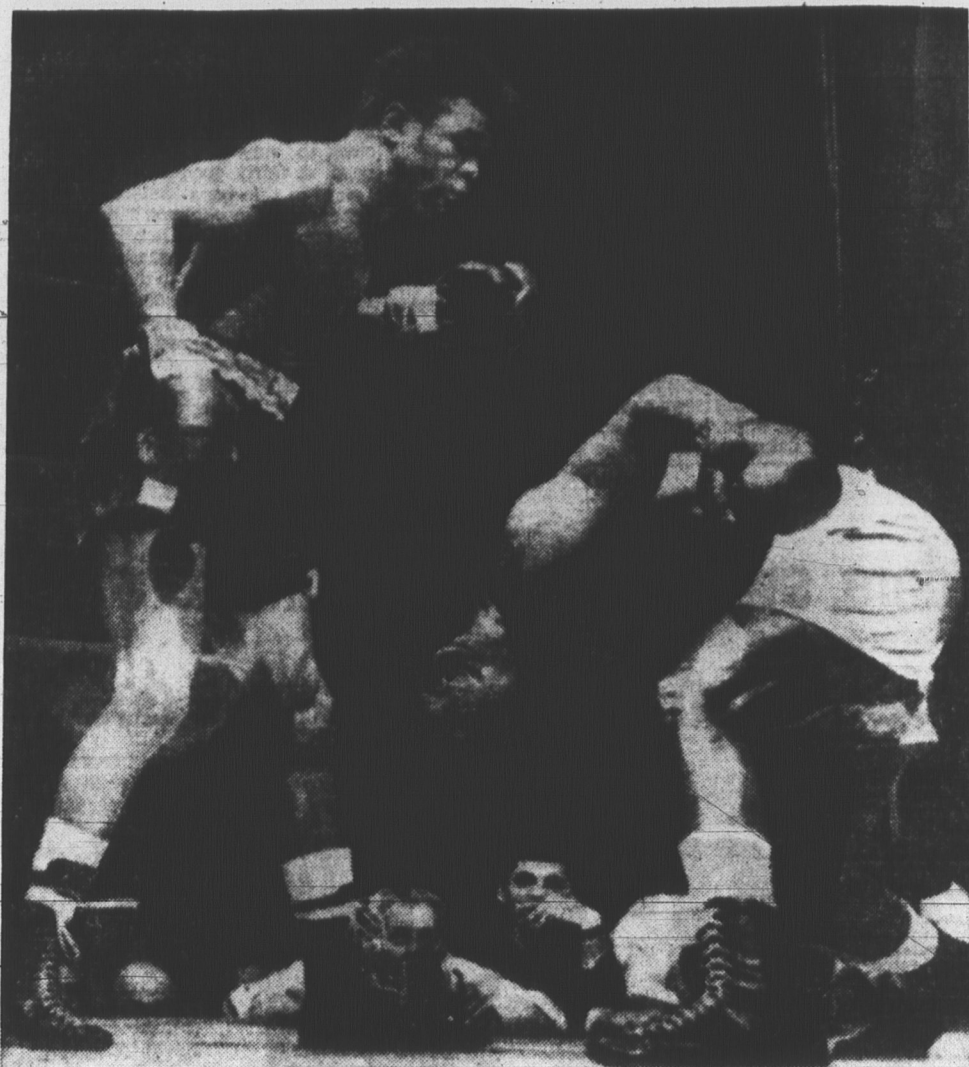
Montreal Stuns IOC Board; Offers Free Room & Board

By HAROLD MORRISON ROME (CP) — Montreal dropped a bombshell before the International Olympic Committee Monday night by offering free room and board to all Olympic athletes should the city win the 1972 Summer Games. Commented IOC president Avery Brundage: "I am fairly certain that no country or city has ever before put forward such a proposal." He added: "The Montreal delegation pointed out that much of the money to be spent on staging the Games would already have been covered by the staging of Montreal's world exposition next year and as a result of this they were prepared to help athletes with room and lodging."

