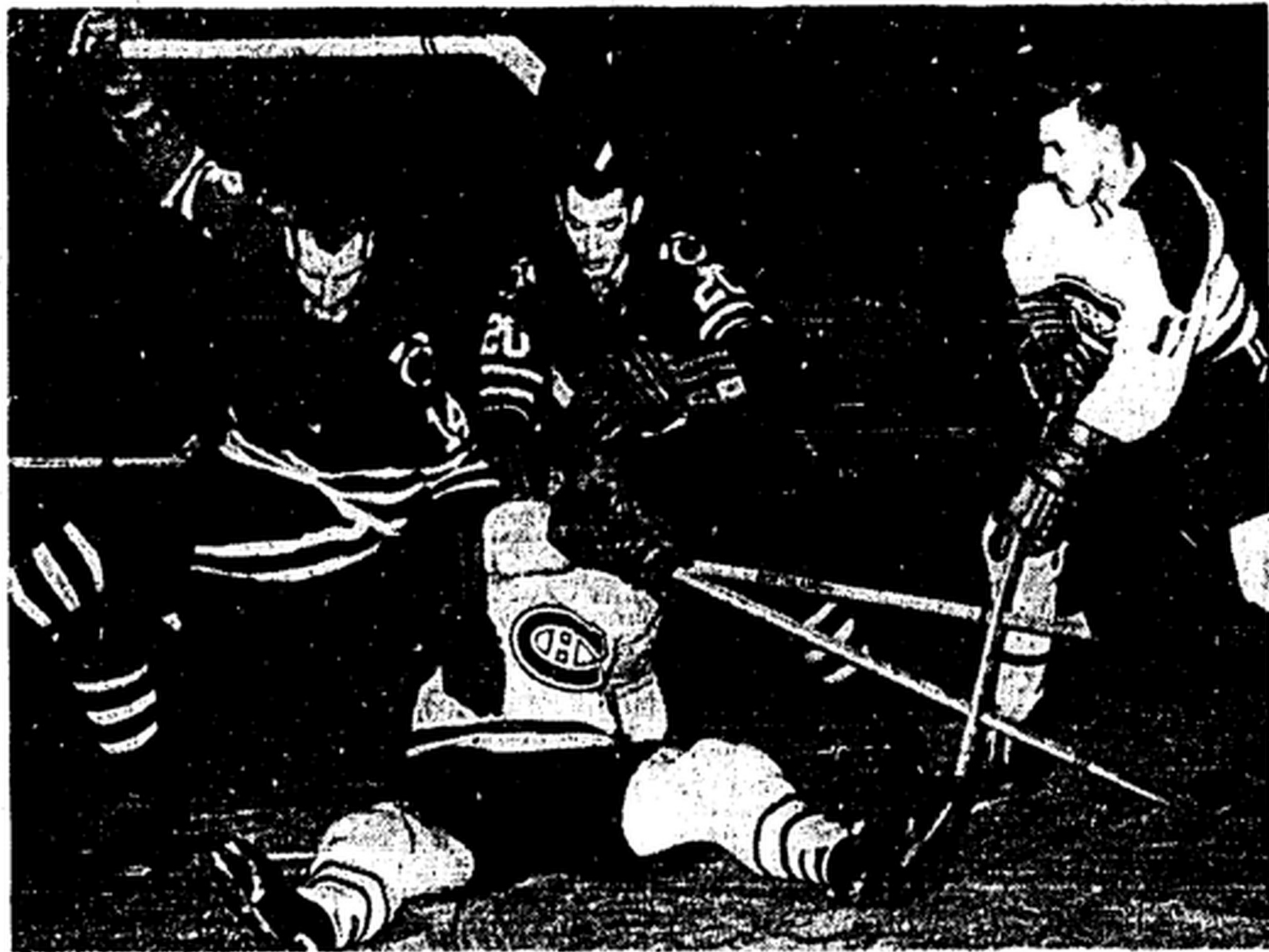


Habs Sweep Chihawks Aside



Glen Skov, Left, Chicago, Uses His Stick Like a Polo Mallet During Second-Period Rush Against Canadiens
Seated on ice is Montreal's Henri Richard. Behind Richard is Earl Balfour and Jean-Guy Talbot.

Adams May Be Trying To Beguile Maple Leafs

By REX MALEOD

Some of the more temperate pronouncements in Maple Leafs-Detroit Red Wings' Stanley Cup series have, believe it or not, been delivered by Jack Adams, general manager of the Wings.

So, it was hardly a surprise yesterday when Adams, full of charity and joie de vivre, reiterated his earlier forecast that it will be an upset if Wings eliminate Leafs in this best-of-seven semi-final.

"Mind you I'm not saying it won't happen," said Adams with a mischievous chuckle. "Our fellows have been playing better than everybody expected and why should they stop now?"

"Even if you give us the worst of it we should be leading the series, 3-1. But Leafs have better balance than we do and that might start to tell in upcoming games. We're just happy to be in the series."

