

Detroit's Gordie Howe Most Valuable Player

Choice Almost Unanimous
By Sports Writers, Radio Men

By JACK SULLIVAN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO.—Gordie Howe conceivably is the most valuable chunk of playing material that hockey has known.

That was evident today when sports writers and sportscasters in National Hockey League cities voted him in a Canadian Press poll as the greatest player in the league, the most valuable player to his team, and the most improved player over the last five years in the NHL.

The 24-year-old phenomenon from Floral, Sask., a strapping right-winger with Detroit Red Wings, won in a breeze. In the opinion of many selectors he is greater than Howie Morenz, the Montreal Canadiens centre who three years ago was voted the greatest of the half century.

In selections for the greatest player in the league, only two others were mentioned. They were Montreal's Maurice Richard and Boston Bruins' Milt

Schmidt—but it was Howe by almost unanimous decision. Richard received four votes and Schmidt one, against 21 for Howe.

The powerful, 190-pound Howe has surpassed the expectations of his supporters since he joined the Wings in 1946. He was just another player in his rookie year with only seven goals in 58 games, but since then he has taken over from such established stars as Richard and Montreal's Elmer Lach. Ted Kennedy of Toronto Maple Leafs, Schmidt and many others.

Howe was a bashful kid of 18 when he joined the Red Wings. That season was hardly good enough to draw rave notices but Howe, who started playing as a goalkeeper in Western Canada when he was 12, had the makings of a star. The Wings rode with him.

RECORD TOTAL

In 1950-51 he became the highest scorer for any one NHL season with 86 points on 43 goals and 43 assists. He had 47 goals and 39 assists the following year and this season became the 25th NHL player, and the youngest, to score 200 goals. Barring injuries, he may become big-time hockey's most prolific scorer.

"He can do everything in super-star fashion," said Red Burnett of the Toronto Daily Star. "He is a better all-round player than Morenz."

Baz O'Meara, veteran sports editor of the Montreal Star, picked Howe but wouldn't go along with the idea he's greater than Morenz.

"He's not as colorful and not as fast," O'Meara said.

Here's what some other selectors said about him:

Dana Mozley of the New York Daily News: "He does everything well: most things better than anyone. He is as good as Morenz."

Bobby Hewitson, Toronto Telegram sports editor and one-time NHL referee: "He can do anything. He is as good as Morenz."

Lou Walter, Detroit Times: "He can do more things, and magnificently, than any other player in the game, perhaps in history."

ONE FOR SCHMIDT

Schmidt's lone vote was sent in by sportmaster Frank Fallon of Boston. "Milt has lasted as a top-flight player longer than anyone in the league and is the equal of Morenz," he said.

Marcel Desjardins of Montreal La Presse, a Richard supporter, said he considered the Rocket, who broke Nels Stewart's record of 324 goals this season, better than Morenz. "Morenz never fired the crowds and stimulated interest outside Montreal the way Richard has done."

Besides Howe's scoring feats, the Detroit whiz replaced Richard on the right wing on the NHL's all-star team in 1950-51 and last season after two years as alternate to the Montreal firebrand.

Just as in the balloting for the "greatest player" tag, Howe made it a runaway race in the "most valuable" and "most improved" voting.



CAUGHT BY THE CAMERA is Milt Schmidt, 35-year-old Boston Bruin centre, rated the craftiest veteran in the National Hockey League. He received a one-vote margin over Elmer Lach of Montreal Canadiens in a poll of coaches, sports writers and sportscasters of the six NHL cities.

One Team, Lone Individual Record Set in NHL Season

MONTREAL (CP)—One team and one individual record were set during the 210-game National Hockey League schedule.

Detroit Red Wings became the first team to win the NHL championship five seasons in a row. Big Gordie Howe, Detroit right-winger, set a point-scoring record. His 49 goals and 46 assists for a total of 95 points bettered his own mark of 86 points, made in each of the last two seasons.

He just failed to reach the 50-goal record for one season set by Maurice Richard of the Montreal Canadiens in the 1944-45 campaign.

It was Detroit again for the goal-scoring honors. Terry Sawchuk's goals-against average was the lowest and he is winner of the Vezina trophy for the second successive season. The trophy goes to the goalkeeper "who has played the most games for the team with the fewer goals scored against it."

