

SPORTS FRONT

By PIUS CALLAGHAN

WE THINK IT only fitting that we forget about great hockey teams, football squads or baseball aggregations today and spend a very short time talking about a gentleman who has a mammoth task facing him tonight.

Maurice Richard has had many great hockey challenges. So have football heroes all over the country. In major baseball circles, Los Angeles Dodgers had one of the games greatest challenges last September and they faced it with determination and went on to win the National League pennant and later the 1959 World Series.

Sure, these were rough and tough assignments but the man with the pack on his back tonight has a much more difficult chore. He's supposed to make everyone happy and it's a certainty that there will be many disappointments.

Yes, old Santa has an unenviable few hours tonight as the big day quickly draws near.

WE'D LIKE TO THINK that everybody will be happy and content tomorrow but we know that this will not be the case. It never has been the case and there seems little hope that it ever will. However, we still like this season of the year because we are convinced that among the common ordinary folk there exists a desire to make things as pleasant as possible for those who are in less fortunate circumstances. Even the 'hardest nut' seems to soften up once the Christmas spirit gets in the air. You can sense and in many cases you can actually see this spirit of goodwill in evidence.

Even if it is only for a few days, we think the world is so much better for it and of course there's always the chance that this brotherly love spirit might stay around for at least a portion of the New Year.

THERE ARE LOTS of things folks would like Santa to bring tonight that won't become realities. But many of these people are living in high hopes that the white bearded gentleman with the jolly laugh will make an extra effort to fix them up.

Santa himself is newspaper conscious. He has excellent press relations and he believes in using the boys from newsroom in a most hospitable manner. So it wasn't difficult for us to get the genial old fellow to talk. We got him to let us have a look at some of the letters he received and we thought you readers would be interested in reading a few of them.

FIRST WE SAW three letters, two postmarked Charlottetown the third Summerside. They were from Sandy Frizell, Lorne Hennessey and Charlie Hogan. All were asking Santa for the same thing and the poor old fellow was in hot water. Each of the three was asking Santa to make sure that his team would win the Island Senior Hockey League crown. Each of the letters contained a little bribe. Sandy was offering the refund of man free trucking services anytime he needed any. Hennessey was trying to get the better of Santa by holding out an offer of ice cream in abundance and Hogan promised Mr. Claus all the cement he needed to remodel his workshop at the North Pole.

Right below these letters was the cutest little note from a little boy by the name of Ivan Doherty. Santa scratched his head as he read "all I want for Christmas is balance." Of course, Santa knew that Doherty was referring to the hockey league now in operation and he said, "that fellow has balance right now in abundance. It's pretty hard to give him something he already has. Perhaps he means for me to see to it that this balance continues. If that's the case, I'll do my darndest."

THEN CAME A LETTER from little Gussie Flynn. This youngster wanted Santa to help him in his dilemma. It seems this little boy has been telling people he knows exactly what's going to happen in the National Hockey League. Apparently the teams haven't been co-operating and little Gussie has been making some bad calls. Santa took Flynn's case under advisement and there's a chance hereafter you can put more faith in his predictions.

AND THEN WE FOUND our own little note. We impressed upon Santa how much we wanted our request. All we asked was that our good friend Mr. Claus see to it that we are not blamed unjustly in the future. We told Santa about some of the things they had tried to pin on us and he was as much amazed as we had been. He promised us he would see to it that such things wouldn't happen again.

THERE WERE LOTS more letters from other sports personalities but Santa was too busy to give us any more of his time. But he went on record as saying that all folks engaged in sport here could look for much rosier things in the year ahead.

And with that consoling statement, we ended our interview with the busiest man in the world.

SERIOUSLY, we hope that all our readers spend the happiest Christmas of your lives. That wish goes out to all of those folks who have made our job in sport so pleasant throughout the past year. It will make our own Christmas that much better when we think our friends are enjoying the holiday to the fullest.

We wish we could keep the spirit of Christmas on hand and dispense it at various times throughout the year. There are times when it would come in handy especially when distrust starts rearing its ugly head in sporting circles.

That's asking too much we know but at least it's nice to dream. Right now let's enjoy the Christmas season to the fullest. From the bottoms of our heart, A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

HUNTERS CORNER

Lowly Rabbit Appears To Be Holding Spotlight

There are indications that the heavy concentration of wildgeese present at the season close on the 9th is beginning to filter southward with the first stop at Port Joli on Nova Scotia's south western coast. It was reported on Tuesday afternoon that approximately 700 geese making their headquarters at Irving's Bar had moved out on Monday. At noon on Tuesday of this week they were still absent. Goose hunters have expressed the opinion that heavy 'hully' formations on the Bar and clogging the wet grass beds adjacent to it were factors that prompted the migration southward.

