Imlach leaving rest of series to players

TORONTO (CP)—Punch Imlach, the master of coaching psychology, apparently is changing his tactics.

The talkative Toronto Maple Leafs boss now says: "I don't know what the trouble is but I'll tell you something—I'm going to leave it strictly up to the players to win this series."

His Leafs are tied 2-2 with Detroit Red Wings as the teams prepare for the fifth game of their Stanley Cup semi-final here Saturday night.

It was just last Saturday that Imlach fired his team to its first victory of the series by tossing $1,250 on the dressing room floor and telling the players it was the difference between winning and losing. Each player on the two Stanley Cup finalists gets at least $1,250.

"I've pushed and fought as hard as I can, until I'm out on my feet," Imlach said Wednesday. "They've got to win this one on their own—that's all I have to say."

REPERTOIRE EXHAUSTED

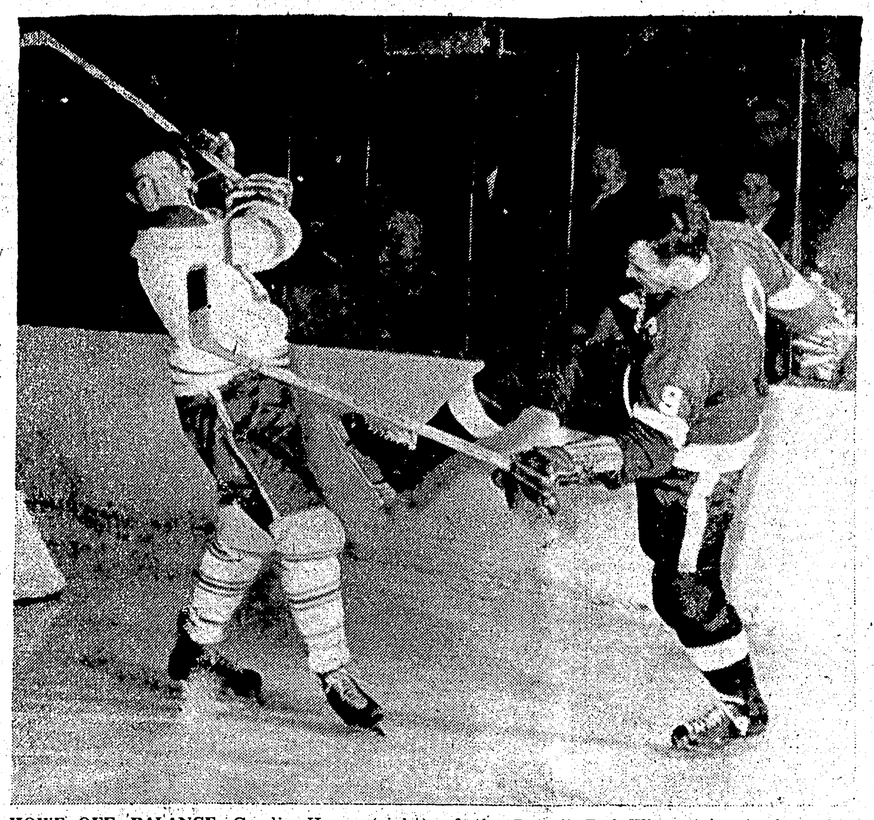
Imlach has used every trick in the book at one time or another to stir the Leafs to better efforts. His bribes and banter helped them to a strong second-place finish in the regular National Hockey League season, but they have blown cold a couple of times in this series and must win two of the next three meetings with the Wings to reach the final.

Imlach once called the series to go five games, but quickly stepped back from the prediction after Detroit won the opener 2-1. After the second loss, another 2-1 decision Tuesday night, he reversed himself completely.

Now the Wings appear inspired. They were fourth-place underdogs when the regular season ended—as were Leafs a year ago when they went on to win their semi-final against Boston Bruins.

Says Imlach: "These have been tough games, all decided by one goal. How can anybody say how they're going to go?"

