Athletic Record For Year—

CANADIAN SPORT HEADS INTO 1946 WITH CONFIDENCE FOR GOOD FUTURE

Outlook Brightened By Revival of Pre-war Classics, Return of Stars from Services

By ALAN HARVEY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

Apparently on the threshold of an expansive new era after wartime retrenchment, sport heads buoyantly into 1946, confident of mastery over reconversion problems which followed V-J Day. In all lines of athletic activity, the outlook for Canada is brightened by revival of pre-war national classics, return of established stars from the services and indications of increased participation in sport by men and women who learned to play games in training camps. Sprinkled through swelling lists of competition in the late months of 1945 are old familiar names: Syl Apps, Frank Brimsek and Milt Schmidt in hockey; Tony Golab, Bill Stukus and Andy Tommy in football; Canadians Dick Fowler and Phil Marchildon in major league baseball. All spent more than a year in uniform and Fowler set the comeback pace by pitching Philadelphia Athletics to a no-hit, no-run victory against St. Louis Browns — first perfect game in the American League since 1940.

Sport leaders announce renewal of blue-ribbon events like the blacked-out Macdonald's Brier curling classic and prepared for a Canadian entry in revived Davis Cup tennis competition. Golf officials dusted off the Seagram Trophy for Canadian Open competition even before the war against Japan ended.

New leagues blossomed everywhere.

Reconversion Problems Are Up

For sport another hopeful legacy of war was a cross-country trend toward construction of war memorial centres designed as sport playgrounds.

Reconversion problems principally affected football and hockey. The national football crown finally went to Toronto Argonauts, returning to the game after a three-year hiatus. It was a strange season of "window shopping" with players out of the service drifting from one camp to another in search of better terms, but Argos gained steadily in strength and easily defeated Winnipeg Blue Bombers 35-0 in the Canadian final. Their display stamped them one of the great teams of all time.

Toronto Maple Leafs won the 1944-45 Stanley Cup on Babe Pratt's third-period goal in the seventh game of a tense series against Detroit Red Wings, but Leafs opened shakily in the campaign which ends next April. General Manager Conny Smythe said Toronto never had faced such problems as those of the transition period from war to peace.

1945 Record in Canadian Sport

Other major developments through 1945:

Horse racing: Wagering totals $42,193,258 in biggest pari-mutual boom since 1929; Uttermost wins King's Plate, Koroway wins label of "Canadian champion" in Western Canada and Tulachmore becomes greatest all-time money winner among Canadian breds.

Basketball: Merritton, Ont., Hellcats win Canadian senior title second straight year by defeating Vancouver Lauries; new professional league and possibility of East-West cage final mooted.

Badminton: Jack Purcell abdicates world title; Doug Grant of Montreal and Stanley Cutts of Toronto arrange challenge match to determine successor.

Golf: Bryon Nelson, golf's mechanical man, wins Canadian Open with 72-hole score of 280. Stan Leonard of Vancouver, 11th in field, is closest Canadian.

Rowing: Philadelphia's Penn Barge wins 63rd Canadian Henley regatta renewal; Lieut. Bob Pearce indicates impending abdication of world's professional sculling title.

Figure Skating: Barbara Ann Scott, 16, Ottawa, captures North American senior ladies' figure skating championship at New York.

Lacrosse: Vancouver Burrards trounce St. Catherines Athletics for Mann Cup in three straight; ill feeling between teams reflected in attack on referee Jimmy Gunn.

SHORT SPORT

Joe Louis began training for the twentieth defence of his world's heavyweight boxing championship four years ago yesterday. It was a second engagement against Buddy Baer and the result was the same as the first—a knockout victory for the Brown Bomber. Louis is preparing to fight Billy Conn early next summer.

John Henry Lewis, light-haevyweight champion of the world, knocked out Coleman Johns in the second round of a non-title bout 10 years ago. Lewis defeated Dutch Weiner the following night in another non-title tussle.

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