Sawchuk's average, counting the seven games he missed because of an injury, was 1.90. In his previous two seasons in the NHL, Sawchuk had averages of 1.98 and 1.94.

The league record for goal-tending goes back to the 1928-29 season when the late George Hainsworth, playing with Montreal Canadiens, had only 43 goals scored against him in 44 games for an average of .977. Hainsworth registered 22 shut-outs in the 44 games.

Gerry McNeil of Canadiens was second behind Sawchuk with 2.11, followed by Harry Lumley of Toronto Maple Leafs with 2.38, Jim Henry of Boston Bruins, 2.46; Al Rollins of Chicago Black Hawks, 2.50, and Lorne Worsley of New York Rangers, 3.01. McNeil and Lumley led in shutouts with 10 each.

Maurice Richard finished the season as the most penalized player in the league, with 112 minutes. He nosed out Detroit's Ted Lindsay, leader all season, by one minute. Toronto was the most penalized team with 810 minutes.

The leaders:

	G	A	Pts
Howe, Detroit	49	46	95
Lindsay, Detroit	32	39	71
Richard, Montreal	28	33	61
Hergesheimer, N.Y.	30	29	59
Delvecchio, Detroit	16	43	59
Bonty, New York	16	38	54
Prystai, Detroit	16	34	50
Kelly, Detroit	19	27	46
Olmstead, Montreal	17	28	45
Mackell, Boston	27	17	44
McFadden, Chicago	23	21	44

Final standings:

	W	L	T	A	Pts
Detroit	36	16	18	222	133
Montreal	28	23	19	155	148
Boston	28	29	13	152	172
Chicago	27	28	15	169	175
Toronto	27	30	13	156	167
New York	17	37	16	152	211

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SPORTS ROUND-UP

By GAYLE TALBOT

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—The first thing you notice about Tokyo Giants, the champion ball club of Japan, is that their uniforms bear the word "Tokyo" in block letters across the chest. Why they didn't spell it out in Japanese is simple.

Lefty O'Doul, the old big league outfielder and present Pacific Coast League manager,

officially named them Tokyo Giants on one of his trips out there years ago. There is no Japanese for "Giants," and, as the club's original uniforms bore both words, it would have looked silly to have one word in Japanese and the other in English.

It became necessary to drop "Giants" in time, as Japanese players were smaller in those days than they are now and the word kept sliding down under the belts.

Ever since the Japanese adopted baseball, they have run into similar linguistic difficulties. With no words of their own for the familiar terms of the game—run, hit, strike, home run, and the like—it was necessary to use American terms.

During the war they dropped these and made up some ersatz ones of their own, but it didn't seem the same, and the instant the conflict ended they went back to the old, familiar diamond chatter.

The Japanese team is training in the U.S. at a cost of around \$100,000 and is engaged in a heavy exhibition schedule against major league and Coast League clubs. To date it has won eight games against a dozen losses and has greatly impressed baseball men with the obvious improvement in play since the

last Japanese team was here in 1936.

For one thing, the players are a good deal taller and heavier than they were then because of improved diet. They wolf steaks and fruit at all hours and range up to around 195 pounds. They still do not hit with much power as a group, but their fielding is smart and their pitching excellent.