Other IOC members said privately the Montreal offer had made a tremendous impression. The Detroit delegation, also bidding for the Summer Games, told the IOC Detroit would make plans so that "all expenses of Olympic athletes and their entourage are kept to an absolute minimum." Mayor Jean Drapeau, who presented Montreal's argument for the Games to the Committee, said the offer was not designed "to speculate on or to negotiate our bid." It had been reported that some Spanish officials feared the cost of the Olympics would affect the government's economic planning. Both Madrid and Detroit said they would build new sports facilities for the Games if they got them. Montreal, with facilities excellent for the Games if they got them. Montreal, with facilities expanding rapidly for the 1967 Games in its stride in 1972, world's fair, feels it can take the Games in its stride in 1972. Jim Worrall of Toronto, president of the Canadian Olympic Association, presented Drapeau to the committee. Meanwhile, Banff, Alta., completed arrangements for its presentation today. WILL INTRODUCE BIDDERS Worrall also will make the formal introductions for the Banff bidders, who are seeking the 1972 Winter Games. Among those representing Banff will be Mayor Ed Roberson of Banff, Ed Davis of Calgary, president of the Banff campaign; Peter Lougheed of Calgary, the campaign's vice-president; and Victor Emery of Montreal, 1964 Olympic bobsled gold medalist. (Continued on page 12)

Boston Red Sox Topple Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — Carl Yastremski slashed four straight hits and rove in three runs in pacing Boston Red Sox to an 8-5 victory over New York Yankees Monday. "The loss was the Yanks' seventh straight and their 10th in 11 games this season. The Yankees got four of their runs on homers Ray Barker, subbing for the ailing Joe Pepitone, slammed his first with one on in the second, Bobby Richardson homered in the third and Roy White in the fifth, each with the bases empty. Yastremski's fifth-inning double off starter and loser Bob Friend snapped a 3-3 deadlock. Yastremski's fourth hit, a two-out double to left, touched off Boston's two-run rally in the seventh. Ken Sanders, who relieved Earl Wilson in the fifth, was credited with his first major league victory.



GRIFFITH STAGGERS TIGER

SECOND CROWN

Emile Goes Tiger Hunting

By JACK HAND NEW YORK (AP) — Welterweight champ Emile Griffith won the world middleweight crown Monday night by dropping Dick Tiger for the first time in his 72-bout career and winning a unanimous decision in a very close 15-round battle at Madison Square Garden. Griffith, hopped wildly around the ring in a victory dance and lifted Tiger off his feet in his enthusiasm after the verdict was announced to the crowd of 14,934 fans paying \$147,536. Referee Arthur Mercante scored it 95-1 for Griffith. Judge Frank Forbes had it 7-6-2 and judge Tony Castellano 7-7-1 in rounds, but 8-7 in points for Griffith. The Associated Press card was 8-6-1 for Griffith.

Philadelphia Blanks Bucks

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jim Bunning pitched a five-hit shutout for Philadelphia Phillies Monday night, beating Pittsburgh Pirates 5-0 for his second victory of the season. Bunning, who struck out seven and walked one, got the only run he needed in the fourth when Richie Allen hit his third homer of the year into the upper deck of the right-field stands. But Phillies got him four more runs in the sixth, driving Pirate starter Bob Veale from the mound with five hits. Tony Taylor's single and safe bunts by John Callison and Dick Groat loaded the bases with nobody out. Veale walked Allen, forcing in one run, and Cookie Rojas and Harvey Kuenn followed with singles that scored three more.

Griffith in the ninth round. A sort right to the head dropped the 36-year-old Nigerian to the floor for the first time in his career. Griffith surged to the attack and slammed home a left hook that had Tiger reeling—but he refused to go down again. Agin in the 10th round, Griffith cut loose with a quick left-right-left spurt that brought the crouching Tiger in a standing position. But Griffith quickly turned to the defensive and was jabbing and running as the round ended with the crowd booing. The welter champ, at 150 1/2 pounds, gave away 9 1/2 pounds to the 160-pound Tiger who had recaptured his title Oct. 21 from Joey Giardello. Griffith had won the welter crown three times and went into the fight as the world-recognized king of the 147-pounders.

Although New York commission rules insist Griffith must give up his welter title, the new 160-pound king had said previously he would have his lawyer take it to court. His lawyers were in the dressing room to press the claim. DROPPED NIGERIAN The decisive factor in this battle of champions was the quick knockdown—scored by three more.

