Leafs in Tough Spot As NHL Nears Close

Toronto Will Need Help To Get Into Cup Finals

MONTREAL (CP) — Two tough assignments focus attention on the National Hockey League as the teams swing into the final games of the regular schedule tonight.

In order of toughness of attainment, they are: A playoff spot for Toronto Maple Leafs and a goal scoring record for Gordie Howe of Detroit Red Wings.

The Leafs will need outside help and a superhuman effort of their own if they are to displace either Boston Bruins or Chicago Black Hawks. The Bruins and Hawks are tied for third place with 65 points each. The Leafs, in fifth place and currently outside the playoff fold, have 61. Detroit clinched first place March 8 and Montreal Canadiens clinched second last Saturday. New York Rangers are out of the running.

The Leafs' big test started Wednesday when the Hawks visited Toronto to go down to defeat. If their playoff chances are still alive next Sunday, the Leafs will get another chance when they play that night in Boston. On Thursday they beat Montreal and tonight meet New York on home ice.

Even with this week's wins the Leafs must depend on other teams to administer spankings to one or both. There are no Boston-Chicago games left, so a cut-throat affair is ruled out.

If there are ties on points at the finish, the team with the greater number of wins gets the higher placing. If there is still a tie, the call goes to the team with the fewer losses. If this doesn't break the deadlock, total number of goals for the season decides the issue.

The task Gordie Howe has set himself gets no easier as the season nears its close. He has scored 49 goals and is aiming at the single-season record of 50, set by Montreal's Maurice Richard in the 50-game schedule of the 1945-46 season.

In the two games left, the pressure on, Howe must do better than .7, his average in 68 games. But the big fellow may break loose in any of them. The teams he will face are Chicago and Montreal.

There could be a dramatic finish to the season if Howe breaks or ties the record—or fails to do so—at Detroit Olympia Sunday night. The visitors will be the Canadiens, with Richard himself in action.

With his 49 goals and 46 assists, Howe is far in front as individual point-getter with 93 points, well ahead of his own record of 86.

His teammate Ted Lindsay has 70 points and Richard third place with 60 points, followed by Wally Hergesheimer of New York with 58.

Only an unprecedented three-game avalanche of goals can displace Terry Sawchuk of the Wings as low-average goalie for the season. His average of 1.89, compared with his 1.94 last season and 1.98 the season before. Gerry McNeil of Montreal ranks second with 2.10.

THE PLAYING ELIGIBILITY of Ron Attwell, 18, has stirred up a hornet's nest between the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association and the Quebec Amateur Hockey Association. George S. Dudley, secretary-manager of the CAHA, said the QAHA defied the parent organization by granting Attwell a playing certificate with Montreal Junior Canadiens, after the CAHA had refused to transfer Attwell from the Ontario Hockey Association to the QAHA. The QAHA later was suspended by the national body.

CURLING DRAW

Following is the draw for tonight and Sunday:

10:00 p.m. (Superior Auto)—Moore vs Berg; Adomeit vs Kellough; Sieber vs Carmichael.

12:30 a.m.—Rowbotham vs Dominato (Grand Challenge); Heggie vs Robertson (Superior Auto) Bateman vs Scmitt ((Superior Auto)

3:00 a.m. (Grand Challenge)—Shier vs Carey; Waldbauer vs Collinson; Scott vs Willson.

Remember When

Harry Vardon, one of the world's greatest golfers, died at Whetstone, England, 16 years ago today at the age of 66. The English stylist was winner of six British Open titles between 1896 and 1914, in addition to dozens of other trophies.

$35 Million For Alberta Air Base

OTTAWA (CP) — A combat-training base for the RCAF, costing $35,000,000 will be opened next year in a huge tract of northeastern Alberta, the Commons defence committee was told.

H. A. Davis, engineering superintendent of the defence department, said the station will be used to train airmen in high-level bombing, in the use of air to air guided missiles and other weapons, and in fighter interception.

The base will be partially opened in the spring of 1954 and completely opened later that year. It is known as Cold Lake, about 150 miles northeast of Edmonton, or as Lac la Biche.

Construction costs are expected to run to more than $35,000,000. In addition to this nearly 6,000 acres of land are being purchased and rights will be obtained to use a far larger area for the training.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, fifth man in British history to be the husband of a reigning queen, is possibly the most versatile sportsman ever closely associated with the crown. He is an all-round athlete who can put up a good show at anything from soccer to skittles. His interests in sport began when he was a schoolboy. Here he examines his running shoes before taking part in inter-school games at Edinburgh in 1935. He attended Gordonstoun school in Scotland. He still has trophies won at school for swimming, diving and high jumping.

Easily-Accessible Winter Sports Attracts Those in All Walks of Life

By PETER MURRAY
Canadian Press Staff Writer

VANCOUVER (CP)—Boosters of Vancouver's "Evergreen Playground" have started plugging something new for them—snow.

Careful to remark that the snow falls only on nearby mountains, the tourist bureau is drawing many visitors to the city with the lure of easily accessible winter sports.

The three peaks of Hollyburn, Grouse and Seymour mountains across Burrard Inlet will receive more than 120,000 visits between them this year during the December-to-May season. Chair lifts on Grouse and Hollyburn and a government-maintained highway on Seymour have brought skiing within an hour's journey of downtown Vancouver.

RECORD LENGTH

The Grouse chair lift, in two sections, is 8,800 feet long and is described as "the world's longest metropolitan chair lift." It was completed in January, 1951.

The three mountains are about 4,000 feet in elevation and have an average snow depth of eight to 10 feet. Some of the best skiing comes in late April and May when a warm sun melts the overnight crust, making for ideal snow conditions.

