Can Habs be stopped?

Coaches pondering as Leafs demolished

MONTREAL (CP)—How far can Montreal Canadiens go? Can they be stopped at four straight Stanley Cup championships?

The Habs wrapped up an unprecedented fourth successive cup Saturday night by demolishing Leafs 5-3 and winning the best-of-seven series 4-1. They let loose their frightening power in the first two periods and beat back one of those story-book windups Leafs had been pulling off for weeks. And they accomplished it without their superstars—Maurice (Rocket) Richard and Jean Beliveau.

The Montrealers are producing so many new players who seem destined for stardom that they could easily dominate the league for years. They've also had a good taste of playoff money; a taste that lingers.

GREAT TEAM

"Let's face it," says Leafs coach Punch Imlach. "They're a great team. Every man they send over the boards is an excellent shooter and skater."

That was a sincere tribute from a man who became something of a psychological genius for Leafs, demonstrating the persuasive power of words as he coaxed them from last place in the league into the semi-final series against Boston Bruins and into the final.

Even Montreal coach Toe Blake, not given to wild displays of optimism, admitted that he has a sensational club on the leash.

"It has to be considered a great club to win four titles," he said after Saturday's engagement. "They did it without the big guys and against a team that wouldn't quit.

Blake's "big guys" are the Rocket and Beliveau. Beliveau didn't get into action against Leafs after suffering a spinal injury in the semi-final series against Chicago Black Hawks. The Rocket, hampered by a late-season groin injury and recovering from a serious ankle fracture, sat out most of the series.

Canadiens blasted their way into a 5-1 lead by the end of the second period but Leafs staged a late drive that gave the jitters to Canadiens and the 14,790 fans in the Forum.

Leaf goaltender Johnny Bower was benched for the last two minutes and 33 seconds. Six forwards took cracks at Jacques Plante but the lanky Montreal netminder held them off, diving into pileups and kicking out short blasts time after time.

Right winger Bernie (Boom Boom) Geoffrion, sensational in the final series after overcoming stomach troubles, led Canadiens with two goals. Rookie centre Ralph Backstrom, defenceman Tom Johnson and right winger Marcel Bonin each scored once.

Bob Pulford, Frank Mahovlich and Bert Olmstead accounted for the Leaf goals.

Imlach figured his boys missed too many chances in the early stages.

"And things weren't breaking for us," he said. "Gerry Ehman had two great opportunities in the second period. He had only one man to beat but things didn't work out."

Canadiens started a runaway in the first period when Backstrom, Geoffrion and Johnson beat Bower. Mahovlich was in the penalty box when Backstrom took Geoffrion's pass and whipped a 20-footer into the cage.

Geoffrion sent the Habs in front 2-0 at 13:42, lashing a high shot that Bower couldn't handle. Johnson got his goal three minutes later, drilling a hard shot that bounced into the net off Leaf defenceman Tim Horton.

Pulford put Leafs in the game at 4:27 of the second period, deflecting George Armstrong's shot past Plante from close range as Montreal defenceman Doug Harvey watched from the penalty box. But Canadiens moved ahead 4-1 at 9:55 when Bonin—with his 10th of the playoffs—grabbed Henri Richard's rebound and pulled Bower aside.

Bonin was two goals short of the record jointly held by the Rocket and Beliveau.

Leafs were shorthanded on defenceman Carl Brewer's minor penalty when Geoffrion made it 5-1 at 19:25 of the second period.

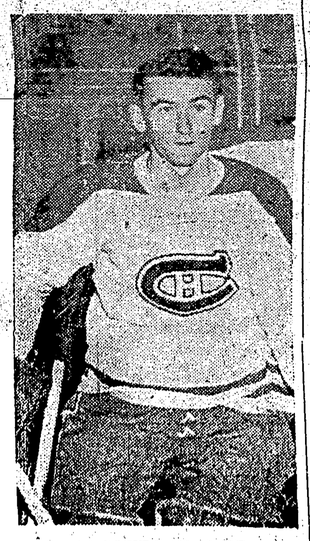
Mahovlich scored on a 30-footer at 12:07 of the third period and Olmstead backhanded a shot that caromed past Plante off Harvey at 16.19.

It was the 11th Stanley Cup victory for Canadiens in the trophy's 53-year history. No other club has won so often. It was also the ninth straight time the Habs made the final. They won five of the last seven.

Canadiens picked up a nice bundle of cash. Each will collect $3,000 from the playoffs and an additional $1,000 for taking the league title.

A few of the Montrealers stand to increase their extra money by $1,000 and $3,000 on the basis of all-star team selections and nominations to various individual awards.

Leafs will collect $2,150 each, a fancy figure for a club that was going nowhere a few months ago.



JACQUES PLANTE . . . Saturday hero

TWO CALIFORNIA HOCKEY CLUBS INCLUDED IN "IDEAL" LEAGUE

SEATTLE (CP)—A six-team league taking in California, Washington, British Columbia and Alberta is seen here today as the ideal for the Western Hockey League.

