

Canadiens Strike Early, Turn Back Leafs, 2-1



Goalie Johnny Bower Blocks Close Drive by Pocket Rocket Richard in Montreal, Saturday
Carl Brewer and referee Eddie Powers are interested spectators in goalmouth action of second game.

Build 2-0 Lead in Stanley Cup Final, Moore, Beliveau, Regan the Marksmen

By REX MacLEOD
Globe and Mail Reporter

MONTREAL, April 10—Montreal Canadiens employed a familiar formula for a 2-1 win over Toronto Maple Leafs and a 2-0 lead in the Stanley Cup final in the Forum here Saturday night.

The competent Canadiens, as in the first game of the series, flew into an early lead and then defied the determined efforts of Leafs to fight from behind.

A crowd of 14,520 saw Dickie Moore and Jean Beliveau fire Canadiens into a 2-0 lead before the game was six minutes old. Larry Regan scored Leafs' goal late in the first period.

Now, the best-of-seven series shifts to Toronto for games Tuesday and Thursday. And it was the opinion of many who saw the first two games that Canadiens can win their fifth successive Stanley Cup in four games.

Toe Blake, Canadiens' coach, said after Saturday's game that it would be "ridiculous" to suggest that Canadiens can win in four games.

"Leafs had enough chances to win this game," said Blake. "Plante had to make several big saves. Some of our guys were kind of careless and they're going to have to play a lot better if they want to win this series."

Canadiens scored a third goal at game's end after Leafs' goalkeeper, Johnny Bower, had been liberated for a six-man onslaught. Claude Provost flipped the puck into the vacant net but referee Ed Powers ruled the game was over.

Leafs, disorganized early in the first period, came back to play vigorous, alert hockey, but Canadiens fended them with infuriating thoroughness. And Plante, as usual, made several fine stops.

In the third period, when Leafs played their best hockey of the series, Plante felled Frank Mahovlich and Ron Stewart with brilliant stops. And on another occasion Johnny Wilson appeared to have Plante beaten but his shot hit the goal post.

"We didn't get a break," said King Clancy, Leafs' assistant manager. "We played well enough to win and we will win the next two games on home ice."

Referee Powers imposed only six minor penalties, three to each team, but Blake thought that Leafs should have received several more penalties. He said Powers should have penalized several Leafs for "holding."

The game, because of the close checking, was dull at times and the crowd occasionally stamped in unison in the hope of inspiring some action.

Beliveau, who has been bothered by a chronic groin injury for several weeks, was one of Canadiens' most determined attackers throughout the game and he gave no evidence that his injury was causing him any acute distress.

The game was barely underway when Canadiens, following the script of the first game, scored the first goal. Moore, loitering in his usual orbit in front of the Leaf goal, steered Henri Richard's pass from the corner past Johnny Bower.

This was Moore's second goal of this particular series and his sixth of the playoffs. Beliveau made it 2-0 about four minutes later, slinging a back-hander past Bower. Marcel Bonin had turned Beliveau

Canadiens will travel to Toronto tomorrow. Leafs flew home immediately after the game.

Toronto—Goal, Bower; defense, Horton, Stanley, Kelly, Brewer, Bannister, Palford, Stewart, Osmstead, Regan, Duff, Armstrong, James, Harris, Egan, Wilson, Edmundson, Mahovlich. Montreal—Goal, Plante; defense, Harvey, Lanada, Johnson, Turner, Talbot; forwards, Beliveau, Geoffrion, Bonin, Backstrom, Hicke, M. Richard, Moore, Provost, H. Richard, Goyette, Marshall, Provost.

Referee, Eddie Powers; linesmen, Neil Armstrong, Loring Doolittle.

First Period

1—Montreal, Moore (11:18, H. Richard) .. 1-0
2—Montreal, Beliveau (13:54, Talbot) .. 2-0
3—Toronto, Regan (19:54, Bonin) .. 2-1

Penalties—None (11:18), Palford and Harvey (19:54).

Second Period

Scoring—None.
Penalties—None.
Shots on goal:
By Toronto .. 11
By Montreal .. 10

Imlach Plans No Changes in Leaf Team

Playing Well Enough to Tie Series Here, Coach Says

By JIM VIPOND
Globe and Mail Reporter

MONTREAL, April 10—Coach Punch Imlach quietly strolled up and down the Toronto dressing room, dispassionately discussing the just-finished game that many observers thought his team should have won—but, as usual against Canadiens, didn't. Imlach might well have been dictating a treatise on the frustrations of playoff hockey. In fact with half a dozen reporters jostling down his words, he was in essence dictating a report for the sports page readers of the national press.

