

Red Wings Defeat Maple Leafs in Opener, 2-1



Dotted Line Indicating Path of Puck Shows How Close Leafs Came to Tying Score in Final Few Seconds of Play
Bert Olmstead (right) drew head on upper corner with goaler Terry Sawchuk on ice, but puck was trifle too high.

Howe, Haley Score First-Period Goals, Carl Brewer Clicks

By REX MacLEOD
Detroit Red Wings, with Gordie Howe supervising the production, defeated Maple Leafs, 2-1, in the first game of the Stanley Cup semi-final in the Gardens last night.

The local sporting fraternity had established Leafs as better than 2-1 favorites to win the first game of this best-of-seven series, so this might be considered a stunning upset. But you couldn't confirm it by the behavior of Howe and company.

Wings went ahead, 2-0, in the first period and they frustrated Leafs with a thorough checking game the rest of the way. And many of the Leafs were so indifferent that checking them wasn't difficult.

Leafs did revive for the third period, they repeatedly drove into the Detroit zone but their efforts weren't rewarded by many shots on goal. They just created among the crowd and keeper Terry Sawchuk throughout the game. Wings fired 30 at what appeared to be a goal.

Second game in this series will be played in the Gardens, Saturday night. The third and fourth games will be played in Detroit's Olympia on Sunday and Tuesday.

A crowd of 12,853, smallest of the season in the Gardens, saw Howe's poised, powerful play set up the Detroit win. The brilliant right-winger, who seemed to play about two-thirds of the game, scored their first goal and then devoted the rest of the game to monopolizing the puck. And although Leafs pursued him relentlessly he rarely gave it away.

Len Haley, who naturally has the nickname of Comet, scored Wings' other goal. Carl Brewer, Leafs' aggressive defenseman, scored their goal late in the third period.

Brewer's goal inspired a stirring last-minute rally by Leafs in which they tried to atone for their earlier lack of initiative. But Wings refused to be stampeded.

Sawchuk was even run down in Leafs' futile onslaught. Brewer skated directly into him with about a minute left in the game. The Detroit goalkeeper had his wind knocked out and he required first-aid treatment at the Detroit bench.

Leafs removed Brewer for the final minute of play and they laid siege to the Detroit goal. Bert Olmstead, one Leaf who worked furiously throughout this game, had the best scoring opportunity but he shot the puck over the Detroit net.

Although Leafs reformed in the third period they didn't deserve to win this one or even tie it. Wings skated harder.



Leafs' Leader Punch Imlach Expresses Displeasure
Bill Harris (seated) glares: Gary Edmundson yells.

Jawn Really Jovial Delighted Over Win

By JIM YIPOND
Jovial Jawn Adams, manager of the Detroit Red Wings was strolling through the practically empty Gardens on his way to a taxi stand, high a hove him typewriters rattled as news-papemen worked on their reports of the first game of Series B of the Stanley Cup playoffs. "Nice win," he called to the newsmen, "now we can relax and lose the next four just to keep Punch Imlach's prognostication honest."

Jovial Jawn was kidding of course and delightedly so to find his underdog Detroiters out in front of a series in which the odds men had put them on the lower end of 12-5 odds for the first game.

In the happy Detroit dressing room a few minutes earlier Adams had chided Gordie Howe for throwing away a pass when coach Sid Abel called him to the bench. "Stick around this league long enough and you'll learn not to do that," yelled Adams to the one-man team of Detroit.

About the only job coach Abel didn't call on Howe to perform last night was tend goal, and who knows that he might have even donned the pads if Terry Sawchuk hadn't quickly recovered from the hard slam he received from Leafs' Carl Brewer.

Toronto coach Punch Imlach who admitted his team was outplayed in the first two periods was somewhat incensed when referee Frank Udvari cancelled out Ron Stewart's second period goal.

"Udvari blew the whistle all right, I'll not argue that point," said Imlach, "but he shouldn't."

Three More Red Wings Rejoice At Victory

"We won the one we said we were going to win," yelled coach Sid Abel to his rejoicing Detroit Red Wings last night, after they had taken a 1-0 lead in their Stanley Cup semi-final with the Maple Leafs.

"Just three more," bellowed a half dozen players, as the tension abated from the dying minutes of the game, which Wings had squeezed out, 2-1, despite a last-minute surge by Leafs.

"Who was my big man?" shouted Abel. "The guy that is always big, Gordie Howe."

Howe and Abel posed happily for pictures with National Hockey League rookie Len Haley, who scored in the first period. It was Haley's second goal in 28 games in the league.

In the Wings' room Abel and his players, who evidently had resented Leaf Coach George Imlach's dismissal of their chances in the playoffs, took him to task for his prediction.

