

Canadians' Win Gives Coach New Confidence

TORONTO (CP)—Coach George Agar of Vernon Canadians talked with new confidence Tuesday on the eve of the fifth game of the Allan Cup hockey final series.

"The team finally clicked," he said in an interview. "There is no reason in the world why we shouldn't stick again Wednesday."

Agar wasn't talking like that before his British Columbia club took the ice against Whittby Dunlops last Saturday night in the fourth game of the best-of-seven set.

But Vernon's 3-0 victory, coming after being walloped 5-2, 5-2 and 6-2 in consecutive games, gave him a lift.

If they don't, it's curtains for the western club and another cup and title added to the honors Whittby has been gathering since they won the Allan Cup in 1957 and took the world championship the following year.

REBOUND VICTORY
Agar recalled that in 1956 Vernon dropped the first game of its Allan Cup final against Chatham Maroons, then bounced back to take the following four and the title.

Agar hasn't decided whether he'll play or direct the team from the bench.

The colorful manager-coach-player has collected more than 1,500 points during his hockey career but benched himself Saturday night and is thinking of doing the same thing for tonight's game at Maple Leaf Gardens.

While Agar breezed confidence, opposing coach Wren Blair was reported to be worried over the performance of Bobby Atterley his most reliable scorer.

A perennial scoring leader in the Ontario Hockey Association's eastern senior A group, he hasn't found the target against Canadians.

DOWN THE BACK STRETCH



A new betting record for harness racing tracks was made at Yonkers Raceway on Friday night, April 17, when the 35,530 fans in attendance poured \$2,531,000 through the pari-mutuel machines, to top the previous record of \$2,502,196 set at Roosevelt Raceway last season.

The entire week was an amazing one at Yonkers, as far as the racing and the betting was concerned, with the night's average amount passing through the mutuels being \$2,124,000.

One of the reasons given for the big crowds and exceptional interest taken in the racing is the excellent fields of trotters and pacers getting all-out drives by the reinsmen.

An unusual note about the racing at Yonkers is the fact that Billy Haughton's name does not appear as frequently among the winning drivers.

When the last driver standings

were posted, it showed Stanley Dancer on top with 25 wins, George Phelan second with 14, and Bob Cherrix and Billy Haughton tied for third with 12 wins each.

We looked up George Phelan's record for last year and find that he made 523 starts, was 83 times first, 97 times second and 78 times third, with winning of \$980,985. He resides in Macon, Georgia, and he was born in July, 1922. Stanley Dancer, the top driver, was born in Edinburgh, New Jersey, in July 1927, and last year made 638 starts, was 112 times first, 134 times second and 85 times third, winning \$454,881.

Our readers, like ourselves, no doubt, are wondering why Billy Haughton isn't having more success. The reason probably is that the moving in of his stable from the warm South to the cold conditions at Yonkers has given the horses a bit of a setback.

DISASTROUS FIRE

Probably the most disastrous fire in Canada involving race horses occurred at Lamington, Ontario, on Saturday, April 18th, when 21 harness horses died in a blazing barn at the fair grounds there. Eighteen other horses, including the pacing stallion, Champ Volo 2:02 4-5, were rescued.

The total amount of damages are expected to run as high as \$250,000; the majority of the lost horses were owned by residents of Quebec province, and they were to have been shipped on the following Monday to Richelieu Park, Montreal, and to Hazel Park, Michigan.

The judges don't take any fooling from the drivers at Rockingham Park, Salem, New Hampshire. Last week, six drivers were given five-day suspensions for "unsatisfactory drives" in the Class "C" trot on April 17, the BERNARD STABLE.

Continuing our list of stables and their horses at the Charlottetown track, we are pleased to introduce the very popular driver E. A. (Emmett) Bernard, of Hunter's River, P. E. I. Emmett is 46 years old and has a brother, J. W. Bernard, 25 years old, that is following in his footsteps. Last year John had 24 firsts, 12 seconds, and 12 thirds with winnings of \$2,922.

This year's string in the Bernard stable consists of the following:
New Forest 2:14 1-5, by Paggiacci, that won more than \$2,000 last year and is eligible to the 2:22 trot. He is owned by Emmett Bernard.

Tommy Shanter, 2:15, won his last three starts in 1958 and is eligible to the 2:23 trot; he is owned by Alvin Parsons, Breadalbane, P. E. I.

Canada, p. 2:15 2-5, by Abner T. Clegg; he is owned by Emmerson R. Ford of Charlottetown, and at the latter part of last season he was going strong, winning both dashes at Moncton on October 13, best time 2:15 3-5.

