

SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

MONTREAL CANADIENS are back in a position which seems much more suitable to them. They are leading the National Hockey League after watching the Detroit Red Wings set the pace since the opening night.

Canadiens handed the Abelenes their first defeat of the young season Sunday night in Detroit but it was certainly not the kind of a victory that would give you the idea that the Red Wings were ready to fold. Their great goaltender, Terry Sawchuk, continued his impressive showing despite the loss. Terry stopped 30 of the 32 discs fired his way as the Wings were edged 2-1 by the Stanley Cup champions.

THE CANADIENS own a two-point margin over the second place Wings but just stating that doesn't tell the true picture. The Detroit club has played only seven games and the Montreal team has been in nine contests. If you took things on a percentage basis, the Red Wings would be the leaders 736 to 722. Tonight the Canadiens will have played three more games than the Wings after they visit the Black Hawks in Chicago. The Hawks are disappointing all their followers who were picking them to be no worse than second in this season's race. Right now the men of Ruty Pilous are floundering in the league basement with one win and one tie in eight starts.

The Chicago club has a better hockey team than the standings show. They proved that last spring in the Stanley Cup semifinals. They are certain to come up with much better displays than they have exhibited thus far in 1959 and we are looking for the change to take place tonight.

We had one of our better weekends as far as predicting is concerned. That fellow Bartlett of the rangers spoiled a perfect score for us when he beat Johnny Bower in the third period Saturday night in Toronto. We had called for a Leaf victory and that 1-1 tie ruined an otherwise good prophecy. This column had Canadiens winning a pair and Rangers beating the Hawks at Madison Square Gardens.

So we have a few good calls to our credit and if we make the odd bad one, we won't feel down-hearted. Tonight we believe the Hawks will start rolling at the expense of the Canadiens and that they will jump into a tie with Rangers by trouncing the Black men.

THE CANADIENS surely have a rough schedule this week as they follow up tonight's tussle with a game at Maple Leafs Gardens Wednesday night.

That should be a great battle and if the Leafs are going to beat the Montrealers anytime this season, tomorrow should be the time. It will be the fourth game in five nights for the Canadiens. On the other hand the Leafs have rested since Saturday and should be at their peak for the invaders. Toronto has nine points out of a possible 14 and are therefore playing at a 64.3 clip. They want that win Wednesday night at home to creep up in the standings. Two points in this one would give them 11 and get them in a tie with Detroit Red Wings who visit at New York. Of course the tie would about only if the Rangers were able to hand the Wings their second straight setback.

And that's exactly what we are expecting to happen.

TORONTO ARGONAUTS are on the brink of elimination in the Big Four.

They trail Montreal Alouettes by two big points with only one game left in the regular schedule for each club. In order to finish in a tie with the Alouettes the Argonauts must trounce Ottawa Rough Riders this Saturday at Toronto while Hamilton Tiger-Cats wallop the Montrealers at Molson Stadium.

On past performances, the Alouettes have no license to beat the defending Big Four champions. That should be the least of the Toronto club's worries. But the part that will prove the most difficult is disposing of Ottawa who in these past few weeks has been the hottest football club in Canada.

However, while there's life there's hope and these Argonauts are doing plenty of hoping these days. Perhaps they will yet get into the playoff picture but we have the feeling they are not going to make it.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS' manager Walter Alton has a real buddy on Prince Edward Island and that's Rollie Diamond who guided Georgetown Eagles to the Island Intermediate baseball championship.

When Rollie took over the manager's post for the Eagles, the boys from the county capital were not exactly going at any great speed. But they squeezed into playoffs, downed Saint Peter's Rovers and Peakes Bombers to win the county crown and then edged Tignish Aces for the provincial championship.

Rollie is a keen student of the game and he's a real live wire around a baseball diamond. He thinks in terms of winning and he appears to have the faculty of imparting that confidence to his players.

Sure Walter Alton came a long way with his Los Angeles Dodgers but Rollie Diamond really duplicated his feat in Island baseball circles.

To Rollie and his Eagles we extend hearty congratulations.

ONCE AGAIN the hockey season is almost with us here on the Island and as yet we haven't been able to learn anything concrete concerning what is proposed for the 1959-60 season. There are rumors galore but every time we try to nail one down, we are told there is nothing definite about anything.

However, something will come into being very shortly. Just what kind of a hockey menu will be presented to the local hockey public is the big question. It had better be appetizing or the folks won't turn out. They'll go if the competition is top notch because that fact was proved beyond all doubt in last season's playoff between Summerside and Charlottetown.