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BASEBALL ROUNDUP

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS National League Atlanta 003 020 000—5 9 0 San Fran 000 000 000—3 Johnson (2—1) and Torre, Shaw (1-2), Priddy (4), McDaniels (6), Henry (9) and Haller. HRs: Atlanta—Thomas (3), Aaron (3). Phila. 000 104 000—5 9 1 Pittsburgh 000 000 000—0 5 1 Bunning (2-1) and Uecker. Veale (1-1), Mikkelsen (6), Fryman (7), Walker (9) and Gonder. HR: Allen (3). American League Boston 03 030 200—8 12 1 New York 021 010 010—5 5 0 Wilson, Sanders (1-2) (5) and Tillman; Friend (0-2) Reniff (5) Ramos (8) and Gibbs. HRs: NY—Barker (1) Richardson (1) White (2). Kansas City 000 000 000—0 1 0 Cleveland 000 002 00x—2 7 2 Sheldon (0-2), Montague (7) and Suarez. McDowell (3-0) and Crandall. Chicago 001 000 011—3 6 1 Washington 000 200 000—2 7 1 John, Higgins (7) Locker (8) Pizarro (2-0) (8) and Romano. Ortega, Cox (0-1) (8) and Camilli. HRs: Chi—John (1); Romano (1). Wash.—McMullen (4), Howard (3). Minnesota 000 000 000—0 4 0

Detroit 000 100 02x—3 4 0 Boswell (0-2) Roggenbuck (8) Perry (8) and Zimmerman, Nixon (8), McLain (3-0) and Freehan. HRs: Del—Cash (3), Kalline (4).

PROBABLE PITCHERS

By THE CANADIAN PRESS Probable pitchers in today's major league baseball games with won-lost records: American League Chicago (Horlen 0-1) at Washington (Segut 1-0). Boston (Lomborg 0-2) at New York (Ford 0-1). Minnesota (Kast 1-1) at Detroit (Lolich 1-1) (N). Kansas City (Dobson 1-0) at Cleveland (Tiant 1-0) or (Bell 1-0) (N). California (McGlothline 1-0) at Baltimore (Palmer 1-0) (N). National League New York (Hamilton 1-1) at Chicago (Broglie 0-1). St. Louis (Gibson 2-0) at Los Angeles (Koufax 2-0) (N). Atlanta (Clonger 1-1) at San Francisco (Marichal 2-0) (N). Only games scheduled.

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Habs Stress Markmanship In Prep For Second Game

MONTREAL (CP) — Montreal Canadiens, trailing 1-0 in their best-of-seven Stanley Cup final series with Detroit Red Wings, whirled through a one-hour practice session Monday with the accent on marksmanship. The Canadiens dropped a 3-2 decision to the Wings Sunday and face the Detroiters here again tonight. Most of the Wings were given Monday off by manager-coach Sid Abel. Defencemen Bob Wall and Warren Godfrey and backup netminder Hank Bassen were the exceptions. This trio, who saw no action in Sunday's opener, confined their practice to a light skate and, some, shooting after Montreal left the Forum ice. Veteran Detroit defenceman Bill Gadsby, who scored once in Sunday's game and played a bumpy game, took treatment Monday for a bruised left elbow. Gadsby stopped a shot with the arm in the final game of the Chicago-Detroit series and has been troubled by the injury ever since. Abel said his club suffered no injuries in their winning effort against Montreal. Coach Toe Blake said the Canadiens "lacked sharpness around the net." He had his players practise

line rushes and shooting, with backup goalie Charlie Hodge coming in for a fair share of action. The Montreal coach said he will start centre Ralph Backstrom between Dick Duff and Bobby Rousseau, and will drop Henri Richard back as centre to wingers John Ferguson and Claude Larose, "or Cournoyer (Yvan) or Jim Roberts." "Ralph played well on Sunday," Blake said. "I think he was one of the best forwards I had out there." Backstrom, who didn't score a goal against Detroit all season, netted Montreal's opening counter. The coach said that Jean Beliveau is suffering a wrist injury which has hampered his shooting ability and at times makes it difficult for the big centre to control the puck. Blake refused to be pessimistic as to the series outcome, but had one parting rejoinder for reporters. "If Richard doesn't come up with a couple of good games in this series then we're in trouble." Richard picked up a knee injury in the second game of the four-game semi-final Canadiens

took from Toronto Maple Leafs gained his top skating form to advance to the final after missing the second and third games against Toronto.

LIBERAL NOMINATION CONVENTION District Of Second Kings You are invited to attend the Liberal Nominating Convention for Second Kings in Morell Community Hall on Thursday, April 28, at 8 p.m. Special Speaker—Alex Campbell. A very special invitation is extended to the ladies and young people of the district. Attention poll chairmen: Five delegates from each poll will be accredited as the voting delegates by the convention. (Inserted by Second District Kings Liberal Association)

REMEMBER WHEN... Ty Cobb, one of baseball's all-time greats, paced Philadelphia Athletics to a 9-3 victory over Boston 39 years ago today—in 1927—in his 23rd season, a year before retirement. The "Georgia pecker" drove in two runs, scored a pair himself, one by stealing home, and ended the game with an unassisted double play.

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