Ski lessons sponsored by two city newspapers are attracting people of all ages and walks of life. It is not uncommon to see a kindergarten-age tot skimming down a slope alongside a 60-year-old.

A little harder to reach but offering unparalleled alpine scenery is Garibaldi park, some 35 miles from Vancouver. Still in the devolpment stage, this 450-square-mile park land is destined to rival some of the finest resorts in the Rockies.

HIGHWAY PLANNED

At present the only means of getting there is by boat, bus, snowmobile and a two-mile ski trek. A proposed new highway along Howe Sound to Squamish would bring the skiing grounds within a two-hour drive of Vancouver.

Garibaldi's devolopment has been pioneered by two Norwegian immigrants, Ottar and Emil Brandvold and Ottar's wife, Joan. This hardy trio, beginning in 1941, has built a log chalet capable of accommodating 37 people.

The Brandvolds eventually plan a series of mountain huts dotting the area which would permit easy one-day trips from cabin to cabin in the alpine playground.

Most of the terrain around Diamond Head, where the lodge is situated, is above the timber line, giving long, uninterrupted ski runs on treeless slopes. From the "saddle" there is a 1½-mile-long run to the chalet.

The Brandvolds maintain that only government indifference is preventing them from opening up the full potentialities of the park. But they can't complain of any lack of co-operation from the public. In Squamish, 40 citizens loaned $100 each, interest free, on the purchase of their new snowmobile.

Kilburn Fined For Attack

SEATTLE (AP) — Colin Kilburn, Victoria hockey player, has been suspended indefinitely and fined $100 for his attack on referee Powers in the Victoria-Vancouver hockey game at Vancouver last Tuesday night, President Al Leader of the Western Hockey League announced today. Vancouver won the game 9-5.

Man Who Led Wings to Title Never Played in Big League

DETROIT (AP)—A little man who never played big league hockey led Detroit Red Wings to a fifth straight National Hockey League title, an unprecedented achievement. He is coach Tommy Ivan.

The success of the 42-year-old Ivan, dapper and reserved, parallels that of Joe McCarthy in baseball. McCarthy, who led New York Yankees to four straight championships, never played big league ball.

Ivan said he never ran into a wave of resentment because of his undistinguished plating background.

"Like so many of the Red Wings," he said, "I was a product of the farm system. McCarthy, on the other hand, came out of a different organization. The man who recommended me to the Detroit system was Carson Cooper, head scout. He's the same fellow who signed such stars as Ted Lindsay, Red Kelly, Marty Pavelich, Bill Quackenbush and Harry Lumley to Detroit contracts."

Ivan succeeded Jack Adams as coach after the 1946-47 season. Adams had been doubling up as coach and manager. The Wings jumped from fourth to second place during Ivan's first season, then captured four straight championships. Twice before this had been done in the NHL, but never did any team win five in a row.

"Adams deserves most of the credit," said Ivan. "He provided the horses. You can't win without the horses."

Ivan was a centre in his playing days, which ended in Brantford, Ont., at the age of 27 when he fractured his cheekbone and dislocated his jaw in an ice jam. He turned to coaching and scouting before Adams moved him up from Omaha to Indianapolis and then to Detroit.

There were several veterans of considerable stature on the Wings when Ivan appeared on the scene, including Black Jack Stewart, but Tommy says he was given free rein.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

By GAYLE TALBOT

LOS ANGELES (AP)—St. Louis Browns may not go anywhere except back to St. Louis after the current turmoil subsides, but there will be nothing lackadaisical about their play as long as they have Clint Courtney, the 1952 rookie of the year, catching for them.

He's still a throwback to the old-time, hard-bitten fighter who liked to keep a keen edge on his spikes.

"How do you think we're going to do?" he demanded at the outset, a mean glint in his eye. "You think we haven't got pitching? I tell you this much, it'll be better than we got from that bunch of bums we had last year. It couldn't be worse. We're liable to show you something.

"Who do I think will win it? Well, I guess you've got to say them Yanks, long as they've got that Mickey Mantle out there. I played with him in Kansas City and I could've told 'em they wouldn't miss DiMaggio. I see they're worrying whether Phil Rizzuto will be able to play short all the way. They can quit worrying. That little sucker will be in there."

At least one magnate out this way doubts that general manager Frank Lane of the Chicago White Sox made such a smart move in signing his new third baseman, Vern Stephens, to an escalator contract in which the veteran will be rewarded for playing in a certain number of games.

When Stephens balked at the contract offered him—it called for a healthy cut of the salary paid him by Boston Red Sox last season—Lane induced him to sign by promising an extra $2,000 if he played in as many as 100 games and $5,000 for 120 games. Stephens appeared in only 92 for Boston last year, when he was hampered by a bad knee.

"Frank might find himself in an awkward position before the season is over," opined a rival official, who requested anonymity. "What if the Sox are out of the race a week before it ends and want to try out some rookie infielders and Stephens is only two or three games shy of that final $3,000. Will Stephens decide whether he plays third, or will manager Paul Richards?"

Alberni Beats Rupert Cagers

VANCOUVER — Alberni defeated Prince Rupert 58-50 in the provincial high school basketball championship tournament yesterday for their second loss.

The Bo-Me-Hi team made 12 out of 30 foul shots. Morrison topped Rupert players with 13 points, Young had 10, Ciccone, 10, Ford, eight, Kristmanson, five and Letourneau, four.

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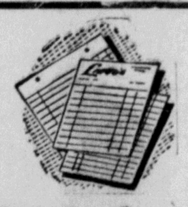

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