

By Scott Young

Leafs Still Waiting For Phone to Ring

MONTREAL, April 7—Just before the battle, mother, George Armstrong, the Toronto captain, was saying, "Every time these guys cry about their condition, they go out and kill us." He meant, of course, the Canadiens, who were scarcely complaining at all—but it was enough.

Although the Canadiens didn't exactly go out and kill the Leafs because of this, Leafs made the result the same by going through a form of suicide. When their only hope was to be so good that Canadiens would drop dead out of sheer admiration, Leafs played much of the first period as if they were expecting that, at any moment, they might be called to the phone.

This state of nerves seemed to be indicated by little things. Ron Stewart shot into the crowd when he meant the puck to circle the boards behind the Montreal goal. Dick Duff held a pass when he had Larry Regan flying clear across the other blueline. The defense handled the puck indecisively. Playing hockey this way against Canadiens is like trying to put out a bonfire by throwing gasoline on it. On some nights Johnny Bower would have headed the bad guys off at Eagle Pass for long enough that his young gentlemen out in front could get settled down, but this wasn't one of those nights.

On the first goal, the puck was between his skates and he was moving around it like a sword dancer for some seconds while someone neglected to knock down Dick Moore out in front. Moore repaid this boyish trust by poking the puck out from between Bower's skates for the first goal.

I WON'T belabor the point (hold your applause, if you please), but the only clean goal Canadiens scored was their second. If Leafs had had a break at all, and Bower's best goaltending, and first-rate defensive clearing, they would have come out of the first period tied, 1-1. There was nothing so wrong with their attack through that period that they couldn't have scored a few of their own. Jacques Plante, the popular and self-effacing goalkeeper for Montreal, played shots by Bob Pulford, Red Kelly and Frank Mahovlich as if he were protecting his wife and family instead of a mere goal.

Indeed, on good scoring chances alone, Leafs might have come out of that period with a 3-1 lead. (Boy, more opium.)

