

Special Service For Home-Lovers

MONTREAL, April 6—You people don't know how lucky you are to be looking forward to a nice evening at home in front of your television sets. Give me my slippers and a good old fresh-frozen turkey TV dinner (just heat and serve) any time instead of all this lousy broiled lobster, oyster pie, and (ugh!) champagne that we seem to get around here day after day.

And Thursday night, when we poor serfs will be toiling up the stairs to the space station from which the press observes proceedings at the Montreal Forum, you'll be there at home. Feet up. Wife running the bar concession. Potato chips and hot buttered nuts in great urns on top of every teakwood table (to say nothing of the plywood ones).

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The injustice of it all

In fact, sitting here this evening tossing dyspepsia pills into the air and fielding them no hands, it occurred to me that the only thing needed to make your evening complete would be a program.

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WHICH I offer, as follows, if anyone wishes to tear it out:

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

1. Johnny Bower. An elderly goalkeeper who owns a hamburger stand at Lake Waskesiu, Saskatchewan. In heat of action he often resembles short order cook trying to serve entire population of Saskatchewan with hamburgers simultaneously.
4. Red Kelly. Centre. Robust, but a gentleman.
7. Tim Horton. Defense. Watch for his out-thrust chin, quick breaks, fierce slap shot.
8. Larry Regan. Centre-right wing. Fine stick-handler.
9. Dick Duff. Left wing. Great speed, in bursts.
10. George Armstrong, captain and right wing. They call him The Chief. He plays it that way.
11. Garry James. Right wing—fullback. Anyone with head down, James considers, is applying formally for trip to moon.
12. Ron Stewart. Right wing. One of league's most talented and accomplished players.
15. Billy Harris. Centre. A shadow on skates.
16. Bert Olmstead. Left wing. Rex MacLeod calls him the egg-beater—watch him in the corners.
17. Gerry Ehman. Right wing. Quick shot.
18. Carl Brewer. Defense. He is all the good things (and some bad) rolled into one.
19. Johnny Wilson. Left or right wing. Iron man—hasn't missed a league or playoff game since he turned pro in 1940. Cuts in very fast from either wing.
20. Bob Pulford. Centre. Watch him any time, but especially when killing penalties. Scored six goals this year while Leafs short-handed, including two against Canadiens.
21. Bobby Baun. Defense. Honest, capable, effective.
22. Gary (Duke) Edmundson. Centre. With James and Wilson, he helps make a crunching line.
23. Allan Stanley. Defense. Has outlasted Barbara Ann Scott, may outlast Barbara Wagner, and is one of the league's best defensemen.
24. Frank Mahovlich. Left wing. Electrifying.

MONTREAL CANADIENS

1. Jacques Plante. Goal. Masked marvel.
2. Doug Harvey. League's most accomplished burglar and defenseman—and look out, when Canadiens really need a goal.
3. Jean Beliveau. Centre. Some believe him to be the greatest player in hockey; if not, he is close.
4. Boom Boom Geoffrion. Right wing. Talented breakaway man. Nickname comes from his booming shot.
5. Ralph Backstrom. Canadiens so rich in talent they don't use the good young centre much.
6. Bill Hicke. Right wing. Hot prospect who hasn't lived up to it yet.
7. Maurice Richard. Right wing. Old poison.
8. Tom Johnson. Defense. Trigger-tempered bachelor, first-rate defenseman.
9. Bob Turner. Defense. Good, and sometimes nasty.
10. Dickie Moore. Left wing, and one of the best.
11. Claude Provost. Right wing on line (with Phil Goyette and Andre Pronovost) which is one of league's most effective in positional play and checking—and can score, too.
12. Ab McDonald. Left wing, on line with Backstrom (6) and Hicke (8). Not much ice time, either.
13. Henri Richard. Centre. Maurice's little brother, skates like a wild goose.
14. Jean Guy Talbot. Defense. Sound, not brilliant.
15. Marcel Bonin. Right wing. All muscle, except between the ears.
16. Junior Langlois. Defense. Honest, but no genius.
17. Phil Goyette. Centre. Never stops trying.
18. Don Marshall. Utility forward, and one of hockey's best.
19. Andre Pronovost. No sensation, perhaps expendable.

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THROUGH the courtesy of Ron Andrews, who has occupied himself with hockey statistics in a lifelong attempt to stay out of the poolrooms, I have some other pertinent facts on these teams.

One being that over the season, Montreal scored 5 goals against Toronto in 14 games; Toronto 28 in the same contests. This gave Montreal 10 wins and a tie. Moore, Beliveau and the two Richards, with six goals each, were most dangerous Canadiens against Leafs. Pulford's four goals led Leafs. Pulford, Harris, Armstrong and Edmundson each had one two-goal game against Plante.

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No matter who wins this series, one encounter between these teams—Leafs 1, Canadiens 0, in Toronto last Dec. 2—was one of the finest hockey games ever played. I'm looking forward to more of the same. And tonight, when you pass whatever you have to pass, have one for me.