

Marlene Stewart Again Top Woman Athlete of Year

By JACK SULLIVAN
Associated Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (CP)—By the margin of a good tee shot, Marlene Stewart, freckle-faced golfer from Fonthill, Ont., has been acclaimed Canada's outstanding female athlete of 1953. The country's sports editors and sportscasters left no doubt about that.

In an all but unanimous vote, they chose Miss Stewart for the third year in succession, enabling her to equal the three-year record Barbara Ann Scott set up in the late '40s when she was winning world and Olympic figure-skating titles.

Asked to name the three individual performers among the women in order of preference, they hoisted "Little Ben" to the top with 232 points in the annual Canadian Press year-end sports poll. The votes were computed on a 3-2-1 basis and Marlene's total was nearly double the points received by the other 21 women mentioned by selectors.

HORSEWOMAN SECOND

Her closest rival with 53 points was Shirley Thomas, the 18-year-old horsewoman from Aylmer, Que., who rode to international fame in Canada and the United States. Third place went to Shirley Campbell, 17-year-old swimming prodigy from Fergus, Ont., who won her second successive world professional three-mile women's title at Toronto. She received 40 points.

Many voters wrote only Miss Stewart's name on the ballot and asked "Who else is there?" They vividly recalled last June 25 at Portswal, Wales, when Marlene won the British women's amateur golf tournament, only Canadian to do it in the 60-year history of the championship.

Marlene returned to Canada, won the Canadian women's closed title at London, Ont., in a breeze. And then the roof fell in on her as she went after the Canadian women's open and the U.S. amateur title. She lost both.

Miss Thomas holds the distinction of being the only woman to ride on Canada's four-member equestrian team. Barbara Ann, who won the outstanding award in 1946-47-48 to become the first triple winner of the CP poll in its 19-year history, received two votes, first-place choice of Cam Church of CHLA St. Thomas, Ont., and second choice of Len Walsh of the St. John's, Nfld., Evening Telegram.

BA is "still the best," Church said. Marlene was his second choice with this observation: "Coming fast."

Fashion Footwear Top Marksmen

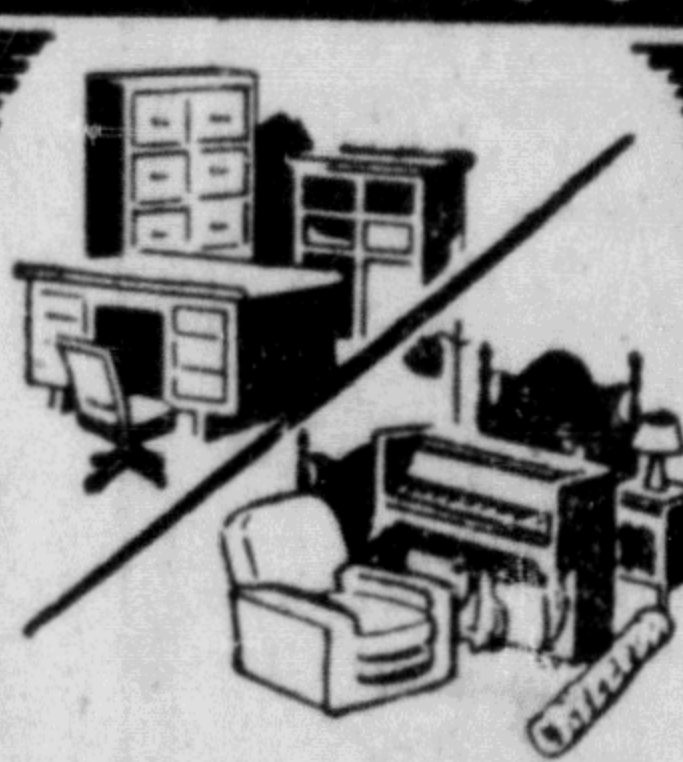
Fashion Footwear trap shooting team retained the Rupert Radio challenge cup by a wide margin against contenders Atila Fish Company and Columbia Cellulose teams Sunday at the local transhooting range.

A good turnout of more than 40 trapshooters also took part in a turkey shoot with competitive close at all times. There was a shoot-off between Harry Sheardown, Earl Becker, Frank Allingham and Frank Parlette for one turkey, with Sheardown winning. In the sudden-death shoot-off between Al Manson and Ray Montgomery, Montgomery won.

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THE TALENTED HANDS of Al Rosen are matched in another direction by his wife, Terry, who sculpts while her husband tallies up the homers for the Cleveland Indians. Al earned the title of 1953's Most Valuable Player in the American League after topping the circuit with home runs and RBIs. With spring training several months away, the third baseman has time to watch Terry pursue her artistic hobby in their Cleveland home.

Champion Weightlifter Doug Hepburn Named Outstanding Athlete for 1953

By JACK SULLIVAN

TORONTO (CP)—Doug Hepburn, 280-pound weightlifter from Vancouver and an unknown outside his native province a few months ago, is Canada's outstanding male athlete of 1953.

He didn't receive the accolade by a shade, perhaps by the margin of his biceps, in the annual Canadian Press sports poll among the country's sports editors and sportscasters. It was the closest vote in the 19-year history of the poll.