This may be correct but there could be another cause of a different nature. About a week ago I received reliable information, that the geese had been driven out of Orwell by the use of 22 cal rifles and that the birds had moved to the Pownal Bay area. A few days ago I received a report that a 22 rifle and a 30-30 sporting rifle had been tried out at Crown Point across the Bay from the Bar with a huge 'raft' of wildgeese as a target. On Tuesday the geese are reported to have left the Pownal sector. Complaints have been coming in at intervals from widely scattered points in the province regarding the alleged use of rifles with the large flocks of geese as the target. All this columnist can say is: If local hunters wish to drive the geese off our shores into the arms of waiting hunters across the border they couldn't devise a better, or quicker, method.

HOLDS SPOTLIGHT
The lowly rabbit appears to be holding the spotlight at the moment. Local rabbit hunters contend that it would be impossible for a single hunter to shoot 75 rabbits in a day. A lot would depend upon conditions and a pending change in the weather would not be among the least of the factors. I have strolled through a swamp area bordered by over grown farmland and



STRUCK BY PUCK

Larry Regan, centre for Toronto Maple Leafs, displays broken nose and cut eye after 4-2 NHL win over Detroit at Toronto Dec. 19. Doctors said Regan, hit by puck from stick of a teammate, would be out of action for 10 days.

Johnny Unitas Is Voted Football Player Of Year

NEW YORK (AP) — Johnny Unitas, Baltimore's superb passer and signal caller, Wednesday was voted professional football's "player of the year" in the annual Associated Press poll.

Unitas' selection was made by National Football League writers who named him first on 20 of the 37 ballots cast. Chuck Conerly, the 33-year-old passing wizard of New York Giants, was second with seven first place votes.

Jimmy Brown, Cleveland's dynamic fullback, was third with five votes followed by Sam Huff, the Giants' stalwart linebacker, with three votes. Ray Berry, Baltimore's brilliant offensive end, and J. D. Smith, San Francisco halfback, received one vote each.

Although he has been in the NFL only four years, there is no doubt that Unitas, 26-year-old Louisville alumnus, is the most talked about player in professional football today. And with good reason.

FINEST SEASON

The six-foot-one 190-pounder enjoyed his finest season in leading the Colts to their second straight western conference championship. He threw for more touchdowns, completed more passes and gained more yardage than any other quarterback. His 32 touchdown passes bettered the NFL record of 28 set by Sid Luckman of the Chicago Bears in 1943.

In his last start before next Sunday's championship game against the New York Giants, Unitas heaved three TD passes to extend to 37 his record for consecutive games in which he threw for a touchdown.

In 12 games Unitas completed 193 passes in 367 attempts for a 52.6 percentage. He accumulated 2,899 yards in the air.

BIGGEST CRATER

The crater on top of the Poas volcano in Costa Rica is the largest volcanic crater in the world.

SPORTS FORUM

Hockey League Gesture Is Greatly Appreciated

Editor, Guardian-Patriot, Charlottetown,
Dear Sir:

The Mount Stewart branch of the Canadian Legion wish to thank most sincerely the executive of the Island Senior Hockey League for their kind invitation to witness the hockey game between Royals and Penguins on Thursday, December 17.

As this branch of the Canadian Legion has always been very sports minded, the invitation was greatly appreciated and the game very much enjoyed by the members and their wives who were able to attend.

We would like to commend the president, Ivan Doherty, for the manner in which he is carrying out his duties. His spirit of goodwill to the general public is surely appreciated and will undoubtedly bring success in abundance. He may be assured that this branch of the Canadian Legion will do all it can to further and encourage sports interest, not only in our own community but over the entire Island. We would urge all sports fans to support this hockey league which is headed by Mr. Doherty.

Mount Stewart Branch of the Canadian Legion.

FOR THE MEN

ON YOUR LIST

- Pipes
- Tobaccos
- Cigars

Fred Lambros

Kent St. Ch'town

Baltimore Places Seven On All-Pro Football Team

NEW YORK (AP) — The defending champion Baltimore Colts placed quarterback Johnny Unitas and six of his teammates on the 1959 all-pro football team announced Wednesday by The Associated Press.

With seven of the 22 players on the offensive and defensive units, the Colts dominated the selection made by writers who cover the National Football League games. New York Giants, eastern conference champions who get a crack at the league title in the

playoff game against the Colts at Baltimore Sunday, were next in the number of honorees with five. Unitas shared the attacking backfield unit with his teammate, Lennie Moore; Frank Gifford of the Giants and the hard-running Cleveland fullback, Jimmy Brown.

