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No Surprises in NHL Opener

Leafs Tie Bruins 4-4; Wings Take Hawks 3-1

By The Canadian Press

The National Hockey League got started on another 70-game schedule Thursday night and there was no inkling of any surprises for the 1956-57 campaign.

Detroit Red Wings, expected to be among the top three after they met Chicago Black Hawks and rallied in the last two periods to take a 3-1 decision. Such power was not surprising. The Wings have had it for years.

In Boston, Toronto Maple Leafs drove from behind four times before they ended with a 4-4 tie against the Bruins. Neither team showed exceptional class.

The experts won't get a chance to appraise all six clubs for another two weeks or so. But the way it stands now Montreal Canadiens, defending Stanley Cup champions, should take first spot. The Wings and New York Rangers probably will battle for second place with the other clubs scrambling for what positions are left.

HAWKS SCORE FIRST

Detroit grabbed its victory on goals by Norm Ullman, Metro Prystai and Ted Lindsay. The best Hawks could do was a goal by Hank Ciesla at 2:29 of the first period while Lindsay was in the penalty box.

The three Wing goals were scored on close-in shots. Ullman took a pass from right winger Gordie Howe in the second period to beat netminder Al Rollins easily. Prystai scored on Alex Delvecchio's goalmouth pass while Chicago's Jack McIntyre was sitting out a minor penalty. Hawks put on the pressure until Lindsay deflated them with a goal on Howe's pass at 15:12 of the final period.

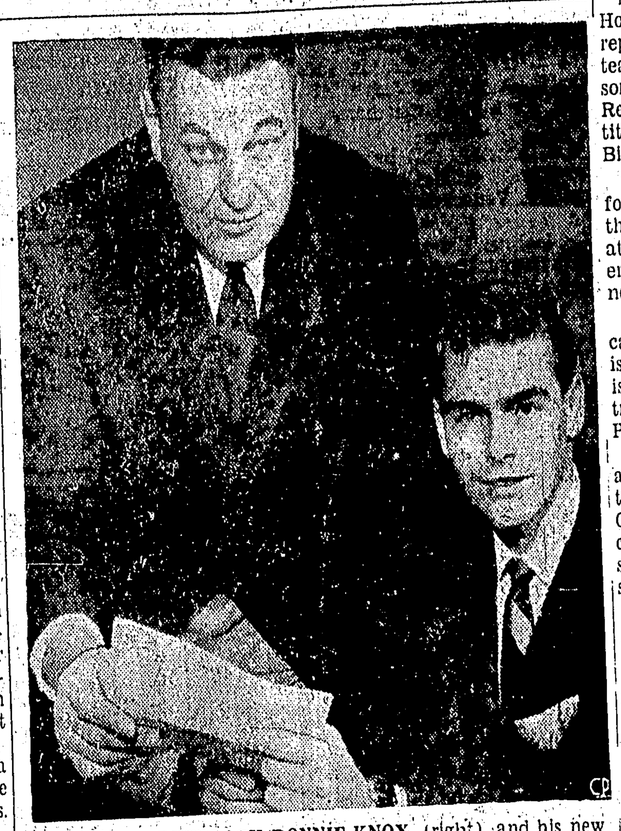
Referee Frank Udvaci had a quiet night. He called only five minor penalties, three to Hawks. Attendance was 10,731.

A crowd of 10,512 was on hand at Boston to see the new edition of the Bruins. Boston scorers were Allan Stanley, Don McKenney, Gerry Toppazzi and Johnny Peirson. Tod Sloan led Leafs with two goals. Left winger Sid Smith and rookie Vary Aldcorn got singles.

THOMPSON NEW CAPTAIN

It was a good evening for Leaf defenceman Jim Thompson. He was named Toronto team captain just before the engagement and turned in a great game. Although he didn't score a goal, Thomson set up Smith for the tying goal at 8:46 of the third period.

One game is scheduled tonight. Rangers meet Hawks at Chicago. The Bruins are at Montreal Canadiens Saturday, and Wings meet Leafs at Toronto. On Sunday it's Canadiens at Boston, Toronto at Chicago and Rangers at Detroit.