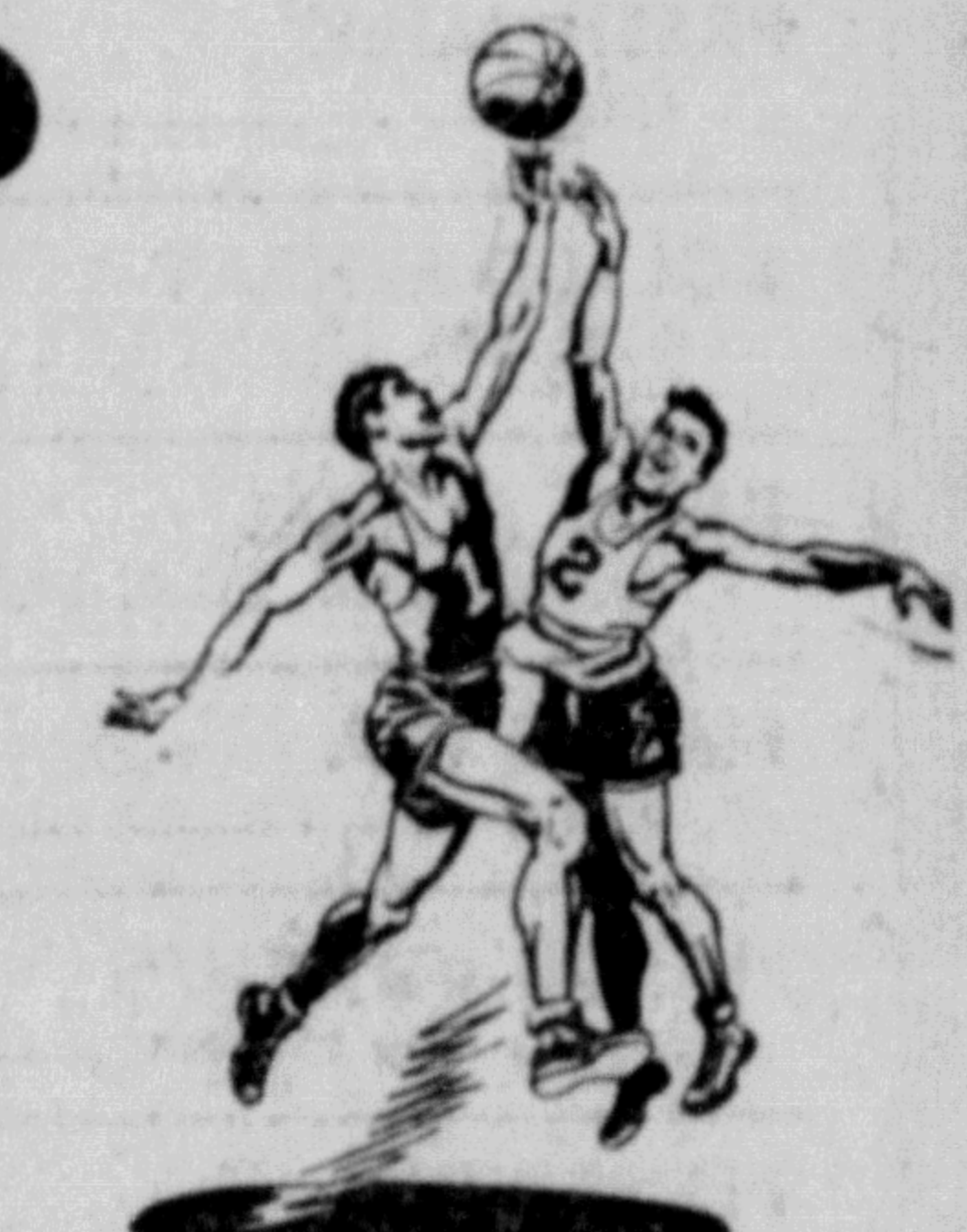
Primeau Quits As Leaf Coach

TORONTO.—Joe Primeau has resigned as coach of Toronto Maple Leafs of the National Hockey League. His successor is Frank King Glancy, now coach of Pittsburgh Hornets, Toronto's farm club in the American Hockey League.

The 47-year-old Primeau, in his playing days centre of Toronto's famed Kid Line between Busher Jackson and Charlie Conacher, guided the club for three seasons.

In his first term the Leafs won the Stanley Cup and Primeau became the first man to coach teams to championships in Memorial, Allan and Stanley Cup play.

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Bad Weather Hampers Fish Derby

Bad weather has hampered participation in the Rod & Gun Club open salt-water derby which got underway last Sunday, although three entries were weighed in by juniors this week.

Leading the entries is 12-year-old John Clausen who weighed in a nine-pond, 14-ounce grey cod yesterday. Two other junior entries are a four-pound cod by Raymond Windle and a three-pound, six-ounce tommy cod by Larry Stanwood, Jr.