One thing that must be avoided is this nonsense of 'outlaw' hockey. That was tried before and nobody including the ring managements had any protection. We are confident that the wiser heads will not allow this to happen again.

The latest rumor reaching this desk is that a five team loop may be organized with Charlottetown and Summerside each icing two squads. The fifth team would be Saint Dunstan's with the Red and White operating on a part-time basis.

But as we stated before this is merely rumor and we just have to mark time and wait for something concrete to develop.

That certainly should be soon.

Ch'Town Woman Awaits Big Race

Kitty Orford, wife of Unemployment Insurance Commission employee, Clifford Orford, has her fingers crossed as she awaits the 117th running of the Cambridge Handicap Wednesday of this week.

Mrs. Orford was notified last Friday that she drew a horse, Fall of Shin, in the Irish Sweepstakes and right now the big question is whether the horse will go to the post in this great racing classic.

The Charlottetown woman is certainly to be richer for having drawn a horse but the windfall would be greater if Fall of Shin is among the starters. Latest reports are that Fallless

Speech is an 8-1 favorite. Joint second favorites are McQuarrie and Sanctum with odds of 10 to 1. Rocky Royale is quoted at 100 to 8.

First reports listed Falls of Shin at 33 to 1 but later despatches failed to list the horse that Mrs. Orford is pinning her hopes on. While there was no definite statement that the horse would not start, the fact the odds were not quoted indicated, it was unlikely that he would take part in the great race classic.

Meanwhile Mrs. Orford is anxiously awaiting the final word. If her horse goes to the post she'll be overjoyed but she's mighty happy with her share of good fortune thus far. She figures she has been downright fortunate and she'll do no growing if her horse doesn't get into the big race.

Mrs. Orford resides at 80 Kent. She is the mother of four children.

Rangers Acquire A Defenceman
NEW YORK (AP)—New York Rangers Monday acquired a new defenceman in a three-for-one National Hockey League trade with Toronto Maple Leafs.

Noel Price, 23, comes to New York in exchange for centre Iken Crista, 25, who did not sign with the Rangers this season. The Leafs also get the rights to Bill Kennedy, 22, of Whiteby Dunlops of the Ontario Hockey Association senior A series, and an unnamed third player who will be delivered next spring.



FEMININE TOUCH

University of British Columbia Thunderettes' Jill Symons, grappling ball from Shelagh Farrell and Shirley Tapley of Richmond, was smarted with a slap on the face. Richmond, last year's champion Eler team, defeated UBC 62-38. (CP Photo)

CALLS FOR INTER-LEAGUE DEAL

American League Plans Expansion To 10 Teams

NEW YORK (AP)—The American League's expansion program calls for an inter-league deal that would put New York back in the National League in exchange for one of its present franchises. The Associated Press learned this Monday from an authoritative source.

Under this revolutionary plan, the American League would expand to 10 teams, possibly next year. Two new franchises, Minneapolis and New York, would be added. The new franchise in New York, already American League territory, then would be offered to the National League in exchange for either Pittsburgh or Philadelphia.

The big problem, of course, would be to get the status quo-minded National League to accept this proposition. That doesn't seem likely.

The American League's expansion plans were confirmed by league president Joe Cronin, Monday. After meeting with commissioner Ford Frick and National League president Warren Giles, Cronin issued the following announcement:

"The fact finding committee of the American League met with commissioner Frick and Warren Giles today at the commissioner's office and informed them that the American League planned expansion in the future."

SPORT ECHOES

BY NORMAN MACDONALD

Georgetown's 11-3 victory over Tignish in the rubber game at Charlottetown Sunday gave the Kings County boys the rural baseball championship, and completed a sweep of honors for Prince Edward Island's smallest county. Previously Morell had won the Maritime bantam championship, Mount Stewart-Morell, the Island junior championship, and Mount Stewart, the intermediate Kings County ball tossers!

We had a letter from Dominic "Sport" MacDonald, a prominent Island sports figure who now lives in Montreal. "Sport" who had known the late Mark DeLaney very well, expressed his regrets at Mark's passing, and added his tribute to Mark's memory in a brief character sketch of his old friend, assessing his strengths and weakness, and tipping the balance strongly in favor of Mark's likable traits which endeared the former hockey star to a lot of people. We certainly enjoyed hearing from "Sport" who has some of the pen-magic which makes letters interesting.

