

Frank Mahovlich In Snarly Mood At Leaf Practice

By JIM VIPOND
Globe and Mail Reporter

Peterborough, March 22 — There's something about the clean fresh air, excellent cuisine and fine hospitality appointments of the Lift Lock City that bring out the beast in Frank Mahovlich.

Big M and his teammates on the Toronto Maple Leafs are in temporary residence here preparing for their Stanley Cup semi-final round against Detroit which opens in Toronto on Wednesday.

Today Leafs held two workouts in Peterborough's modern arena, a fine building in which to play hockey. If it is the desire of Coach Punch Imlach to have his charges at fighting pitch for an important series, and such a situation is preferred by coaches and managers in all sports, he must be satisfied with the state of readiness of his moody leftwinger.

Big M startled fellow players and railbirds with his aggressiveness. Early in the morning workout, Jesse James took Mahovlich out of a play with as good a body block as he threw for Winnipeg on the march to the Grey Cup last fall.

Next time their paths crossed, Mahovlich squared accounts, opening a two-stitch cut on the James forehead. The body bruiser from the west took it in stride.

"I only hope he's as mean against Detroit," was the philosophical comment. "Anyway, if I pick up a couple of stitches every practice I can get a ride back to the hotel with the doctor and beat the coach's walking edit."

Big M didn't wait for tomorrow to display his supposed meanness. Imlach ordered a scrimmage for the afternoon work but called it off after 12 minutes when Mahovlich and Duke Edmundson collided, dropped sticks and started throwing punches.

"They're ready," chuckled Imlach, "but I thought I'd better play it safe and keep those two guys from playing against each other."

Imlach is looking beyond Detroit to the Stanley Cup. "Last year they said we wouldn't make the playoffs and we went to the final round. This year they are saying we won't win the cup. They could be wrong again." The coach did not explain who he meant by "they".

Weather permitting, Leafs do not intend leaving Peterborough until 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and they'll

return to their retreat immediately after the game.

Blue-line Banter — After an hour and a half workout yesterday morning, goalie Johnny Bower and captain George Armstrong remained on the ice to coach rookie goalie Ed Babiuk.

The youngster from Melville, Sask., is Leafs' practice goalie and could be called on for service if anything happened to Bower.

King Clancy has long awaited the chance to watch his old needling buddy, Charles Conacher, in action as a referee.

Big Chas will make his officiating debut in Belleville, Wednesday, but, alas, Clancy will be in Toronto.

Conacher will officiate in a benefit game between Police and Firemen to raise funds for handicapped children.

He'll be the guest of Ontario's deputy commissioner of provincial police, James Bartlett, who is chief potentate of the Shrine sponsors of the game.

And this serves as a reminder that the National Hockey League Old Timers will play a game in Sutton, Friday night, for a similar cause.

King Clancy offered to pay James and Edmundson \$25 bonuses if they scored five goals each during the season.

They ended with four apiece but Clancy paid off Edmundson because he was injured and missed the last two games and James because he set up Johnny Wilson for the winning goal in Detroit Sunday night.

Edmundson was annoyed because the club doctors wouldn't let him play the last two games "just because I had a little cut."

"See what happens," this unabashed young hockey man added, "my lines look terrible without me."

Edmundson, Wilson and James have been dubbed the Splendid Splinters by Ed Fitkin.

Something to do with the bench time they logged this season. Such reasoning should make them experts of the spread formation.

Imlach has a huge pile of movies here to show his players. He also brought along a record on how to be a success in business.

He believes the sales pitch will help steam his team. . . . What next?

Weather permitting, Leafs do not intend leaving Peterborough until 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and they'll

These Young Fellows Must Be in Town for a Reason



Detroit Red Wing Players Checking in at Royal York Become Deeply Interested in the Information Desk
Maybe receptionist Cherry Evans was attraction for. From left, Brian Smith, Warren Godfrey, Marc Reanne.



Detroit Forwards Show No Sign of the Stanley Cup Shakes
Ex-Leaf Gary Aldcorn (left) and Jack McIntire haul luggage.

Abel Wonders If Wings' Journey Really Necessary

By REX MACLEOD

First inquiry by coach Sid Abel when he arrived in town yesterday with his Detroit Red Wings was: "I wonder if this trip is really necessary?"