Imlach, as usual had the facts going with him. All four series games so far have been one-goal wins, if you discount Bob Pulford's slider into the undefended Wings goal Saturday night. Wings goaltender Terry Sawchuk had been pulled for an extra forward in the last minutes of the games as Detroit trailed 3-2.



HOWE OFF BALANCE—Gordie Howe (right) of the Detroit Red Wings tries to keep his balances as he makes a sharp turn but appears to be spearing Frank Mahovlich of Toronto Maple Leafs during the third game of the semi-final Stanley Cup series between Leafs and Detroit at Detroit March 27. Toronto won 5-4 in the third period of overtime.
—CP from AP.

NOW OR NEVER

Tonight's game crucial for Hawks

CHICAGO (AP) — Coach Rudy Pilous, normally a mild-mannered fellow, sends his Chicago Black Hawks against the giant-like Montreal Canadiens in the fourth game of their Stanley Cup semi-final tonight, hoping his recent fuming and fussing will not go down the drain.

A loss would boot Hawks out of the best-of-seven series. A victory, most experts figure, would merely prolong the agony of having to face the highly favored Canadiens again.

Pilous was still annoyed today because the Hawks showed so badly in Tuesday's 4-0 loss. He charged defenceman Pierre Pilote and right winger Stan Mikita with not properly policing Billy Hicke when the Montreal rookie grabbed the puck and scored with a 20-foot shot midway through the first period to start Canadiens on a rampage.

"The Canadiens get one goal on us here in the stadium and we flatten out. That shouldn't have knocked us down. It should have inspired us, before a home crowd. And in the last 12 minutes of play we get only one shot at Montreal goaltender Jacques Plante.

STOPPED HITTING

"We hit them in the first period and then we stopped hitting them. All I can say is that this was the first time this season everybody decided to have a bad game at the same time.

"We tied up their big guys, Jean Beliveau and Rocket Richard. Our checking line of Glen Skov, Eddie Litzenberger and Earl Balfour we used against Beliveau, Marcel Bonin and Bernie Geoffrion gave us 11-percent effort. But that was about the only one."

Pilous then pondered Montreal's line of Hicke, Don Marshall and Ralph Backstrom, dubbing it the Joe Baloney trio.

Montreal coach Toe Blake, seeking a record fifth straight Stanley Cup, said Canadiens appeared sharper Tuesday than in their previous 12 games.

"This game is full of surprises. So when anybody asks me whether we'd like to play Toronto or Detroit in the finals, I tell them all we're thinking about now is Chicago."

Both clubs are in good shape. Bobby Hull of the Hawks, league scoring champion this season, has a bruise on his right leg but should be fit for tonight.

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BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Nicholson boosts bid for job with Orioles

By The Associated Press

At age 18, Dave Nicholson pocketed his $102,000 bonus and the keys to a new car. Then he left his St. Louis home to play baseball for the Baltimore Orioles, he hoped.

That was in 1958. He still hasn't won a job with Baltimore.

First it was Knoxville (.205), then class B Wilson, N.C. (.225) and class D Dublin, Ga. (.227). He started 1959 at double A Amarillo, but hit only .222 and it was on to Aberdeen of the Northern League where he finished out the season with a .298 average, 35 home runs and 114 runs batted in.

Now the 20-year-old right-handed power hitter is at Miami in training with the Orioles, and he seems to be closer than ever to Baltimore.

LONG HOMER

Against the Cincinnati Reds Wednesday, Nicholson homered 425 feet off Lefty Jim O'Toole. He also singled and had three runs batted in, although the Orioles lost 12-9.

It was his second homer of the week. The other was off Whitey Ford of the New York Yankees.

In other Flordia games, St. Louis Cardinals defeated the Yankees 6-2, Los Angeles Dodgers whipped Milwaukee Braves 7-2, Chicago White Sox shaded Pittsburgh Pirates 4-3 and Washington Senators outlasted the Philadelphia Phillies 11-10. Kansas City and Detroit were not scheduled.