May S. Gratian, p. 2:09 4-5, winner of six firsts, one second and two thirds last season; she is eligible to the 2:18 class. On September 29 last year at Charlottetown, she was 1-1 in 2:15 1-5 and 2:15 2-5. She is owned by Charles Asprey, Campbellton, N.B.

Bob Clegg, p. 2:14 2-5, by Abner T. Clegg, winner of three firsts, five seconds and three thirds last season. One of his best records was at Moncton on September 24 where he won the final dash in 2:14 4-5.

Emmett is building high hopes on an exceptionally promising three-year-old pacer named Harry Hal, by True Hal, dam Shirley Kalmuck, by Kalmuck; granddam Aunt Het, by Napoleon Direct 1:59 1/2 — the favorite pacer of Continued on page 11.)

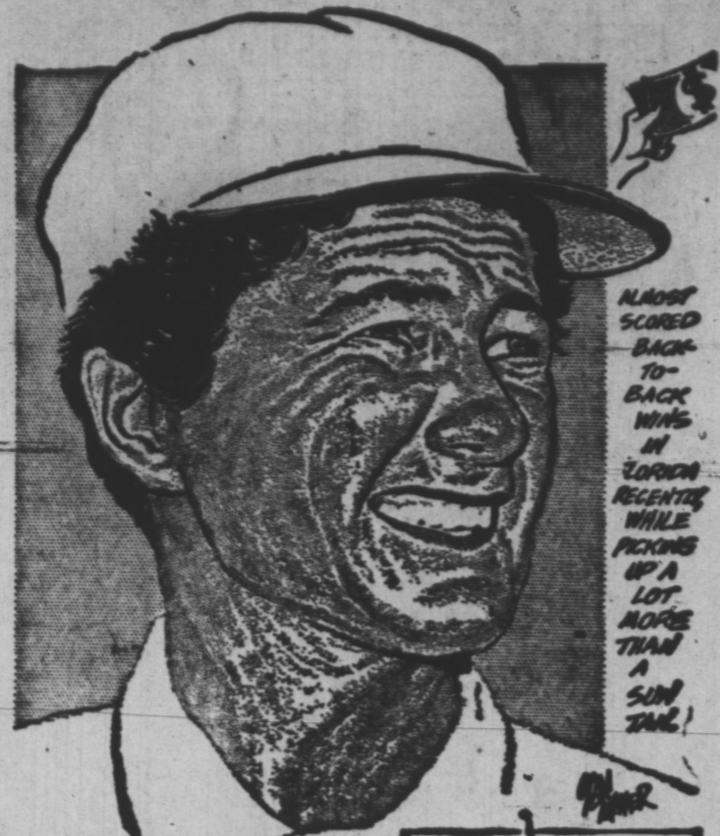
Ancos Capture Hockey Crown

GRAND FALLS, Nfld. (CP)—Grand Falls Ancos won their fifth straight Newfoundland senior A hockey crown Monday, defeating Conception Bay 8-4 to take the best-of-seven finals 4-1. A crowd of 3,000 attended the game.

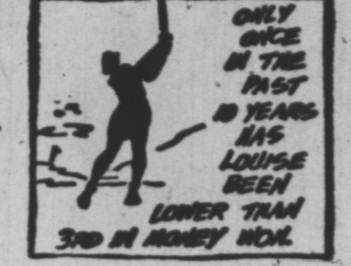
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Tigers Have Pitching Woes

NEW YORK (AP)—Pitching the distance is a noteworthy accomplishment in this era of the lively baseball and short fences. And no one knows it better than Bill Norman, manager of Detroit Tigers.

His pitching staff is the only one without a complete game this season. As they look up from the American League cellar where they rest with a 1-12 record, Tiger pitchers can point to only two pitching stints of more than 6 2/3 innings.

Frank Lary went seven against Chicago White Sox April 12 and Paul Foytack hurled seven against Cleveland April 15. Each was in a losing cause. In Detroit's only success, 5-2 over the White Sox April 18, Billy Hoefwenter six and was relieved by Tom Morgan, who finished up.

Sewell Leads In English Golf Tourney

FORMBY, England (AP)—Doug Sewell Tuesday led five other British Walker Cup players into the third round of the English amateur golf championship.

Britain plays the United States for the Walker Cup at Muirfield, Scotland, May 15-16. Defending champion Sewell built up a four-hole lead by the eighth with steady shots into a howling wind that swept the par 36-36-72 links beside the Irish Sea. He ended with a 2-and-1 victory over Jackie Jones.