But the likelihood of this emerging from the league's two-day annual meeting is considered remote.

The league now comprises nine teams in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, British Columbia and Washington. Its meeting agenda has as a major consideration applications from Los Angeles and San Francisco.

These are expected to get approval—bringing in the new 16,000 seat arena in Los Angeles and the San Francisco Cow Palace, which can seat between 15,000 and 20,000 for hockey once a $125,000 ice plant is installed. The southern franchise applications have prompted some serious thinking by weaker teams in he present circuit—mainly Victoria and New Westminster.

The "ideal" six-team circuit, mentioned here on the eve of the meetings, would have Edmonton and Calgary in Alberta, Vancouver in B.C., Seattle in Washington and Los Angeles and San Francisco in California.

Sports

Totems rule WHL roost on four straight wins

SEATTLE (CP)—Seattle Totems, a determined aggregation with a playoff spirit that defied the odds, today hold the President's Cup, emblematic of the Western Hockey League championship.

They won it convincingly, sweeping through 12 playoff games with only one defeat and knocking over the favored Calgary Stampeders 4-0 in the best-of-seven league final, capping the performance with a 5-1 victory here Sunday night that closed WHL season.

"We were undersold by a lot of people," said coach Keith Allen of Totems as he received back-slapping congratulations in the Totem dressing room Sunday night. "Our guys played good hockey through all the playoffs."

"UNBELIEVABLE"—KYLE

For Gus Kyle, coach of the Stampeders, the defeat was "unbelievable."

"I'm stunned," Kyle said. "I really am. I still can't believe it." Kyle said Totems earned their wins. "Allen had them up for it."

The Sunday victory, before a crowd of 4,491 and largely inspired by two goals by lawyer-to-be Bill MacFarland, gave Totems an 11-1 record in post-season play and gave Seattle its first WHL championship. The club never before had reached the final.

It was scoring by MacFarland, who with linemates Marc Boileau and Rudy Filion sparked the Totem playoff victories from the beginning, that gave Totems the two victories here. He scored twice in both games—Saturday night keeping Totems even to set up Boileau's two-goal third-period splurge for the win, and Sunday night breaking the Stampeder spirit with a pair in the first period.

For Stampeders, the defeat was doubly bitter—they lost 4-0 in the final last year to Vancouver Canucks after defeating Seattle in the semi-final.

Sunday night, Stampeders showed a five-minute spurt that gave the noisy crowd here some second thoughts, but from then on there was no doubt of the outcome.

Chuck Blair scored for Calgary after just 56 seconds but before the first period ended, Val Fonteyne got the first of his two goals and MacFarland had counted twice. Fonteyne scored again in the second and defenceman Bill Davidson got his first playoff goal in the third to sew up the game and the title.

WHISTLE LOST IN NOISE

Saturday night with a crowd of 4,503 shouting so loud that the referee's whistle went unheard by the players three times, Totems played heads-up hockey in the first and third periods and with Boileau's two brilliant goals in the third overcame the second-period flashes shown by Stampeders.

MacFarland and Boileau shared the Totems scoring in that game while Chuck Blair and Ron Leopold counted for Stampeders. The Cowboys had the lead briefly in that one, too, playing to a 1-1 tie in the first, then going ahead 2-1 for 10 minutes of the second before MacFarland tied it and Boileau broke it up.

Filion, centreman on the line with MacFarland and Boileau, a

(Continued on Page 5)
See — TOTEM RULE

ONE THAT JACQUES STOPPED—Montreal goalie Jacques Plante blocks a scoring play by Leafs Bob Pulford as Canadiens defenceman Doug Harvey (2) skids to his knees in front of Pulford. Don Marshall (22) is outside the action while Canadiens Albert Langlois tries for the puck. Toronto won the third game of the NHL final 3-2 in overtime at Toronto Tuesday but lost the game and series Saturday. —CP photo.

Golf playoff

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — Julius Boros and Jack Burke Jr. caught and passed Arnold Palmer on the back nine Sunday while posting 72-hole 277s to force a two-way 18-hole playoff today for top money in the $30,000 Houston Golf Classic.

WEEKEND FIGHTS

Milan, Italy (AP)—Duilio Loi, 143, Italy, outpointed Emilio Marconi, 146, Italy, 15, for European welter title.

Dunlops down Vernon in Allan Cup opener

TORONTO (CP)—Whitby Dunlops won the first game of the best-of-seven Allan Cup final Sunday but officials of both clubs agree that the top-heavy 5-2 score is indicative of nothing.

They said Vernon Canadians, who never really got started Sunday, will be a different team in the second game at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens Wednesday night.

Said Whitby playing coach Sid Smith: "That was just the first game. They haven't got their legs yet."

He said the heat in the Gardens was "tough."

"They'll definitely improve They can hit and they've got some pretty fair hockey players."

George Agar, playing coach-manager of the Okanagan Hockey League team, said "they're as good as some of the teams we played out west."

"I know our club can play better. I guess a few of the boys took a bad time for an off game."

He too said it was hot in the Gardens.

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