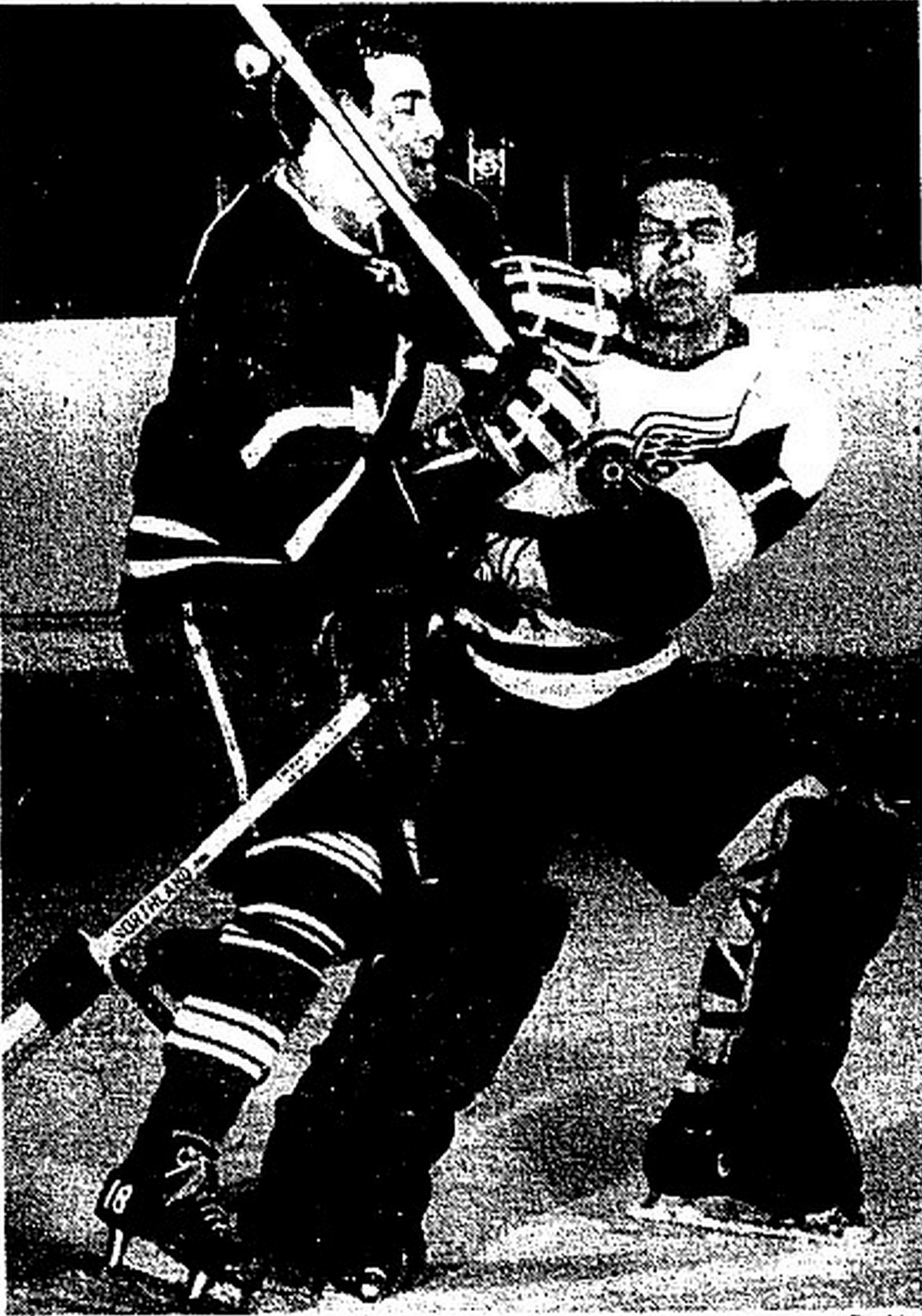
"He was going to give us one game. I guess that's the one," Abel said.

Detroit General Manager Jack Adams, who has as habit of walking around the block in the Wings' close games, couldn't stand the strain after the second period. He left Maple Leaf Gardens and returned in time for the last minutes of the final period.

"They talk about counting you out," said Adams. "We had four 20-goal men this year. That's like having four .300 hitters."

Chief concern in the Wings' camp was goaltender Terry Sawchuk, who fell to the ice with a minute remaining in the game after a collision with defenseman Carl Brewer.

"He charged me all the way up," said Sawchuk, still dazed and favoring his left shoulder.



Red Wings' Sawchuk Was Winded by This Collision With Carl Brewer
Leafs' defenseman bodychecked goaler who came out of net to clear puck.

Detroit — Goal, Sawchuk; defense, Prosser, Goffey, Morrison, Goggin, Haddock, forward, Howe, Haley, Delvecchio, Lunde, Aldeen, Nick, Haley, Fontaine, Cullen, McNamara, Smith.	
Toronto — Goal, Bower; defense, Horton, Stanley, Brewer, Baum; forward, Pulford, Stewart, Gilmartin, Kelly, Elum, Mahovlich, Harris, Armstrong, Hall, Edmundson, James, Wilson, Recca.	
Referee — Frank Udvari; linesmen Bruce Sims, George Hayes.	
First Period	
1 — Detroit, Haley (Horton) 2:28	
2 — Detroit, Haley (Delvecchio) 11:21	
Penalties — Mahovlich (board-checking) 7:02, Oliver (high-sticking) 7:40, Brewer (hooking) 15:58, Aldeen (holding) 16:42.	
Second Period	
Penalties — Goffey (roughing) 4:31, Pulford (roughing) 4:34, Goggin (interference) 6:10, Edmundson (cross-checking) 10:19, Mahovlich (tripping) 12:28, Brewer (interference) 15:35.	
Third Period	
3 — Toronto, Bower 18:04	
Penalties — None.	
Shots On Goal	
By Detroit 30	By Toronto 16
By Detroit 16	By Toronto 5