

Milt Schmidt Chosen Craziest NHL Veteran

By JACK SULLIVAN
Canadian Press Staff Writer

TORONTO (CP)—Milt Schmidt, pushed into hockey when his mother wouldn't allow him to play football because it was too rough, is the craziest veteran in the National Hockey League. He edged out Elmer Lach, another smoothie, for the accolade.

Sports writers and sportscasters of the six NHL cities gave the nod to the Boston Bruins centre today as a belated birthday gift. He was 35 on March 5, second oldest player in the league.

The oldest is the much-cut-up Lach of Montreal Canadiens, whose birth certificate shows he was born in Nokomis, Sask., Jan. 22, 1918.

OTHER SMOOTHIES

Six others were named—the ailing Max Bentley of Toronto Maple Leafs; the Bruins' Bill Quackenbush and Joe Klukay; Bob Goldham of Detroit Red

Wings; playing-coach Sid Abel, Chicago Black Hawks, and Paul Ronty of New York Rangers, who didn't make the big time until 1947.

It was a two-way race between Schmidt, who has played all his big-league hockey with Bruins—from 1936 and interrupted 3½ years by war duty—and Lach, with Canadiens since 1940. Schmidt ended with a one-vote margin.

Both "Miltie" and Elmer are great competitors and playmakers. Both are handy to have around when trouble starts on the ice and practically in any given situation—when their team is shorthanded, when the opposition is shorthanded, and when the heat is on for sorely-needed scoring punch.

A couple of selectors said Schmidt was better than the ice cuties of years ago—Frank Nighbor, one of the greatest defensive centres of all time with the old Ottawa Senators; Nels (Old Poison) Stewart of Montreal Maroons fame, and Newsy Lalonde, firebrand Montreal Maroons old-timer.

ALL-ROUND PLAYER

Lou Walter of the Detroit Times said Schmidt's "great all-round ability, coupled with smartness," made him "superior" to the three old-timers.

Bobby Hewitson, Toronto Telegram sports editor and former NHL referee, said Schmidt "has all the answers in a pinch" and is "as good" as Lalonde, Stewart and Nighbor.

Here's what others had to say: Sportscaster Joe Crysedale, CKEY, Toronto: "He's just like Old Man River; just keeps rolling."

Sid Abel, Chicago Black Hawk coach: "Wonderful player with the rookies."

Vince Lunny, Montreal Herald sports editor, called Lach and added: "He's the best veteran in the league, too." Other Lach supporters were Red Burnett of the Toronto Daily Star and Dana Mozley, New York Daily News.

Bentley caught the eye of sportscaster Foster Hewitt of CKFH, Toronto. "Max is small—five feet, 8½ inches and 145 pounds—and a guy who has gone as long as he has must be crafty," Hewitt said. He figured the Dellsie, Sask., dandy was better than Stewart and Lalonde.



GEORGE (SONNY) AGAR, 33, has reached the small, select group of players who have scored 300 goals in professional hockey. The centre for Calgary Stampede of the Western Hockey League broke into the money ranks in 1939 and has played all his hockey in minor leagues. He won the scoring championship in the Coast Hockey League last season and the 1947-48 title while with Houston of the old United States League. Maurice Richard of the National Hockey League and Wingy Johnston of the Tacoma Rockets of the WHL are the others in the 300-goal circle among still active players.

HOCKEY SCORES

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Red Wings Dump Bruins In Opener

DETROIT (CP)—Detroit Red Wings brought out their scoring artillery Tuesday night to bring down Boston Bruins 7-0 in the opening game of their best-of-seven semi-final of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

At Montreal, a fighting Montreal Canadiens team downed the Chicago Black Hawks 3-1 in the opener of their semi.

Linemates Ted Lindsay and Marty Pavelich each scored twice as Red Wings, NHL champions, overpowered the Bruins. Zooming in on the Boston net from all angles, Wings scored three times in the first, once in the second, and drove home three more in the third.

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ODE TO A CURLER

THE AULD GAME

By MARGIE MATTHEWS

THE LEAD . . .

He knows the ice and he knows the speed,
Of course, next year he will Skip, not lead,
There's nothing to curling, he tells at a glance
The shots to make, and the weight and stance,
And he's onto the broom, with nary a slip,
But Gosh! What a draw-back! A dope for a Skip!

THE SECOND . . .

Now this lad's a knockout, and one of the best,
He wipes off his rock on the front of his chest,
His Skip wants a guard, but he goes through the house,
For he'll have you know he's a man, not a mouse.
His opponents, he knows, would be easy to take,
If that pin-headed Skip would go jump in the lake!

THE THIRD . . .

He's right on the beam, without any preamble,
Just look at the notches upon his broom-handle!
One side, is for all the games that he wins—
The other, for when the excitement begins;
It's hard on the dentures, he'll say, with a glow,
But it's much better fun when you let yourself go!
So stand back there, audience, give him more room,
But, if you know what you're doing, don't lend him your broom!

THE SKIP . . .

