

By Scott Young This Goal Didn't Count

THERE is no doubt that, with regard to Frank Udvari's call-back of Ron Stewart's second-period goal for Toronto Maple Leafs last night, there will be a certain amount of mild public dissatisfaction.

Such as nice ladies roaming the streets armed with baseball bats, denunciation from the pulpit, angry questions by Toronto members in the House of Commons, and so on.

That is what happens every once in a while here in Medville, so it might be just as well to have the facts, which are these:

Early in the second period, Leafs looked as if recovery from their first period vapors was imminent.

Allan Stanley hit a goal-post in the first minute and his colleagues were playing a much more robust game.

Bob Pulford of Leafs and Warren Godfrey of Detroit began belting each other around each time their paths crossed, then began plotting their paths so that they were crossing with increasing frequency, and eventually this caught the keen eye of Frank Udvari and both were given minor penalties.

As it sometimes does, this opened up the game. After one rush by Detroit, Bert Olmstead picked up the puck going through centre.

Tim Horton soared up from right defense full bore. As he crossed the blueline going much too rapidly for anyone to catch him, Olmstead shot the puck hard and wide.

THE PLAY here was to lay the rebound off the backboards right to Horton's stick. Nobody knew this better than Terry Sawchuk, the Detroit goalie. He went hard to his left to try to trap the rebound before it got to Horton. He got a piece of it, but—eight feet out of the goal—fell down and out of the play.

The puck bounced over to the side boards. Horton was there. Pete Goegan, the Detroit defenseman, also was there, along with several other flailing skates, bodies, and sticks. Sawchuk was trying to get back to his feet and into position. The puck bounded over in front of the vacant goal, between Ron Stewart's skates. He was so much on his own that he had time to back off and take aim and plug the puck in just as Sawchuk lunged back into his nets.

But no more than one second before this happened, Frank Udvari had blown his whistle to give an interference penalty to Goegan. That meant that the goal automatically was disallowed.

THE RULE on the play reads (translated into this situation) that when Goegan committed his infraction, the referee should "signify the calling of a penalty by pointing to the offending player, and ON COMPLETION OF THE PLAY BY THE TEAM IN POSSESSION, will immediately blow his whistle and give the penalty."

Strikes me as somewhat strange that Udvari should feel that with the puck bouncing freely around the Detroit zone, and Sawchuk still out of his net, that this was a good time to rule that "completion of the play by the team in possession" had occurred.

I think that Udvari, generally a good referee, booted this one.

One of the eternal verities of hockey, however, is that nine million words of complaint about a referee's decision, plus 10 cents, will buy a man a cup of coffee.

I HAD the feeling all through the second and third periods that if Leafs ever tied the score, they'd win the game. They were coming and Detroit were going—but Detroit didn't win it on Udvari's one whistle alone. Sawchuk played extremely well, Gordon Howe was at his peerless best, and the infantry checked like a school of lampreys.

Len Haley, a dark and square-faced young man from Edmonton, scored the winning goal.

He did this by pelting a shot at Tim Horton, hitting Horton squarely, and then picking up the rebound and whacking it past Johnny Bower.

Leading Haley to relate that the last time he was in Toronto to play hockey, some weeks ago, he spoke before the game with his seven-year-old daughter Kim, in Edmonton.

This was a Saturday and the game was to be televised.

Haley, who played 27 games for Detroit this season and scored only one goal, said lovingly to the little girl, "Now, you watch for Daddy on the television tonight."

"Okay, daddy," she said. "I'll watch for you—at the end of the bench."



Detroit's Gerry Melnyk Challenges Toronto Pair for Puck (Circled)
Bobby Baun (left) helps goaltender Johnny Bower block off Melnyk.

Rocket, Jacques Plante Suffer Minor Injuries

Montreal, March 23 (CP)—A relatively minor but bothersome injury problem cropped up in Montreal Canadiens' camp today, the eve of the start of the club's semi-final Stanley Cup series against Chicago Black Hawks.

The great Maurice (Rocket) Richard, who holds many Cup scoring and playing records, was excused from the 45-minute practice. He suffered a light muscle injury in the groin during Tuesday's long drill.

Then goalie Jacques Plante, winner for the fifth consecutive year of the Vezina Trophy, was felled by a high puck that struck him in the Adam's apple.

He collapsed gagging and choking, and in obvious pain from the hard shot fired by Ab McDonald in a practice rush. He is expected to play.

Even Coach Toe Blake, counting his miseries, winced with pain every time he tried to move his left arm. He dislocated his shoulder Tuesday when he stepped on a puck and lost his balance, falling to the ice.

On his way to the dressing room, the shoulder popped back into place. But it was sore today.

Blake said Richard's injury is not serious and will not prevent the 38-year-old veteran from playing his 126th playoff game here tomorrow night.

"There was no use taking any chances before the game," Blake said.

"Mikita has difficulty seeing," Pilon said. "So we'll rest him for the first game."

His spot on a line with Ted Lindsay and Ken Wharram will be shared by Glen Skov and Norm Johnson. Skov normally centres the Hawks' checking line with Eddie Litzenberger and Earl Balfour. Johnson, former Boston Bruin, has been called up from Calgary of the Western Hockey League for the Cup series.

Pilon said his team is "a little more confident" than in its semi-final series with Canadiens a year ago, when Chicago was eliminated, 4-2, in games.

"The record in the last half of the season, when we split

with Canadiens, shows we're an improved club," he said.

In the last seven games against Canadiens, Hawks won three, lost three and tied one, for an even split. In the 14 scheduled meetings, Canadiens won seven, lost three and tied four.

Blake wasn't making any predictions, but said: "It could be a low-scoring series—if the goalies get hot."

Plante, winner of the Vezina Trophy with 178 goals scored against Canadiens, got his closest competition from Chicago netminder Glenn Hall, who lost out by only two goals, allowing 180 in the 70-game schedule.