CONNERLY ON 2ND TEAM
Charley Connerly, the Giants' 33-year-old passing whiz, made the second team—being for the quarterback spot with Bobby Layne of Pittsburgh.

Brown was the only unanimous choice. The Cleveland power runner placed on all 37 of the ballots. Alan Ameche, the Baltimore fullback, received six votes but this was made possible by the juggling of some positions on the part of the voters.

In addition to Unitas and Moore the Colts put two linemen on the offensive team—end Ray Berry and tackle Jim Parker—and three representatives on the defensive eleven. The defenders were end Gene Marchetti, tackle Gene (Big Daddy) Lipscomb and safety man Andy Nelson.

The Giants, renowned for their rock-ribbed defensive qualities, also placed three on the defensive unit. They were linebacker Sam Huff, end Andy Robustelli and

safety man Jim Patton. Tackle Roosevelt Brown of the Giants made the offensive line.

BIG THREE

Next to Jimmy Brown, the players highest in favor were Berry and Huff. Each missed out on only one ballot.

The all-pro team:
Offense
LE-Ray Berry, Baltimore; LT-

Jim Parker, Baltimore; LG-Jim Ray Smith, Cleveland; C - Jim Ringo, Green Bay; RG-Stan Jones Chicago Bears; RT - Roosevelt Brown, New York; RE-Del Shofner, Los Angeles; QB - Johnny Unitas, Baltimore; LH-Frank Gifford, New York; RH - Lennie Moore, Baltimore; FB - Jimmy Brown, Cleveland.

Defence
LE-Gino Marchetti, Baltimore; LT - Gene Lipscomb, Baltimore; MG-Bill George, Chicago Bears; RT-Les Nommell, San Francisco; RE-Andy Robustelli, New York; LB - Sam Huff, New York; LB Joe Schmidt, Detroit; HB - Abe Woodson, San Francisco; HB Jack Butler, Pittsburgh; S - Jim Patton, New York; S-Andy Nelson, Baltimore.

Bower Is Due Back In Nets

TORONTO (CP) — Johnny Bower, regular goalie for Toronto Maple Leafs, will return to the net Saturday night when the Leafs meet New York Rangers here in a National Hockey League game.

Bower was benched for two games after the Leafs lost five straight and was replaced by Ed Chadwick, called up from Rochester Americans of the American Hockey League. Leafs coach Punch Imlach said Wednesday that Chadwick — scored on nine times when Leafs won over Detroit Red Wings but lost to Chicago Black Hawks—has been returned to Rochester.

Today's Minor Hockey Program

Only minor hockey activity scheduled today is a practice session for two groups. At 1:00 p.m. there is a practice for QC HS Bantam Crows and at 1:30 p.m. a workout is scheduled for Queen Square School Paperweight Larks. Coaches are asked to note these times and endeavour to be on hand to get their boys underway promptly.

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CRAPAUD RINK

Opening Skate Christmas Night IF WEATHER KEEPS COLD.

ADMISSION 25c

PROVINCIAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Charlottetown Offers three YOUTH TRAINING (Daytime) SHORT COURSE

- I. AGRICULTURE—This four-week (day) course includes instruction in Animal Health, Animal Husbandry, Field Crops and other topics of interest. Course begins early in February, 1960.
- II. EGG GRADING—This three-week course beginning January 11th, 1960 is designed to train young men and young women in the operating and management of Egg Grading stations. Instruction is given in: Grading of Eggs, Use of Equipment, Keeping Records and Government Regulations.
- III. HOME MAKING—This is a six week day course beginning January 18, 1960. Instruction is given in Cooking, Nutrition, Sewing, Handicrafts, Leatherwork, Home Nursing, Laundry, etc.

Young men and young women 16 years of age and older are eligible to attend these courses.

Those who must live away from home while receiving instruction and who satisfactorily complete a course will receive assistance to the extent of \$9.00 per week.

Those interested in taking any of these courses should apply at once to the School Principal or dial 4647, or 3774, Charlottetown.

The above courses will be given only if a sufficient number of applications are received.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

The Maritime Electric Company Limited

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Kent Street, Charlottetown

Our entire staff wishes you all the blessings of this Holy Season and joy and happiness in the years to come.

Management and Staff of **S. A. McDONALD**

May the inspiration of this season bring a new understanding of peace to the hearts and minds of men this Christmas —