In Arizona, Chicago Cubs defeated San Francisco Giants 13-10 and Boston Red Sox stopped Cleveland Indians 5-2.

Ninety-six runs were scored in the seven games.

Mickey Mantle hit his first homer of the spring for the Yanks. But New York already had been throttled on three hits.

Larry Sherry went six strong innings for the Dodgers, allowing the Braves only four hits and two runs. Los Angeles' Wally Moon hit a bases-loaded double.

The defence-minded White Sox committed five errors, but still managed to hand the Pirates their second straight loss after 11 consecutive victories. Ted Kluszewski, with an eye on a return to full time playing at first base, had two hits for Chicago.

Bob Allison hit a three-run homer and Faye Throneberry had five hits, including a two-out, game winning single in the ninth, as the Senators collected 17 hits to overcome an 8-1 Philadelphia lead.

Johnny Antonelli of the Giants and Moe Drabowsky of the Cubs were well hit as each club scored five times in the first three innings. Willie Mays and Ernie Banks hit his fifth spring homer.

Billy Monbouquette went the first six innings for the Red Sox and allowed only one earned run.

The Sox got to Indian starter Gary Bell after he had pitched a perfect first three innings.

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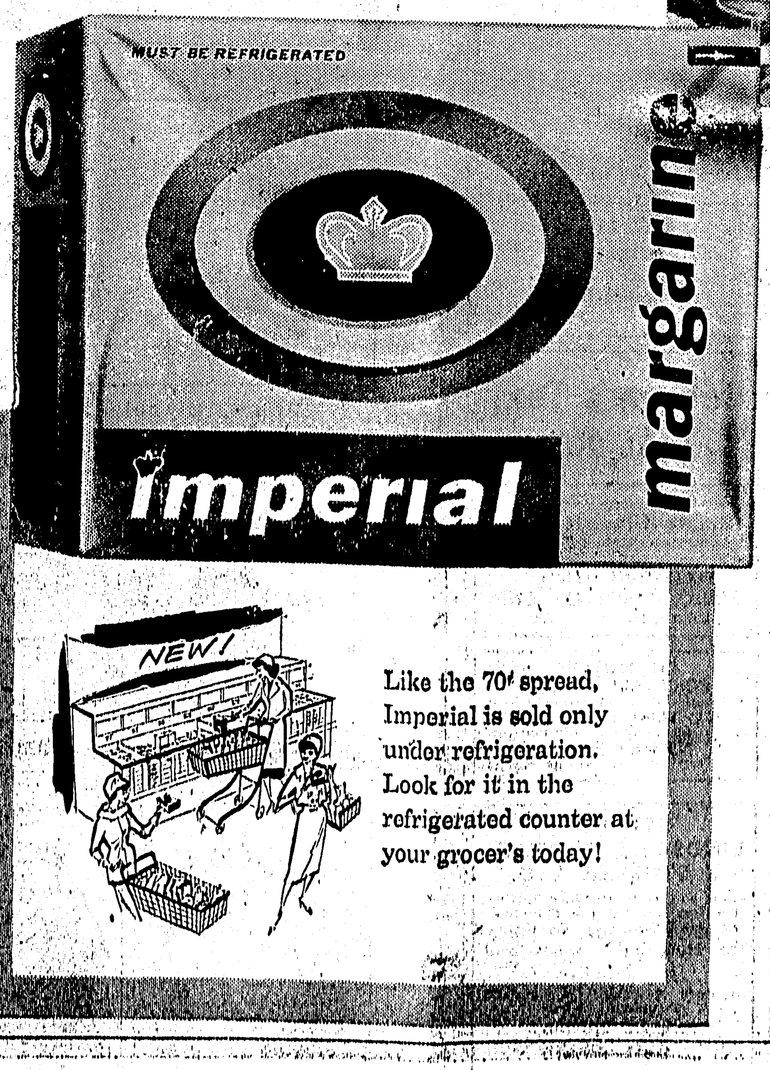

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