

By Scott Young

King in Nightgown, Punch in Toupee

THE CRAZY SEASON:

'Twas the night before game three and through the hotel
Not a creature was stirring, the silence was h—
The gear was all hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that the guys would have dry underwear.
The Leafs were all nestled quite snug in their beds
While visions of Stanley Cups (?) danced in their heads.
The King in his nightgown and I in toupee
Had just settled down with our cards, chips and pay,
When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Crying, "A fig for the cards, chips and cash!"
And what, far below, viewed my twinkling eyes then
But a miniature rink and some 20-odd men!
With a little sad driver mil battered chapeau
(I knew in an instant that he must be Toe)
More rapid than Black Hawks, his coursers they came,
And he sighed and he moaned as he called them by name:

"Now Harvey, now Turner
Now Boom Boom and Pockett
On Marshall, on Talbot,
On Johnson and Rockett

"To the end of the rink, THROUGH the side of the wall,
"Now dash away, dash away, dash away all!"
And down to the goal crease, the skaters all flew
Filled the nets full of pucks (in the first minute, too!)
Then, laying his thumb right flush to his nose,
Blake waved me goodbye from this jocular pose.
And he sprang to the rail, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they zig-zagged like a misguided missile;
But I heard Toe exclaim as they flew out of sight,
"Save your prophecies, Punch! Get a good sleep tonight!"
—ANONYMOUS.

PEOPLE keep asking me how I think the Leafs are going
to do, now (since I was so bold as to believe that they
would win this series in seven games). All I can say is
that I am glad I did not pick them to win in five, since
that would have spoiled my lifetime record (871 right, none
wrong, Pct. 1.000). . . . Floyd Patterson will be in town
to watch the hockey game tonight—brought in by the
brewery which sponsors hockey telecasts in Quebec. Inci-
dentally, in the Montreal Forum the oil company which
sponsors national telecasts has equal billing with this
brewery in large letters on the front of the television
gondola—prompting a gentleman sports columnist beside
me the other night to point at the same and remark, "Who
says drinking and driving don't mix?" . . . In a recent
edition of the Daily Racing Form for the San Francisco-
Los Angeles area, an item appeared headed Distances of
Race Tracks From Nearest Large Cities. For Toronto, the
hot dope was this: Dufferin Park, in city; Hamilton, 40;
Long Branch, 6; Thorncliffe, 1. So be kind to any round-
heeled tourists you may encounter, looking for long-gone
two-dollar windows.

As a character of Saroyan's once remarked, when
asked why he read the Racing Form all the time:
"Gotta keep up with the times."

I SELDOM have read anything on a sports page to equal
what appeared in the Port Arthur-News-Chronicle for
March 28, after a riotous Sunday afternoon junior playoff
game between Port William Hurricane-Rangers and Bran-
don Wheat Kings. The page was sent to me by J. Hamilton,
Port Arthur. Chuck McQuat's sports column begins:
"Camera in hand, your reporter stood a few feet inside
the Brandon dressing room door yesterday afternoon
waiting for the first bloodied forms to come through the
door after the disgusting brawl. When the door did open
we were too shocked, too sick, to do anything but gape in
wild-eyed amazement. There, supported . . . almost
carried . . . by two players hung Dunc McCallum, who
appeared more dead than alive. . . . The scene which
followed was an unbelievable panic of blood, tears and
curses which we hope our eyes will never have to view
again." He goes on in that vein for some time. In a report
on the game, Bill Guy called it, "the most disgusting and
disgraceful display of lack of sportsmanship we've ever
seen or hope to see."

Note: It was their home team these writers were
blasting. The referee, John Kotzma, awarded the game
to Brandon two minutes from the end of the third
period, when he couldn't control the brawling. Brandon
led, 8-4, at the time.

LITTLE KNOWN FACTS: The Canadian Olympic bridge
team will leave for Italy April 18, for play at Turin.
Personnel: Eric Murray, P. E. (Shorty) Sheardown, C. B.
Elliott, Bruce Gowdy and Sammy Kehela of Toronto and
Harry Bork of Hamilton. Don Burns of Toronto goes along
as non-playing captain. The Canadian contract bridge
championships being held at the Royal York, April 14-17
inclusive should be worth much more public interest than
they seem to have drawn, so far. I asked a bridge expert
the other day how a good home, or locker-room, type
bridge player would do in tournament bridge. "At the
beginning he'd have a very rough time," she said. . . .
Another little-known fact: The Ontario senior six-miles
and junior three-miles cross-country championships will
be run at Guelph, April 23, starting at 2 p.m. . . . Note
from The Times' report of the Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race:
"In the Boat Race there is always a tendency to praise the
losers more than the winners." It's sometimes the same in
hockey, chaps.