OLD HERO
The time has come for us to go to bat for our old hockey hero, Gordie Howe. The old controversy as to who is the better hockey player, Richard or Howe, is one which will go on as long as "hot stove" discussions flourish in our land. Because of the Rocket's fabulous total of goals in a career which is by no means ended yet, we should judge that he has more supporters than does Howe, though we are continually being surprised by some expert who has seen the two over the years, and who picks Howe on the ground of all-round ability, of which goal-scoring is only one department, albeit a pretty important one. The Rocket, of course, has also many staunch supporters. We were stringing along with Howe until the spring of 1958 when Richard's "Frank Merrifield" finish shook us pretty badly, and we've been more or less on the fence since that time.

It must be realized, however, that the opinions of any of us Maritimers who have seen comparatively few games in which

but would retain the Washington franchise and put another team in the nation's capital.

Cronin did not mention when the league expected to expand, how many teams would be involved or what cities might have new franchises.

Only six affirmative votes are needed in the American for expansion. It would take a unanimous vote for expansion in the National. Giles said there was absolutely no sentiment for expansion in the National at its meeting in May.

Only four AL clubs currently favor the inter-league exchange idea—Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Washington, the informant said.

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Stamps Rehire Otis Douglas

CALGARY (CP)—Otis Douglas was rehired Monday as head coach for one year of Calgary Stampede of the Western Inter-provincial Football Union.

Stampede finished the season with eight wins in 16 games and lost out to British Columbia Lions for the third and last playoff spot.

Miteff, Hunter Sign For Match

NEW YORK (AP)—Matchmaker Teddy Brenner Monday announced a Nov. 27 rematch at Madison Square Garden between

heavyweights Billy Hunter of Detroit and Alex Miteff of Argentina.

Hunter stopped Miteff on cuts for a seventh round TKO, Sept. 25 at Syracuse. Last Friday night Hunter stopped Tony Anthony in the seventh round at the Garden.

Williams, Musial Maintain Major Loop Batting Lead

By SHELDON SAKOWITZ
NEW YORK (AP)—Ted Williams and Stan Musial despite dismal seasons in 1959, maintained their major league lifetime batting lead among active players.

Williams' lifetime average dropped three points to .346, but still is tops in the American League. The Boston Red Sox outfielder, sidelined part of the year with injuries and illness, hit only .254 in 1959.

Figures compiled by the Associated Press also revealed Monday that Musial's career average suffered a three-point decline to .337, highest average in the National League. The St. Louis Cards' star batted .255 this past season.

Batting champions Hank Aaron of Milwaukee and Harvey Kuenn of Detroit moved into second place in their respective leagues. Aaron hit .355 and boosted his career average seven points to .323. Kuenn raised his lifetime mark six points to .314 after batting .353.

SHOWS BIGGEST GAIN
Joe Cunningham of the Cards showed the biggest gain in both leagues. His lifetime average jumped 14 points to .317, tying him for third in the National League list. He batted .345 this past year.

Sixteen players, eight in each league, batted .300 or better lifetime marks. The leaders are based on a minimum of 300 games.

Williams, who began his big league career in 1939, has won six batting titles. The 41-year-old "splendid splinter" missed five seasons due to military service. Ted ranks fifth among the all-time modern batting leaders. The only players, with at least 10 seasons in the majors, to compile higher lifetime averages were Ty Cobb .367, Rogers Hornsby .353, Joe Jackson .356 and Lefty O'Doul .349.

Musial, who will be 39 next month, is a seven-hit batting champ. Joining the cards as a regular in 1942, Stan The Man just completed his 17th full season. He was in service in 1945.

Thelen Can Set Rushing Record

TORONTO (CP)—Dave Thelen of the second-place Ottawa Rough Riders can set a Big Four Football League rushing record next Saturday, even if he gains only two yards.

The husky 23-year-old half has piled up 1,247 yards rushing along the ground. This is one yard short of the record set by Pat Abbruzzi, formerly with Montreal Alouettes in 1955, when the Big Four schedule called for 12 games. The schedule now is 14 games.

Big Four statistics released Monday show Thelen gained 146 yards in 24 carries in Saturday's 18-4 drubbing of the last-place Toronto Argonauts. This gives him a 299-yard edge over Hamilton Tiger-Cats' Gerry McDougall who has 948 yards in 212 attempts. Thelen has carried 209 times.

Argos' Dick Shatto slipped to third place with a total of 933 yards in 166 attempts and Montreal's Verry Switzer is fourth with 774 yards in 148 carries.

Ottawa quarterback Russ Jackson maintained his passing lead with the longest average gain. He has completed 42 of 83 attempts for an 11.3 average.