In other matches involving Walker Cup players, David Marsh defeated W. S. Hann, 5 and 4; Michael Lunt defeated C. G. W. Harrison, 7 and 6; Arthur Perowne defeated I. M. S. Stungo, 6 and 5; Michael Bonalack defeated S. Ball, 2 and 1.

Guy Wolstenholme, a sixth British Walker Cup player, reached the third round Monday.

Shirley Bloomer Married Tues.

LONDON (AP)—Shirley Bloomer, British tennis star, was married Tuesday to track star Chris Brasher, winner of the steeplechase gold medal in the 1956 Olympics.

Guests of the wedding included Dr. Roger Bannister, the world's first four-minute miler, ex-track star Chris Chataway and tennis players Angela Mortimer and Christine Truman.

First Landing Winner At Derby Trials

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Chris Cheney's First Landing, a top threat for Saturday's Kentucky Derby, won his division of the Derby Trial Stakes Tuesday after Elkcam Stable's Open View took the first section of the divided stakes.

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Cricket Season Approach Has British Scribes Wailing

By KEN METHERAL
Canadian Press Staff Writer
LONDON (CP)—Approach of another cricket season has started British sportswriters on their annual trek to the wailing wall.

Cricket writers, like Canadian football coaches, are singularly immune to the buoyant spirit of enthusiasm that wells up in lesser sports each spring. They tend to don dark-tinted glasses through which they peer apprehensively into the future.

"The future of cricket is in danger," says one writer. "The environment and atmosphere of first class cricket has reached the stage of stultification and suffocation," intones another.

DEFENSIVE PLAY
The main burden of complaint is that English cricketers have become too defensive-minded both in bowling and batting, with the result that the spectators watch long stretches in which the bowler pitches the ball beyond the range of the bat and in which batsmen are unwilling to cut loose for fear of offering a catch. "We have lived to see, or hear

about, test cricket in which less than 200 runs are scored in five hours," says Neville Cardus, one of Britain's foremost cricket commentators, in an article in the *Playfair Cricket Annual*.

"The word cricket is rapidly becoming a synonym for all that is boring and ungalant in sport." Many writers blame dull play on the tendency in recent years to produce wickets that aid the bowler rather than the batsman, who never know what the ball will do next. And it has encouraged the bowlers to put too much reliance on the swinging propensities of the new ball.

LOST ASHES
England's weakness was sharply demonstrated on the hard, fast Australian wickets last winter when they lost the Ashes

to the Aussies without being able to register a single win in the five-match Test series.

The one cheering bit of news for English cricket fans is general agreement among the experts that the County Championship which starts May 6 is likely to be a wide-open affair.

Surrey, as befis the champions, again start as pre-season favorites. The southern county

will be fielding the same high-powered lineup that last year won an unprecedented seven straight titles. Surrey and England captain Peter May stands head and shoulders above any other batsmen. And in fast bowler Peter Loader and spinners Tony Lock and Jim Laker, Surrey has the most dangerous attack in the country.

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SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

THE MOST IMPORTANT baseball meeting in the entire Maritimes is being held tonight in Morrell Hall.

We are referring to the annual session of the King's County Baseball League which operates so successfully each year to the delight of thousands of fans in that section of the province.

Last year Souris, Peakes, Morell, Mount Stewart and Georgetown composed the circuit and fans alike had a whale of a great time. Sunday afternoons found the ballfields crowded with spectators who were by no means hesitant in giving vocal support to the team of their choice.

When the finals arrived the climax was really reached and attracted over three thousand persons. That was the afternoon that that doubleheader at Morrell on Sunday August 31 must easily have looked about seven hours and fifteen minutes to get the two games through and the fans loved every minute of the entertainment.

THERE IS TALK that the league may have teams added for this season and we think that's a fine thing provided of course the new entrants can provide suitable competition for the old timers. Anything that will make the league better we are for 100 per cent but we think it would be a great pity to see any action taken that would lessen the spectator appeal. However, we feel that there must be enough surplus material in the county to field at least a couple more teams that will be capable of providing the right kind of opposition.

WHEN WE SAID tonight's meeting was the most important baseball session in the Maritimes we meant exactly what we said. No place in any of the seaside provinces is there anything to compare with the interest exhibited by these good folks of King's. Their loyalties to their teams are really something to behold. We never have run across fans their equal. And we don't expect we ever will.

So it's hat's off to the King's County league, its players and its fans. May their shadow never grow less.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS continue to amaze everybody by leading the National League as the month of April nears its conclusion. Probably when April does say goodbye, the Dodgers will be out of there but right now they are sitting high on the top perch.

They have been getting some good pitching from fellows like Don Drysdale and Johnny Podres, but their success to date lies in the power that their bats have been showing. In their last three games they have garnered a total of 31 runs, an average of better than 10 per game.