There is a strong suspicion that Jolly Jawn might be trying to pump more air into somebody's ego with these carefully chosen bon mots. Is he attempting to delude Leafs into a state of complacency with a few flowery references?

Adams might even be sincere in his laudatory comment on Leafs but his restrained comment since the series started has baffled many of his old acquaintances. Four games have gone by and he hasn't even raised his voice at a referee, a player or a newspaperman. And that is decidedly strange conduct for Adams, who used to be one of the most accomplished disturbers in the National Hockey League.

He wasn't even particularly nettled here last Saturday when a goal scored by Gordie Howe was not counted because the referee had chosen to blow his whistle a second or so earlier. And the score was tied, 1-1, at the time.

"It was a go-ahead goal and it was a tough one to lose but we're not complaining," said Adams. "We've lost other goals this year. We won't even ask to see the movies of this one. Howe's goal would probably be rubbed off Leafs' film anyway."

Apart from goalkeeper Johnny Bower, whom Adams suspects is a little on the supernatural side, the Toronto team has played in the manner expected of them in this series, said the Wings' general manager. He didn't think any of the other Leafs had given Wings any more trouble than had been anticipated.

As for the Wings, Adams has been overjoyed at the sudden surge of ambition of a line that has become known as The Nothing Line — probably because nothing seems to discourage them.

Gerry Melnyk, Val Fonteyne and Len Haley have become the most talked-about players in the series. And before the playoffs started some fans didn't know if they were hockey players or a rock and roll trio!

Adams has cited Howe, Alex Delvecchio, Norm Ullman, Marcel Pronovost and Terry Sawchuk for usual strong contributions but he gives most of the credit to Melnyk, Fonteyne and Haley for the fact that the series is tied, 2-2.

"That third line of ours has been a wonderful surprise with their guts and hustle," said Adams. "They've made some of our other guys work harder."

Win at Chicago, 2-0, To Take Series, 4-0; Provost, Moore Score

CHICAGO, March 31 (CP)—Montreal Canadiens, seeking an unprecedented fifth consecutive Stanley Cup championship, won the semi-final round in four successive games with a 2-0 victory over Chicago Black Hawks tonight.

So dominating were the world champions that the Hawks never held a lead in any game of the best-of-seven series.

Second-period goals by Claude Provost and Dickie Moore doomed Black Hawk hopes before a Chicago Stadium crowd of 13,719.

Canadiens will get a rest before entering the finals, since the Toronto-Detroit series is tied 2-2 and will not resume until Saturday night.

Montreal goalie Jacques Plante, ably assisted by a defense which kept the Hawks flustered, scored his second successive shutout.

The winner of the Vezina Trophy had his share of saves but few were of the difficult variety as the Canadian defense gave him ample protection.

Play was halted for about 10 minutes in the goalless first period when Plante received a cut on his forehead and had to go to the dressing room for one stitch.

As they did in Tuesday's 4-0 loss, the Hawks contained Canadiens in the first period, only to fall apart in the second as Montreal scored twice.

Although both teams played roughly and skated hard in the first period, there were few good shots. Plante had to make seven saves and Hawk goalie Glenn Hall six.

It was a different story in the second period.

Canadiens peppered Hall with 16 shots, two of which went through, while Plante made eight saves.

Claude Provost, assisted by Andre Pronovost and Albert Langlois, scored the first goal at the 4:47 mark. Moore, aided by the Richard brothers, Henri and Maurice, made it 2-0 at 13:09. In between, there were a few scuffles. Montreal's Marcel Bonin and Chicago's Glen Skov both drew penalties for swinging at each other.

Murray Balfour and Henri Richard also had to be pulled apart, but no penalties were assessed.

Unlike Tuesday, when the Hawks fell apart and couldn't do a thing in the final period, Chicago put up a strong fight and gave Plante a workout early in the final period but couldn't score.

Although both teams played tough hockey, only seven penalties were called, with the Hawks drawing four.

Balfour and Tom Johnson

Montreal — Goal, Plante; defense, Harvey, Langlois, Johnson, Turner, Talbot; forwards, Bonin, Beliveau, Gendron, Blackstrom, Hickey, St. Richard, Moore, H. Richard, Goyette, Marshall, Pronovost, Provost.

Chicago — Goal, Hall; defense, Pilote, Yasko, Arthur, Evans, St. Laurent, Forwards, E. Balfour, Shaw, Litzenger, Lindsay, M. Balfour, Sloan, Murphy, Hay, Neustrom, Hull, Wharmam, Mikita, Referee, Eddie Foxworth; linesmen, George Hayes, Lorne Boudette.

First Period
Scoring—None.
Penalties—Litzenger 4:46, Goyette 9:25, M. Balfour 10:25.

Second Period
1—Montreal, Provost (Pronovost, Langlois) 4:47
2—Montreal, Moore (H. Richard, M. Richard) 13:09
Penalties—Pilote 8:43; Bonin, Skov 9:48.