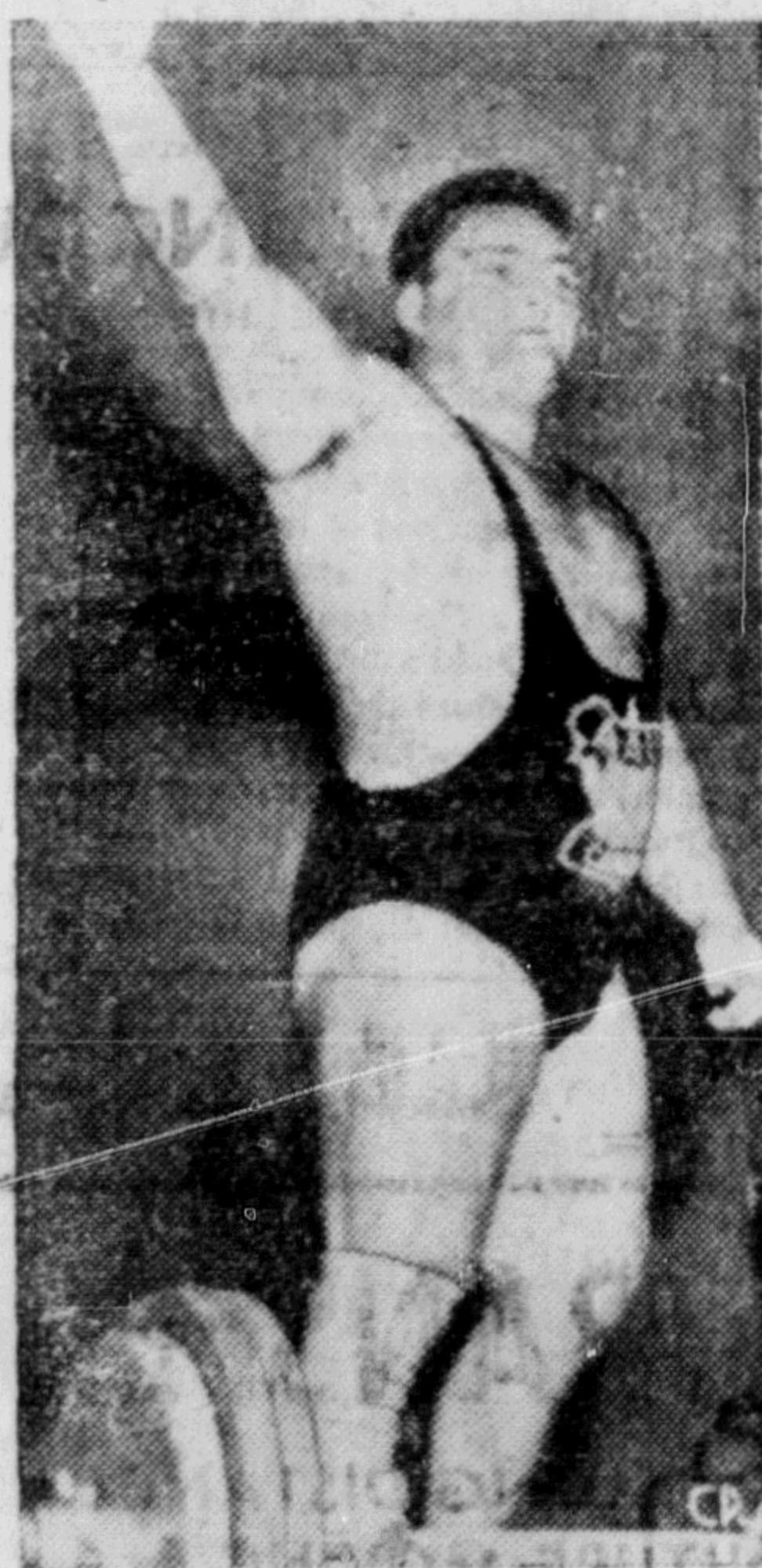
On a point basis of 3-2-1 for the first three choices, Hepburn polled a total of 100 points, just five more than Toronto's Earl Walls, heavyweight boxer whose fists brought him country-wide recognition during the year. Gordie Howe, Detroit Red Wings right-winger in the National Hockey League, placed third with 84 points.

Maurice Richard, chosen Canada's top athlete and her outstanding sports personality in 1952, placed fourth and well out of the running with 36 points. The Montreal Canadiens' right-winger caught the eye of only seven selectors for first place, five for second and five for third.

From there in the list was well strung out, ranging from 27 points for Gerry Kesselman, 19-year-old Ontario amateur golfer from Kitchener, now a professional, to single points for 12 others.

The selectors named 40 men for the honor and the list represented practically every sport in the book. Besides weight-lifting, boxing, hockey and golf there was football, track and field, skiing, baseball, swimming, badminton, basketball, tennis, harness horse driving, squash and a football coach—Annis Stukus of British Columbia Lions who will play in the Western Interprovincial Football Union in 1954.