Wings, unless they are petrified by propaganda, are expected to sink into the Gardens tonight for the first game of the Stanley Cup semi-final against Maple Leafs.

George Imlach, the modest genius who directs Leafs, has decreed that Leafs will eliminate Wings in FIVE games, a charitable revision of an earlier proclamation. In Detroit Sunday night special agents stealthily reported to excommunicated Toronto newspapermen that prophet Imlach had ordained that Wings be despatched in FOUR games.

"I'm certainly glad he's decided to be a little more lenient with us," said Abel. "But one game seems hardly enough. I don't know if we should bother showing up. It hardly seems necessary."

Abel, of course, had his confidence restored when he recalled that Imlach's batting average as a seer was in the dismal decimals. Sort of a seer-sucker.

"I can't understand why anybody would suggest that either team should be said favorites in this series," said Abel. "Leafs scored 16 more goals than we did during the season and they got their edge when we had Dennis Riggin in goal."

"Sure, they had a good record against us but most of the games were close. We have several young fellows on our team and they might be nervous in a playoff game but we have the experienced fellows to offset this. I don't think we'll worry too much about predictions."

Immensely comforting to Abel are his experienced campaigners (money players, natch) in Gordie Howe, Terry Sawchuk, Marcel Pronovost and Alex Delvecchio. Playoff competition is old stuff to them.

"Why that fellow there might just decide to bar up the net all by himself," said Abel, gesturing toward Sawchuk.

Sawchuk is quite capable of such a feat although his goal-tending in the schedule finale in Detroit on Sunday wasn't nearly as impressive as the superlative job of Leafs' Johnny Bower.

But Sawchuk usually produces his big games in the playoffs and Leafs are aware of this revolting habit. King Clancy, Imlach's aide-de-shinny, has observed on numerous occasions that Sawchuk is THE best goal-keeper in hockey.

"We need a few breaks," said

Abel. "And the way the fellows have been skating lately I think we'll get them. If we do I think we can win this series. I've seen it happen before."

Notes: Abel and Wings' general manager Jack Adams have been so generous in their praise of some Toronto players that you might suspect they were trying to overwhelm Leafs with flattery.

Adams' great respect for Allan Stanley, Leafs' durable defenseman, "I think Stanley has had a tremendous season," said Adams. "He should be on the All-Star team."

Abel singled out Leafs' husky centre, Bob Pulford, for exceptional mention. "That Pulford is one of the best players in the league," said Abel. "He'll play it any way you like."

Wings and another light workout in the "media" yesterday and then "to Toronto in early afternoon. Only absence from the practice was Abel. He was said to be snowbound at his suburban Detroit home. Sawchuk doesn't need practice anyway.

Latest report on Marc Reanne, Detroit defenseman, is that he will not be able to play in tonight's series opener. Reanne has a knee injury. . . . Adams is quite content with the transaction that moved Reanne to Detroit from Toronto — in exchange for Red Kelly. And Kelly's recent success as a centre for Leafs hasn't changed Adams' mind. . . . Kelly wasn't going well for us and we're not sorry we traded him," said Adams. "Reanne will be around for a long time after Kelly is through."

Adams also pointed out that Pete Gozran, an aggressive defenseman, was recalled from the minors after Kelly's departure. It was just an insurance move at the time. . . . But it's strange how it can happen," said Adams. "Gozran has played terrific hockey for us and he doesn't get cheap penalties any more. We've got a hitting defense now—something we've been after for a long time."

Habs, Leafs, Habs Again, Way Experts (?) See Future

Drawing on the wisdom, intuition and sheer genius of Globe and Mail sports By-Liners is an easy way to peer into the future. And the future, as it pertains to Stanley Cup playoffs, is made crystal clear with the appended predictions which call Montreal to beat Chicago, Toronto to beat Detroit and Montreal to beat Toronto.