Build Nosebleed Seats for Canadian Fans



Dave Laskey Adds Coat of Paint to New Seats in Grey Section of Maple Leaf Gardens
Workmen are adding 18 seats to each corner. Fifty will be ready for tonight's playoff game.

Visitors Will Be on Cloud Nine For Third Game of Stanley Cup

By REX MacLEOD

Some 50 Montreal Canadiens' fans will hit the roof, or close to it, when they locate their seats in Maple Leaf Gardens tonight for the third game of the Stanley Cup final.

And this might be the only hitting visible in this decorous, best-of-seven series in which the composed, carefree Canadiens are leading, 2-0. Players of both teams have been playing with unusual caution to date.

Gardens officials, affronted because their allotment of seats for the first two games in Montreal included many in the rafter pews of the Forum, plan a similar allocation of seats to Canadiens here.

Special seats are being constructed, high in the cirrus sections of the Gardens in each corner of the Greys. These seats are expected to correspond roughly with the Nosebleed Alley seats which were occupied by fans of Leaf persuasion in Montreal.

The grey section, most lofty seats in the Gardens, will be extended in each corner of the building. Engineering consultants figured out yesterday that 18 seats could be accommodated in each corner, increasing the Gardens' seating capacity by 72. The seats will not be removed which means that 72 venture-some subscribers may be accommodated next year. About 50 will be ready for tonight's game.

Earlier in the season, after a thorough inspection was made of the Gardens with a view to increasing its seating capacity, 50 red, or rink-side, seats were added. And it was reported at the time that further expansion was not feasible without adding an annex or a balcony.

For playoff games, a visiting team is guaranteed 120 seats. In the Gardens that is normally broken down into 12 boxes, eight complimentary blues, 50 other blues and 50 green seats.

Gardens' officials, who insist the change was not a "spite gesture," said the 50 blues that would normally be assigned to the Montreal delegation would be substituted by 50 seats in the new grey section.

"And these new seats will still be better than most in the Forum," said a Gardens' spokesman. "There won't be any pillars to block the view and our escalators will carry them two-thirds of the way to their seats. They won't have to hike all the way like they do in Montreal."

Kenny Reardon, vice-president of Canadiens, when asked his opinion of the awarding of tickets to his club said:

"I would be happy to sit anywhere just to watch Canadiens play hockey."

"Everything will be settled in good time," said Canadiens' managing director Frank Selke, who added he didn't wish to offer any quotes on the subject.

Gardens' officials objected in Montreal because many of their seats were located in an eyrie under the rafters, a section that was called "Nosebleed Alley" by Stafford Smythe, chairman of Leafs' hockey committee.

This particular section, incidentally, is located above the press box in the Forum where for years distinguished journalists have been composing unbiased, impartial, authentic copy of varied attractions in the Montreal rink.



Here's ice-surface view from Gardens' new seats.

Meanwhile, back in the series, Doug Harvey and Tom Johnson. . . . "Clancy makes the same statement every year," said Johnson. "I wish he would change his tune. Can't he think of anything else to accuse us of?" . . . Blake said that Clancy's remarks were just a smoke screen. . . . "Leafs are the best clutch-and-grabbers in the league and they're always complaining about somebody else," retorted Blake. "That Clancy, he's the assistant referee-balter-in-chief."

They worked out for about 40 minutes in the Forum yesterday. Leafs held a light workout in the Gardens on a spongy ice surface which had several of the players grumbling about injuries.

Toe Blake, Canadiens' coach, in one of his state-of-the-union speeches, warned his players to be on their best behavior in Toronto. He suggested the referee might be inclined to view their indiscretions more severely than in the Forum.

"We will be given as many penalties as the Leafs or more," said Blake. "That's all I'm predicting. We are going to try to wind up this series as fast as we can but I know we have got to be at our best against Leafs on their home ice."

Some observers were noting a resemblance between this series and Canadiens semi-final with Chicago Black Hawks. The Hawks also played well on Montreal ice, even forced the second game into overtime, but they lost the next two games at home—and didn't score a goal.

"The way it looks now I guess we'll win the deciding game on Montreal ice," said George Imlach, Leafs' unabashed leader. "That 2-0 lead the Canadiens have isn't too important. Bruins had us down two games last year and we still came back."

Notes: Imlach praised the play of veteran left winger Bert Olmstead in the second game of the series in Montreal. . . . "I thought he was the best player on the ice," said Imlach. "He didn't have much help either. I thought he was carrying his two linemates (Bob Pulford and Ron Stewart)." . . . King Clancy of Leafs said in Montreal that Canadiens' have two of the most skilled grabbers in the league in defensemen