Third Period
Scoring—None.
Penalty—Talbot 5:45.

Stanley Cup Statistics

Team	G	A	P	Sh
Buffalo, Montreal	2	4	6	4
Moore, Montreal	2	1	5	2
Kelly, Toronto	2	3	5	2
Beliveau, Detroit	2	4	5	2
Harvey, Toronto	2	2	4	8
Duff, Toronto	1	3	4	0
H. Richard, Montreal	0	2	3	0
Lally, Detroit	1	2	3	0
Jay, Chicago	1	2	3	0
Marshall, Montreal	1	2	3	0
Beliveau, Montreal	1	2	3	0
Howe, Detroit	1	2	3	0
Bonin, Montreal	1	2	3	0
Blackstrom, Montreal	0	3	3	0
Fonteyne, Detroit	0	3	3	0
Mikita, Detroit	0	3	3	0
Paulson, Toronto	2	0	2	0
Mahovlich, Toronto	2	0	2	0
Liese, Montreal	1	1	2	0
Lindsay, Chicago	1	1	2	0
Lunde, Detroit	1	1	2	0
A. Pronovost, Montreal	1	1	2	0
Began, Toronto	1	1	2	0
Ullman, Detroit	1	1	2	0
Wharmam, Chicago	1	1	2	0
Storrie, Detroit	0	1	2	0
Harris, Toronto	0	2	2	0
Armstrong, Toronto	1	0	1	0
Harvey, Montreal	1	0	1	0
Murphy, Chicago	1	0	1	0
Pronovost, Montreal	1	0	1	0
M. Balfour, Chicago	1	0	1	0
Hull, Chicago	1	0	1	0
St. Laurent, Detroit	1	0	1	0
Aldean, Detroit	1	0	1	0
Talbot, Montreal	1	0	1	0
Goggin, Detroit	1	0	1	0
Hickey, Chicago	0	1	1	0
McIntyre, Detroit	0	1	1	0
Olmstead, Toronto	0	1	1	0
M. Richard, Montreal	0	1	1	0
St. Laurent, Chicago	0	1	1	0
Goyette, Montreal	0	1	1	0
T. Johnson, Montreal	0	1	1	0
Mikita, Chicago	0	1	1	0
Stewart, Toronto	0	1	1	0
Litzenger, Chicago	0	1	1	0
Langlois, Montreal	0	1	1	0
Pilote, Chicago	0	1	1	0
Edmundson, Toronto	0	0	0	2
Neustrom, Chicago	0	0	0	2
Skov, Chicago	0	0	0	4
Arthur, Chicago	0	0	0	4
Evans, Chicago	0	0	0	4
Godfrey, Detroit	0	0	0	4
Iserton, Toronto	0	0	0	4
Oliver, Detroit	0	0	0	4



Montreal's Henri Richard, Left, and Bill Hay, Chicago, in Pursuit of Puck
Looks on players' faces indicate intensity of pace. Canadiens won, 2-0.

Blake Praises Plante

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

'Our Goalie Was Tops,' Toe Says

Chicago, March 31 (AP)—"It was the best game of the series and we won it because we had the better goalie."

This was a happy coach Toe Blake talking about his Montreal Canadiens' 2-0 triumph over Chicago Black Hawks tonight which gave the world champion Canadiens a four-game sweep of their semi-final playoff.

Blake said his masked goalie, Jacques Plante, made terrific saves under the hottest pressure of the series as he registered his second consecutive shutout. Plante blanked the Black Hawks, 4-0, Tuesday night at the stadium.

"The difference tonight was the goalies," said Blake. "(Glenn) Hall was good for them, but Plante proved tonight why he has been the National League's all-star goalie for five successive seasons."

Blake declined to state a preference for a final-round foe between Toronto and Detroit who play their fifth semi-final game in Toronto Saturday.

"They're both tough and either can come up against us a hot team," he said.

Blake said he was not concerned about a possible Montreal playoff until next Thursday before the final round may start.

"We can use the rest, but we'll be working out as we need it. I don't intend to watch the Toronto-Detroit series. I'd rather stay with the boys."

Blake said the Black Hawks were checking harder tonight than in any of the other previous three games.

"It was a terrific hockey game all the way."

Blake let sports writers in on a secret. He said he was wearing the same suit tonight he wore when the Canadiens won the Stanley Cup last year. Asked how many other suits he has, Blake laughed and said "Just one."

A crowd of 13,719 which came to cheer stayed to cheer the outplayed, but not outgamed Black Hawks. Players of both squads, who had been swinging fists and sticks most of the evening, skated to center ice and shook hands after the game while the crowd stood and applauded.

Coach Rudy Pilous of the Hawks called the Canadiens a great team.

"When you get beat and shut out two nights in a row you gotta say they're a better club. They get the first goal and have the depth and experience to hold you off," said Pilous.

"We put so much into our play to make the playoffs that we found ourselves a little short," continued the Hawk coach. "We were worn out after giving it a great go in the last 30 games. When you're worn, you bruise easier."