By-Liner	Series A	Series B	Stanley Cup
Jim Vipond Sports Editor	Habs in 3	Leafs in 6	Habs in 3
Gord Walker Assist. Spts. Ed.	Habs in 6	Leafs in 7	Habs in 3
Scott Young Columnist	Habs in 6	Leafs in 6	Leafs in 7
Jim Coleman Columnist	Habs in 6	Leafs in 6	Habs in 3
Rex MacLeod Hockey	Habs in 6	Leafs in 6	Habs in 3
Jack Marks Junior Hockey	Habs in 7	Leafs in 3	Leafs in 7
Al Nickleson Baseball	Habs in 3	Leafs in 6	Habs in 3
Laurie Brain Racing	Habs in 7	Leafs in 6	Habs in 6
Ken McKee Football	Habs in 7	Leafs in 6	Habs in 6
Ed Waring Soccer	Habs in 7	Leafs in 6	Habs in 3
Steve York Wrestling	Habs in 3	Wings in 6	Habs in 3
Consensus	Habs in 6	Leafs in 6	Habs in 3

Hawks Will Be Tough, Habs' Coach Confesses

Montreal, March 22 (CP) — Tommy Ivan watched his Chicago Black Hawks skim briskly through a 75-minute drill today and emerged with this Stanley Cup prediction:

"If we stay healthy we're going to give them a stiff fight."

General manager Ivan, coach Rudy Pilous and the third-place Hawks arrived yesterday to prepare for Thursday night's initial game in the semi-final series against Montreal's league-champion Canadiens.

Pilous ran his boys through a heavy workout and scrimmage today at noon and called a light workout for the same time tomorrow.

"The club's spirit is good," said Ivan afterward in sizing up Chicago's chances against the club bidding for a fifth consecutive Stanley Cup under coach Hector "Toe" Blake.

"All the players are in a good state of mind. They know they can do it. They know they're capable of playing the type of hockey they need to to win."

The Hawks had two players on the sidelines when the schedule wound up Sunday night. But one, Al Arbour, the rugged, bespectacled defenseman, joined the team in practice today.

He suffered an ankle injury

two weeks ago but it appeared to be responding well to treatment and Ivan said Arbour will likely see action in the opening game.

There was no immediate word on the other injury victim, rookie Stan Mikita, struck in the face by a puck in Saturday night's game against the Maple Leafs in Toronto.

A fractured cheekbone was feared but x-rays disclosed that only the skin tissue had been bruised severely, producing eye discoloration.

Mikita was to be discharged from hospital today but Ivan said he had not had any word on the youngster.

Last year, when Montreal wrapped up a semi-final series against Chicago in six games, the Hawks retreated to a secluded hideaway in the Laurentians north of here between games at the Forum.

For one game a bus carrying the team to Montreal became enmeshed in traffic. The Hawks arrived late and had to forego the normal pre-game skate. By the time the players worked the stiffness from their legs Montreal had oiled up a big cushion and coasted to a win.

Ivan was asked whether this experience had soured the Chicago front office about billeting the team in the Laurentians again this year.

"Partly," he said. "But more important we wanted to have the players where we could keep an eye on them and closer to the centre of things."

The club is registered at a midtown hotel.

In the Montreal camp meanwhile coach Blake said he feels confident but not cocky about the forthcoming series.

Like Ivan, he declined to say how the series will go.

"All I can tell you is we expect a pretty tough time," said Blake.

The Canadiens practiced for 1½ hours today—a "pretty good workout," said Blake—and plan a light drill at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Both defenseman Doug Har-

vey and left-winger Marcel Bonin participated today after missing the final two games of the schedule. Harvey with a leg injury and Bonin with a broken toe on his right foot.

Harvey was deemed a likely starter for Thursday night, Bonin doubtful.

"Marcel said he was okay, but I could see he had trouble skating," said Blake.

Toe said he is not worried about the club's mental outlook. "We are always up for every important game. I have no concern on that score."

"I know in the past we've been criticized. They say we tend to fall off. It's pretty hard to keep the boys up when you have a lead of 15 points or more in scheduled play like we've had."

"But they have always come through fine mentally before every important game."

He said no one on his club has been especially designated to check 39-goal Bobby Hull, the Chicago Golden Rocket who led the league in point-scoring with 81.

"We're going to watch him exceptionally close. But no one has been assigned to him. The way hockey is played now, with speedy line changes, you can't give a man a special check. All our right-wingers will stay tight with him."

Hull is a third-year leftwinger.

The bookmakers have made the Canadiens two-goal favorites to win the first game and 3½ to 1 to take the series.

In 14 games during the regular season with Chicago, the Canadiens won seven and tied four. All three Montreal setbacks came in Chicago.