IMPORT QUARTERBACK RONNIE KNOX, (right), and his new boss, general manager Bob Masterson of Calgary Stampeders, pose for photographer after Knox signed a contract with the Western Interprovincial Football League team. Knox, former quarterback with University of California at Los Angeles, joined the last-place Calgary club after quitting Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Big Four. (CP Photo).

Reds To Defend Title In AHL Opener Tonight

BUFFALO (AP)—The American Hockey League, with Rochester replacing Pittsburgh in the six-team circuit, opens its 21st season tonight with Providence Reds starting defence of their title at home against Buffalo Bisons.

With three games scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, all of the clubs will be in action, both at home and on the road, by the end of the first weekend of the new season.

On Saturday, Rochester Americans play at Cleveland, Buffalo is at Springfield and Providence is at Hershey. Sunday Hershey travels to Buffalo, Cleveland to Providence.

Particular interest centres around the pair of games which the Americans play against Cleveland Barons. The Americans represent the first professional hockey team in Rochester since 1935-36.

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Esks, 'Riders Battle WIFU Lead Saturday

By The Canadian Press

The Edmonton Eskimos and the aspiring Saskatchewan Roughriders battle it out Saturday for the top rung in the Western Interprovincial Football Union.

The Regina encounter, the last of the regular season between the two clubs now in a first-place tie, could well shape the final order of the league standings.

Sporting a five-game winning streak and two previous top-heavy victories over the Grey Cup champion Eskimos, the Roughriders are generally conceded to have a slight edge going into Saturday's game on their home ground.

But following Monday's game at Calgary when the Eskimos snapped a three-game losing streak with a decisive 36-8 win over the Stampeders, the Esks should not be counted out too soon.

BIG FOUR SHUFFLE

In the Big Four, the quarterback shuffle, the union's most popular play this season, may be back in full operation again Saturday.

Toronto Argonauts and Hamilton Tiger-Cats started things off by using a total of seven starting quarters in exhibition and league games this year. They seem to have things set now but Montreal Alouettes and Ottawa Rough Riders may take up the slack.

BOMBERS TO WEST

In other weekend WIFU games, the second-place Winnipeg Blue Bombers, only two points behind the league-leaders, travel to Vancouver Saturday and visit Edmonton Monday.

The fourth-place British Columbia Lions, who need a victory over Winnipeg Saturday to keep alive their chances for the third playoff spot, tackle the Stampeders in Calgary Monday.

Calgary, with only two wins, were mathematically eliminated from the playoff race last Monday.

Because of the importance of the Regina game, coach Frank (Pop) Ivy plans to leave Edmonton early Friday and work out in the Saskatchewan capital Friday night. Usually the Eskimos leave late Friday night for away games.

Franchise Shift For Senators?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Calvin Griffith said he would seek today to persuade president Will Harridge of the American League to keep an open mind on a possible franchise shift for Washington Senators.

Harridge said in Chicago Thursday the league "could not afford" to call a meeting to consider transfer of the franchise unless there was harmony among Washington officials.

That was a reference to the statement by H. Gabriel Murphy, club treasurer and largest single stockholder, that he opposes any plan to move the Senators out of Washington and will fight it in the courts if necessary.

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Australia now has about 47,000 full-blooded aborigines, compared to 300,000 when white settlement started in 1788.

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HMCS CHATHAM PERSONNEL

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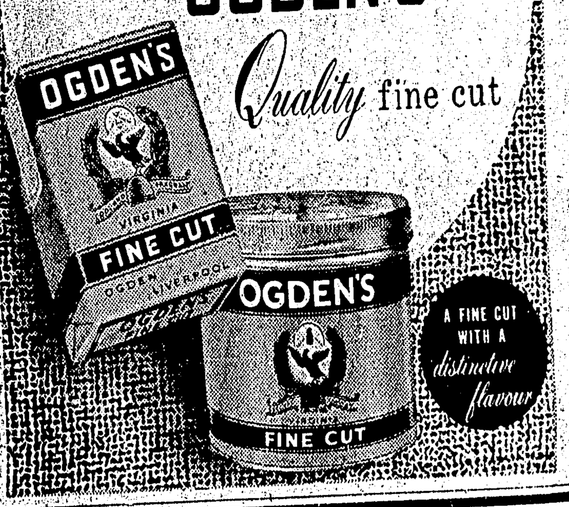

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