

Canadiens Top Leafs in Opener, 4-2

Henri Richard Leads Habitants To 3-0 Lead in First Period

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MONTREAL, April 7—Montreal Canadiens, despite a peculiar relapse in the last two periods, defeated Toronto Maple Leafs, 4-2, in the first game of the Stanley Cup best-of-seven final in the Forum here tonight.

Canadiens, incorrigible collectors of Stanley Cups, erected a 3-0 lead in the first period and they accomplished it with ridiculous ease. But, in the next two periods, they played with a strange indifference and Leafs, with a little more effort, might have fought from behind.

It wasn't a distinguished performance for either team and a crowd of 14,301 had no difficulty containing its applause. Leafs, who appeared to be in awe of Canadiens in the first period, are capable of playing much better hockey. And Canadiens, who are looking for their fifth successive Stanley Cup, can, and will, play an improved brand of hockey in future games. You can bet on that.

Dickie Moore, Doug Harvey, Jean Beliveau and Henri Richard scored for Canadiens. Bobby Baun and Bert Olmstead were the scorers for Leafs.

Second game in this series will be played here on Saturday night. Then the series reverts to Toronto for games on Tuesday and Thursday.

Leafs, who trailed 0-3 after the first period, scored their two goals in the second period although they were outshot 18-6 during this 20-minute interval. They played their best hockey in the final 20 minutes but the poised Canadiens scored the only goal.

And, although Canadiens gave the indication that they could rise to any emergency, Leafs were much more business-like in the final two periods. They should be much more difficult to handle in the next game.

Referee Frank Udvari imposed 17 penalties (nine to Leafs), but it was not an obnoxious game. Bodychecking was meticulously avoided most of the time and players were almost apologetic for the few collisions that did occur.

One consolation for Leafs was that they ended Montreal goalkeeper Jacques Plante's goalless streak. In his previous two playoff games he had blanked Chicago Black Hawks—on Chicago ice.

Leafs, although outshot 43-29 had numerous opportunities to score more goals and it wasn't strictly Plante's vigilance that thwarted them. They frittered away their more attractive chances.

In the first period, for instance, Bobby Palford, a fellow who doesn't miss too often, had an unobstructed breakaway but he shot wide of the net. In the second period Plante fanned on a shot by Dick Duff but the puck slid past the Montreal net.

Moore, an old Leaf tormentor, scored the first goal of the game early in the first period while Leafs' Gerry Ehman was in the penalty box for hooking Maurice

Richard. A shot by Bernie Geoffrion deflected off Leafs' defenseman Carl Brewer and Moore hopped in to shovel a slider past Leafs' goalkeeper Johnny Bower.

Both teams were shorthanded when Harvey made it, 2-0, about six minutes later. From the right point he hammered a shot into the far side of the Toronto net. Henry Richard had nursed the puck back to him. That goal cancelled a penalty to Leafs' Brewer which the referee had indicated was upcoming.

A short time later Beliveau scored the third goal for Canadiens, ramming Henry Richard's pass into the short side from about six feet out. It was a clever play by Richard and, for the final few feet he practically carried Leafs' Red Kelly on his back.

Baun revived Leafs in the second period when he slapped

a shot from the right point that eluded Plante. The Montreal goalie appeared to be screened on the shot.

Then Olmstead, who played his customary energetic game for Leafs, scored their second goal, scooping in a shot that was launched by defenseman Tim Horton. The puck deflected off Montreal defenseman Guy Talbot and Olmstead glided in and threw it behind Plante.

That should have been enough to inspire Leafs but Plante partially deflated them a minute or so later with a remarkable save on one of Horton's low, hard ones.

Then Henry Richard completed the job early in the third period. Almost parallel to the Toronto net, to Bower's left, he threw the puck out in front, it hit Horton and ricocheted past Bower.

Leafs fought back with their most ambitious hockey of the game after that embarrassing experience but Plante, and a relaxed Montreal defense, frustrated their attempts at scoring.

Toronto—Goal, Bower; defense, Horton, Stanley, Brewer, Baun; forwards, Palford, Stewart, Olmstead, Kelly, MacAvoy, Regan, Harris, Armstrong, Duff, Wilson, Edmundson, James, Ehman.

Montreal—Goal, Plante; defense, Harvey, Langlois, Johnson, Turner, Talbot; forwards, Beliveau, Geoffrion, Bonin, H. Richard, M. Richard, Stong, Goyette, Provost, Pronovost, Backstrom, Hicke, Marshall.

Referee—Frank Udvari; linesmen, Neil Armstrong and George Hayes.

First Period

1—Montreal, Moore (H. Richard, Geoffrion) 2:27
2—Montreal, Harvey (H. Richard) 8:53
3—Montreal, Beliveau (Geoffrion, H. Richard) ... 11:56

Penalties—Ehman (hooking) 1:50, Harvey (hooking) 2:42, Brewer (hooking) 5:10, Bonin (tripping) 6:32, Palford (slashing) 8:18, Johnson (board-checking) 8:18, H. Richard (board-checking) 9:40, Baun (board-checking) 13:01, Beliveau (cross-checking) 14:56.

Second Period

4—Toronto, Baun (Armstrong, Regan) 5:22
5—Toronto, Olmstead (Horton, Kelly) 17:33

Penalties—Baun (holding) 1:57, Goyette (tripping) 3:56, Wilson (tripping) 11:23, Armstrong (slashing) 19:22.

Third Period

6—Montreal, H. Richard (Moore, Geoffrion) 1:30

Penalties—Duff (tripping), 2:19;



Rolling Puck Presents Anxious Moment for Jean Beliveau and Johnny Bower
Bower cleared the puck while Beliveau was tied up by Bobby Baun.