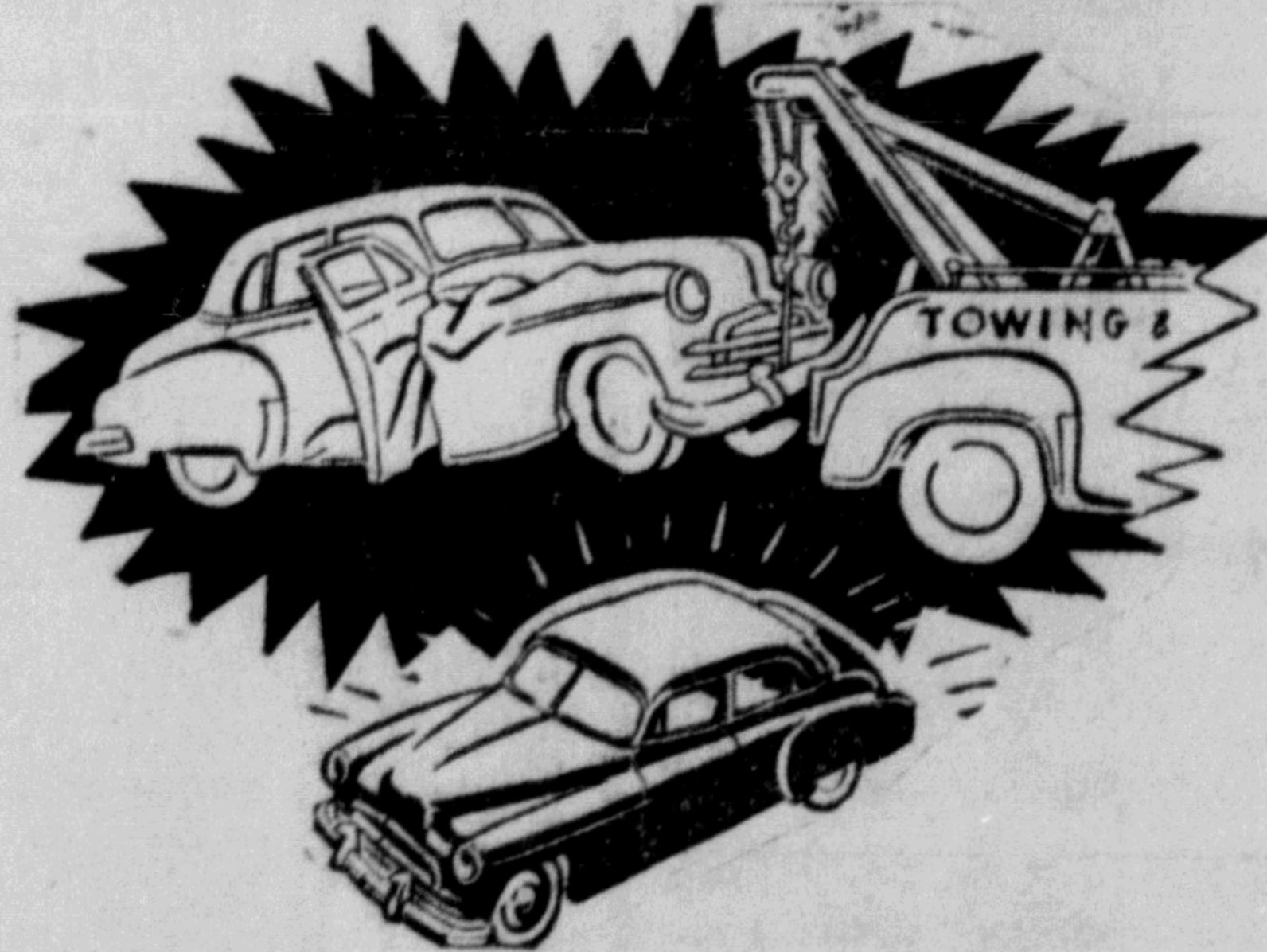
Meanwhile, the adult section of the derby remains wide open with no fish yet entered.

The derby, which closes April 25, is open to all juniors and to adult anglers over 16 who are Rod & Gun Club members. Entry permits can be obtained at Atlin Fisheries Ltd., Yacht Club, Bacon Fisheries and at J. Clausen & Son, the weighing-in station.

All fish entered must be weighed in at the authorized station. The heaviest fish (any kind, except skate) wins. Prizes for adults will be in cash; for juniors, fishing tackle.

Remember When

Toronto Maple Leafs scored one of the most sensational comebacks in Stanley Cup play-off history 17 years ago tonight to win a quarter-final series from Boston by 8-6 in two games. Leafs were trailing by four goals on the round when they scored six goals in less than 12 minutes. In the Stanley Cup final however Leafs lost to Detroit Red Wings by three games to one.



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