"Am I going to make any changes for Tuesday's game in Toronto?" said Imlach, repeating a question thrown at him. "No. We outplayed them. No sense in making changes when you're outplaying the other team. If we play like that in Toronto on Tuesday and Thursday the series will be all tied up. We didn't play this well in Boston last year and yet we came back to win the round after losing the first two."

(Across the Forum in Canadiens' dressing room, Coach Toe Blake was telling another group of newsmen that his defending champions would have to play better if they wanted to win the series. "We

played well tonight but we're going to have to play better in Toronto because they're sure going to be better on their own ice. We won the game, but they almost did.")

"Don't blame Johnny Bower," said Imlach. "Sure they got a couple of goals on him early and I thought he played the first one badly but he's the guy who kept us in the playoffs. We can't expect Bower to get shut-outs to win. We've got to get him some goals."

"That was a reasonably good hockey game out there tonight, much better than the first game. The officiating was good, the referee (Eddie Powers) didn't spoil it with too much whistle blowing. That's the way the game should be played."

(Across the way Blake was complaining that there was too much holding by the Leafs which referee Powers failed to call. And Leafs' general manager, Frank Selke, was endorsing Toe's comments.)

Imlach paused in his strolling, called attention to a tired player sitting, head down at the end of the bench. It was Bert Olmstead.

"Bert played a great game. He was top dog in the corners, digging the puck out for the

boys. It's too bad we couldn't win after a man played such a fine game."

Larry Regan, another tough playoff player and the man who scored Toronto's lone goal, growled: "I'd just like to play those guys even once. They get two or three goals ahead of us before we can catch our breath and then we have to fight back all the time."

"But there's no sense crying because we didn't score more goals than they did. We know now we can beat these guys. We were two down to Boston last year and everyone said we were gone. But we came back. Don't give up on us yet."

Regan's remarks were later accentuated by Harold Cotton, Boston's chief scout who suggested it wasn't a coincidence that Canadiens scored two or three goals and then let the Leafs come to them.

"That's an interesting school of hockey thought in this strange, and as yet, not too exciting playoff series. Despite the efforts of the Leafs to overcome early leads there is still a lurking thought that should an extra goal really be needed, Canadiens can get it."

Leafs came close to destroying that illusion. Johnny Wilson, tough luck player of the playoffs, hit a goalpost. His linemate Frank Mahovlich was sure the puck was over the line but goal judge Bill Cleary of Boston said it hit the post and bounced away. (Johnny has photographic evidence that he scored in the Detroit series but the goal was not allowed.)

Johnny said his shot went under Plante, hit the inside of the post and "sort of spurted out. I thought it was in." Had it been a goal, the game would have been tied up, giving Canadiens and Leafs a chance to provide the pro or con answer to Habs' ability to score when absolutely necessary.

Blueline Banter . . . Detroit goalie Terry Sawchuk who picked fellow goalies Bower and Jacques Plante as two of the game's all stars—Olmstead was his other selection—felt Leafs should have won. . . "They've played two bad periods in two games and are two down. But that's the way it goes." . . . Chicago general manager, Tommy Ivan, whose Hawks lost to Canadiens, 4-0, in the first round, said "as a neutral observer I'm thoroughly enjoying the series." . . . Detroit general manager

Jack Adams suggested the Wings-Leafs round was a much better effort and we concur wholeheartedly. . . Boston coach Milt Schmidt was another professional observer who thought Toronto should have returned home with a split. . . Game timer Harold Getchel of Boston was a busy man. . . He timed the Thursday game here. . . returned to Boston to time Saturday's professional basketball final and flew back to Montreal, arriving half an hour before game time to resume his hockey duties. . . Scalpers who found tickets tough to acquire were charging \$40 a pair for \$4.25 red seats; \$30 for \$3.75 blues and \$13 for the \$2.75 seats in what Conn Smythe has dubbed "nose bleed alley" above the south end press box. . . League president Clarence Campbell said he could not do anything about the ticket situation this year as distribution had already taken place but he was glad the problem had come up. "We'll deal with it before next season." . . . Campbell said there was such a tremendous demand for tickets in Montreal that Canadiens operated on 109 per cent of seating capacity. . . Meaning that preferred standing room was popular. . . Campbell also said that Toronto operated on over 100 per cent.