Tom Dinski of Hamilton has the highest percentage of completions at .607, having completed 34 of 56 tosses.

In yards gained passing, Alouettes' Sam (The Rifle) Etcheverry holds the lead with 3,006 yards on 222 completions of 322 attempts. Hamilton's Bernie Falcony is second with 2,130 yards, but is tops in touchdown passes with 13.

Red O'Quinn of Montreal, Etcheverry's favorite target, leads pass receivers with 49 of 62 thrown his way for 644 yards. Dick Shatto is second with 39 of 43 passes for 477 yards.

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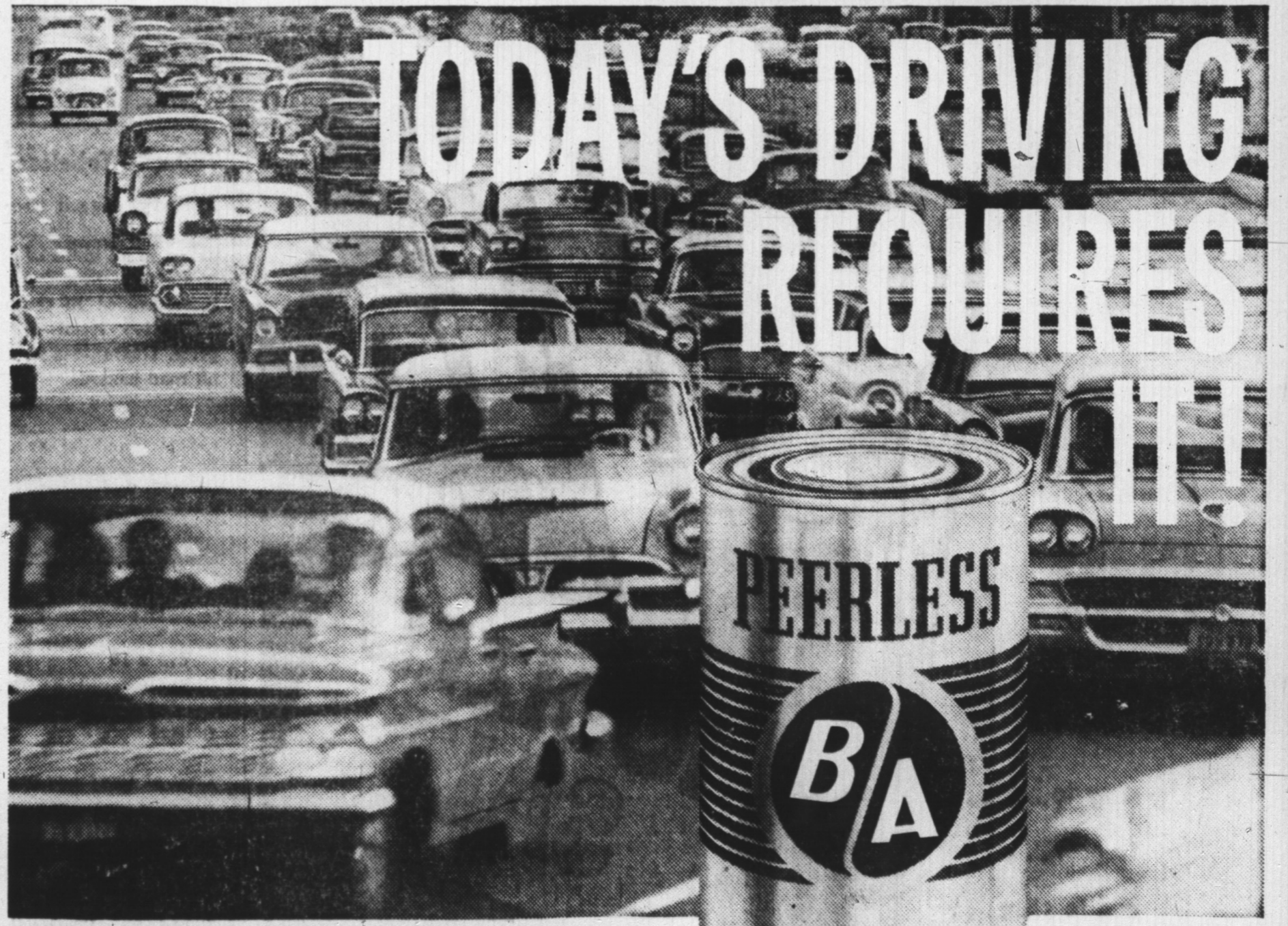
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