The oldsters have been really clouting the ball. Fellows like Furillo, Hodges, Zimmer, Neal all have been powdering the old pill in manlike fashion. Demeter, the newest outfielder, has been cracking the home run ball and that has been a big factor in putting the Dodgers out in front of the pack.

SURE, IT MAY BE, and probably is, only a flash in the pan but the Dodgers and their supporters are having a whole pile of fun—something they certainly didn't enjoy at any time during the 1956 campaign. They have proved to some of the league that they are not to be fooled with and the rest of the circuit undoubtedly are anticipating their games with the Los Angeles club with more than ordinary interest.

Last year the Dodgers enjoyed their only success of the entire campaign at the expense of the league champions, Milwaukee Braves. If we remember correctly the Dodgers won something like 14 out of 22 decisions. But clear of the Braves, the boys from L.A. couldn't do a thing to cause any excitement. They just floundered around the entire season.

At least this year they seem to be ambitious. They are away to a good start and it just could be that they'll prove a wee bit difficult to stop. Of course, the campaign is yet in its infancy but as we said many times before, games won in April add up the same as those wins registered in August or September.

One thing the Dodgers have done so far this year is to have folks watching the sport pages to see how they are doing. Last year nobody was the least bit interested in the goings-on of the former Bums.

That's all changed this season.

THE SWING WEST is on in the American League and folks will be watching this invasion with the greatest of interest.

The world champions, New York Yankees, left New York "mired" in the second division, something that is almost unbelievable. By the standings showed the Stengelmen trailing the front-running Cleveland Indians by three and one-half games. The Indians were just after dropping three straight to the Chicago White Sox but the Yankees failed to gain ground at this period because the Baltimore Orioles—of all people—were doing a similar job on New York at the very same time.

Of course, the experts are looking for the 'boys' to be separated from the 'men' in the very near future. They can see Cleveland toppling after those three losses in a row to Al Lopez's outfit. They know the Orioles will stop flying so high in the very near future and they look for the White Sox to go on a hit-strike one of these days. When these things are happening, the Yankees will be supposed to be making 'hay' and rising steadily to the top of the American League heap.

SOMEbody HAD better get word to those American league teams concerning what should be happening in the junior circuit. Even Washington Senators when they left for Kansas City were only four games behind the pace-setting Indians. If all of these ball clubs are not warned about matters, some of them may get the idea that it's perfectly all right to have those Yankees in the second division.

There are many young ball players on the go these days who are downright impudent. They have no more respect for the Yankees than any other team. If these youngsters can't be terrified soon, then anything might happen.

When a team such as Baltimore Orioles comes right into your own backyard and trounces you three times in two days, that's impudence at its greatest. There certainly isn't the slightest trace of respect for authority. And Yankees, as world champions, should possess a whole lot of authority.

However, if this disregard for the Bombers could only continue, the race in the American League could turn out to be a real thriller. We don't think there's any doubt about the National Loop. A real humdinger of a battle seems in store here. Milwaukee Braves are in for a real battle in 1959 and as we said yesterday we don't think they will repeat. If the Yankees can be kept from grabbing an early lead in the American League, then another top notch battle will rage here.

More power to those boys who rise up and defy the Yankees. Such uprisings will do baseball a whole lot of good.

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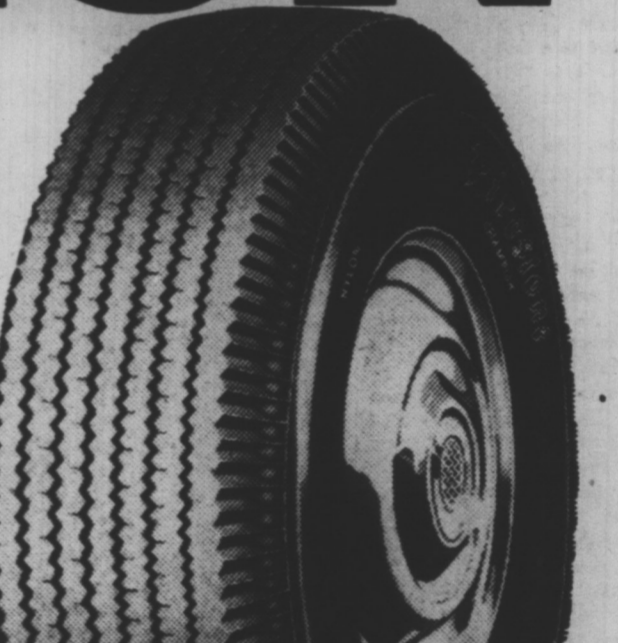
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