Turn on the spot-light,—he's there at the hack,
Now he's giving his team a few pointers they lack,
His delivery is solid, the turn is real nice,
The reason it's off is that hole in the ice;
He waves and he hollers and begs them to sweep,
Oh, a team such as this would make anyone weep!
His hot terms are melting the ice, without doubt,
So we think it is time that we tippy-toe out.
Ah, what a game, what a game, to be sure!
Do you wonder, as I, that they go back for more?

UBC Backs BEG Choice For Pool

VANCOUVER (CP)—Officials of the University of British Columbia have come to the defence of the British Empire Games committee for its decision to build the BEG swimming pool on the campus.

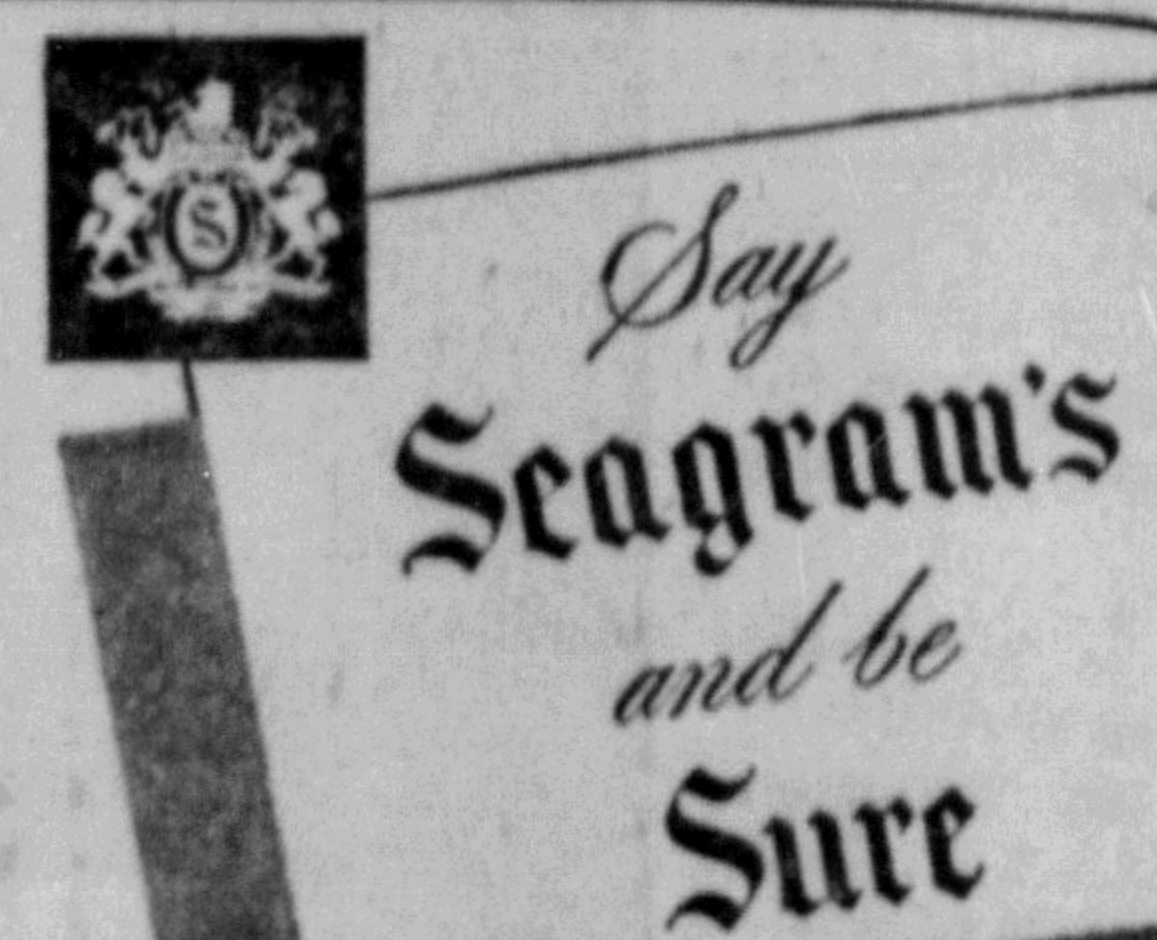
Vancouver swimming clubs attacked the decision on the grounds that the pool, to be built with public money, would be too far from the city to be of any use to city children after the games.

President Norman A. M. Mackenzie of UBC told the Alumni Association it should do all it could "to dissipate the impression" that UBC is an entirely separate entity operating outside the city.

The university, he said, plays an important role in the financial life of the city, contributing some \$12,000,000 to Vancouver every year in trade and business.

Bob Osborne, physical education professor, said: "I do not

notice the downtown interests protesting the building of BEG athletes at UBC's Acadia Camp." He said the games are a province-wide undertaking and the university is owned by the people of B.C. Why, then, people object to the pool on provincial land?



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Max Bentley Flies Home

TORONTO (CP)—Max Bentley, ailing centre ice star with Toronto Maple Leafs, left suddenly for his home in Dellsie, Sask., Tuesday and Leaf officials figure he has quit big-time hockey. Bothered with a sore back during most of this National Hockey League season, Bentley left by plane shortly before the Leaf club gave a "farewell" dinner for players.

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