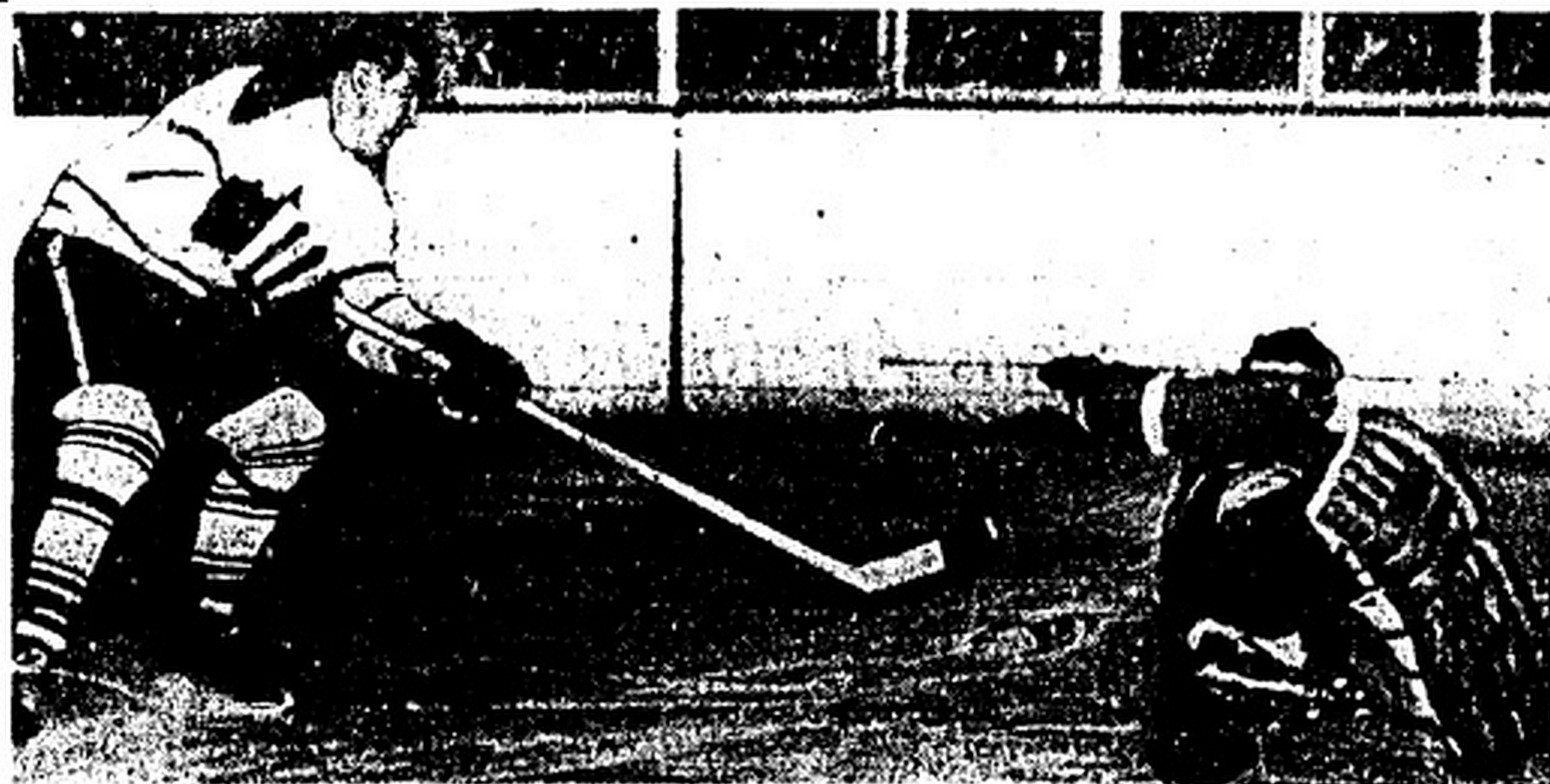
Bower played a great second period, Plante an ordinary one—and when they went into the third with Leafs only one goal down the optimists in the Toronto camp and the official pessimists for Montreal were talking as if, in a short time, Canadiens would be running for their lives.

But there was one more bad break left—Henri Richard poked one at the goal, where Tim Horton and Johnny Bower were standing shoulder to shoulder at exactly the right angle to deflect the puck into the net.

The game won't ring through the annals of time like a mighty gong, or anything like that. The ominous thing from a Toronto standpoint is that it was a great deal like the first game of the Montreal-Chicago series—Canadiens could have been beaten, but weren't.

MY OWN view of the Sam Snead revelation that he purposely lost a golf match is that he has done golf a great disservice. When one of the game's most accomplished players admits that he threw a game, who will believe from now on that the TV matches are on the square? And what is so holy about TV that when Snead discovered he had too many clubs in his bag, he couldn't have played it out, and then drawn attention to the fact after the match—IF he had won? If he'd lost, it wouldn't have mattered anyway. And just think of the opportunity he threw away by NOT winning the match and THEN disqualifying himself? The maudlin wonderment of it all would have swamped the sports world entirely, that this great gentleman of golf, etc., etc., should be so honest that he didn't cheat, etc., etc., staggers the imagination.

One of the major summer problems of Punch Imlach, the noble Toronto coach, will be what to do with all the hats. He and Clancy buy a new one before each series. When they lost the first games of the Detroit series, they must have figured it was those lousy new hats, because they went out and bought even newer ones. And this afternoon in the lobby of the Mount Royal they were sallying forth, hat-bound, again. Passing Red Kelly, Imlach said, "Think a homburg would be all right, Red?" Kelly said cautiously, "I'd have to see it on you, first." Kelly is the only player in hockey who wears a homburg. Now, if I could only get him to carry an umbrella.



Canadiens' Goalie Jacques Plante Folds Leafs' Bobby Pulford Who Came In on a Breakaway
Action took place in opener of Stanley Cup series won, 4-2, by Canadiens in Montreal last night.