But at no time was it a wide-santa needed help. ST. THOMAS, Ont. (CP)—Firemen here sent out a call for aid while busy repairing Christmas toys. They can fix almost everything including dolls, but said they would appreciate the help of any citizens who can make suitable dolls' clothing.



DOUG HEPBURN... outstanding male athlete

holm he won the world heavyweight championship with a total lift of 1,030 1/4 pounds. He defeated John Davis of the United States, world and Olympic champion, and Argentina's Humberto Selveti.

He didn't receive the acclaim of other Canadian world champions but selectors remembered his feat months later. It was no surprise that Howe and Walls were high up in the list. Howe has been a standout pro hockey player for years and is a better-than-average ball player. Walls hit the headlines during the year with his exploding fists that gave him knock-outs over contending heavyweight title fighters.

The selectors put the finger mainly on football and hockey players although they did recognize the achievements of Toronto's Cliff Lumsden in the professional long-distance swimming world; Tommy Burgess of London, Ont., an outstanding international baseball league player with Rochester; golfers Pat Fletcher of Saskatoon, Henry Martell of Edmonton, Don Doe of Granby, Que., and Toronto's Ernie Howard, North American squash titleholder.

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By The Canadian Press
Dick Irvin, then captain of Chicago Black Hawks, suffered a fractured skull in collision with Red Dutton of Montreal Maroons in an NHL game at Chicago 2 years ago tonight. That finished Irvin's playing career, but he coached Toronto Maple Leafs for 10 years before taking over as Montreal Canadiens coach in 1941.

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SPORTS ROUND-UP

By GAYLE TALBOT

NEW YORK (AP)—The first official move made by Walter Alton indicates that the new manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers is every bit as smart as they said he was when they brought him out of the minor leagues to tackle one of the trickiest jobs in the business.

Alton, looking around at the unbroken ranks of ex-infielders who comprised the Dodgers coaching staff, asked his bosses to go out and find him the best pitching coach they could lay hands on, and hang the expense. They found Ted Lyons unemployed momentarily and, by signing the former White Sox great, they might well have made a down payment on a world championship.

If the Brooklyn team of the last few seasons had had one noteworthy weakness it was the absence of an expert handler of

pitchers among Charlie Dressen's staff. Dressen was a former infielder, as well as Billy Herman, Cookie Lavagetto and Jake Pittler.

One of the differences of opinion between Dressen and his employers was said to have been Chuck's insistence upon being his own pitching coach. The Dodgers officials did not consider Dressen especially gifted in handling his throwers, the young ones in particular.

The record does not prove conclusively that the bosses were right about it, for the little guy won two flags and tied for a third in three years. But the fact remains that he has just lost two world series to a team which employs a full-time pitching expert named Jim Turner.

KEEPS TABS ON PITCHERS

Turner's duties consist mainly of coaching and pampering Casey Stengel's pitchers and advising Casey which of them had the best night's sleep.

As the Yanks also have an infield coach, Frankie Crosetti, and a catching coach, Bill Dickey, Casey thus is enabled to concentrate his heaviest thinking on the outfield, which was his own preserve, and on double-talking about the overall operation.

It isn't only the rookie who profits by the presence of a pitching coach on his bench. The veteran depends upon his colleague to check him regularly to see if he has unconsciously developed some little mannerism which might tip opposing batters as to whether they are about to get a curve or a fast ball.

Canadian Hockey Team Criticized

LONDON (CP)—Under the heading "mistake of the year?" a Canadian columnist expressed doubts about Canada's entry in the world hockey championships at Oslo in February.

"Is Canada making a big mistake in sending Toronto Lyndhursts to the world championships?" Bob Giddens, formerly of Ottawa, asks in his weekly column in Ice Hockey World, a London publication.

"As far as we can determine from a glance at the line-up, the Lyndhurst crew hasn't got the know-how to fly our flag on the Continent and in the face of Russia, Sweden, Czechoslovakia—even Norway."

Giddens says Streatham of the English League, just back from Sweden, dropped one of its two games against the Swedish national team, indicating the growing strength of continental clubs. And Streatham is a good senior B team by Canadian standards, says Giddens, whereas Lyndhursts don't seem to be.

Giddens, a self-exiled Canadian who has been watching British hockey since the 1930s, suggests Canada should send over a good junior team from St. Michael's College in Toronto. He adds:

"Wouldn't it be a sad blow to Canada if Russia in her first appearance in world championship competition should beat... us? Why... send a team that doesn't even rate top intermediate?"

Smithers To Be Hosts for Ski Tour

SMITHERS—Smithers Ski Club will be host to the British Columbia Nordic Ski championship February 13 and 14. Skiers from Vancouver, Burns Lake, Revelstoke and Prince George are expected to take part.

Previous championship ski meets held here were the Western Canada Championships in 1935 and the Northern B.C. championships in 1951.

Considerable work has been carried out on the local ski hill on Hudson Bay Mountain with improvements made to the jump. At last year's local ski tourney a record 181-foot exhibition jump was made by Rolph Heile of Sons of Norway club, Vancouver. Heile placed second in the senior division of the tourney.

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By CHIC YOUNG

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By STAN DRAKE