Officiating Changes: Gord Howe

Referee Udvari Tries to Call Everything

By JIM VIPOND

Globe and Mail Reporter

MONTREAL, April 7—Detroit's Gordie Howe, self-styled hockey critic, checked his notes in the corridor, outside Canadiens' dressing room last night and commented: "Things haven't changed much. Only in one department. Canadiens won as usual. Leafs never stopped trying as usual, that's the way they always play it. Only the officiating has changed."

Howe didn't elaborate on the last point. He didn't have to. He had just come through a semi-final playoff series in which referees ruled with lenient whistles.

Tonight referee Frank Udvari attempted to call everything he saw, some 17 infractions, nine to Toronto. But he still missed a few. On one occasion the entire Toronto bench came to its feet to clamor against the boards when Horton was tripped and no penalty called. The bench clamor is an infraction and coach Punch Imlach later said he had trouble quietening his upset players.

Canadiens didn't seem very excited about the win, taking it as a matter of course.

Coach Toe Blake thought his squad tired in the third period. "We needed that game after a week's layoff. We'll be better next time but then so will they. We didn't win it easy. And don't forget Leafs have been off for four days too. They'll be sharper."

Blake refused to predict the future course of the series. "You cannot predict a minute ahead," he insisted.

"Yes, but you can always predict that Jacques Plante can stop the game when the team is beginning to tire," suggested a Montreal columnist.

"You're not insinuating that he deliberately pulled a strap off his pads are you?" retorted Blake, trying to conceal a grin that refused to do anything but widen. "Those straps cost money you know."

"How much time does Plante spend practicing that manoeuvre?" another writer asked. Blake just grinned.

"Who says we didn't look good out there?" asked Dickie Moore. "We won by two goals, didn't we? That's enough. We only have to win by one you know."

Toronto coach Imlach was surprisingly relaxed after the game. "We didn't do badly coming back with two goals after being three down to Canadiens. We played them off their feet later in the game but the puck wasn't bouncing for us."

"Don't get the idea this series is over. It hasn't started yet as far as we're concerned. We had some tough breaks. If Mahovlich doesn't miss the net in the third per-

iod the game is tied up and then Pulford missed on that breakaway in the first period. A score then could have changed the whole complexion of the game. Don't forget too that one of the Montreal goals was knocked in our net by one of our own men."

Pulford was upset about missing his breakaway. "I made the same play on Plante in Toronto and scored. I guess I shot too late," he said in a voice hardly audible.

"We can heat these guys," said Dick Duff who played one of his more robust games of the entire season.

Referee-in-chief Carl Voss said this afternoon that Udvari and Eddie Powers would alternate games in the final series. Minor officials were from Boston.

Goal Judge Bill Cleary is a proud man. His two sons, Billy and Bob, were members of the United States Olympic championship hockey team. Pop Cleary was a linesman in the NHL for 17 years and refereed high school and college hockey around Boston. The boys learned to skate between period of high school games in which their father officiated.

Both boys are Harvard graduates where they played hockey under Cooney Wieland. Billy was once on Canadiens' negotiation list and was recently placed on Chicago's list. Neither boy has any desire to turn professional.

The goalie of their Olympic team, Jack McCartan, visited Canadiens' dressing room after the game. Dressed in the uniform of the United States Army, McCartan who played five games for New York Rangers at the end of the season, had never seen Canadiens in action.

Howe had company in the critic department. He watched the game with Detroit teammates Terry Sawchuk and Marcel Pronovost. Other hockey men at the game included Conn Smythe and the Silver Seven of Maple Leaf Gardens. . . . Tommy Ivan and Johnny Gottselig of Chicago. . . . Milt Schmidt, Boston coach turned television star. . . . Detroit's Jack Adams will be in tomorrow. . . . The New York team of minor officials will work the games in Toronto. . . .