

Quinsy Holds Hull Pointless

MONTREAL, March 24—The lobby of the Mount Royal Hotel at 3 p.m. was like a mighty funeral parlor. Steely-eyed hockey observers arriving on the late plane from Toronto filed in silently. Shook hands in solace with the principal mourners, beginning with James D. Norris, the tall and dark-visaged man who owns Chicago Black Hawks and whose middle name is not Cus D'Amato. Slowly, he marched past Tommy Ivan, manager, and Rudolph Pilous, coach and out of sight down the leafy aisles of the great forest of potted palms, from which presently arose strange tribal cries, such as, "They've brought up a kid called Wayne Hicks." And, "Who the — is Wayne Hicks?" And, "I'll have the same, with water."

It is probably the first time in the history of the human race that a wake ever has been held for a man who had just come down with the quinsy.

However, the young man was Bobby Hull. And this is the Stanley Cup semi-final. And having this happen today was as if the Mighty Casey never even had had a CHANCE to strike out—got the mumps, on the way to the plate.

BECAUSE of last night, just at the instant when more good hockey people than one might imagine were saying that they wished they had a piece of those odds the bookies were quoting on Montreal against Chicago, the young man whom the romanticists call the Golden Rocket, was grimacing at his tongue in a bathroom mirror and remarking to his room-mate, "Geez, Murph. I got a sort of tickle in my throat."

Oh, fateful words. You have to remember a few things when considering what followed. One is that Hull is only 21 and that Ron Murphy, his room-mate, is only a few years older. Also, some athletes are too rapid altogether in calling for a doctor. Others, of whom Hull now may be considered one, don't want to be counted among those who react to every hangnail or sniffle as if it were a case for the medical journal.

He did call the Chicago trainer, Nick Garen. Murphy went and picked up some aspirin.

You also have to remember that quite often an athlete will pick up some minor illness, get a few pills from the trainer, and shake it by morning. Hull took the pills. By now it was midnight or so. Hull complained about being cold.

MURPHY ran a hot bath and got Hull into it but still couldn't get him warm. He had the window closed and the heat on full—and anybody who isn't hot under those conditions in the Mount Royal Hotel must be assumed to have mislaid his blood. "I put all my blankets on him, too," Murphy said. "And I was just under the sheet and I was sweating." But Hull continued to shake and shudder, relax, and then shake again.

Why didn't they call a doctor then? Simply because they didn't want to disturb anybody. You know, big game tonight, be terrible if it was a false alarm, and so on. What happened, of course, was that Murphy didn't get any sleep, either.

In the morning Hull's forehead felt like the top of a stove. Murphy called Rudy Pilous, the Chicago coach, and Tommy Ivan, the manager. Somebody took Hull's temperature: 102 degrees. A doctor was called. He turned up about 11 and said that Bobby Hull, the leading scorer in the National Hockey League, the big light-haired 21-year-old on whose strong back the Chicago Black Hawks have ridden for much of this season and hoped to ride for a few weeks more had a very bad throat indeed, and must go to hospital.

At noon this peaked young man walked through the lobby. The doctor's car was waiting. At the Montreal General, a specialist was waiting.

At 2:15 p.m. the specialist called Ivan and Pilous. The word was that this quinsy consisted of an abscess on one of Hull's tonsils, spreading into his right ear. He wasn't sure whether he'd have to operate, to lance it, until drugs had a chance to work. But Hull certainly wouldn't be playing tonight. Ivan then named Wayne Hicks, who played this season in Sault Ste. Marie, as Hull's replacement.

AT 3:15 p.m. Pilous came through the lobby on his way to the hospital. Wanted to talk to Hull to make sure he had a TV to watch the game tonight, and other friendly deeds. Before he caught the cab he stood for a minute.

"We'll find out now whether we're a one-line hockey team," he said. "I'm not going to break up the other lines—not to start with, anyway. Maybe somebody else can rise to the occasion."

And listening to him I had the idea that he would be saying the same thing in the dressing room, and that the somebody he had in mind might be Ed Litzenberger. Until this year Litzenberger was the real star of the Chicago team.

He played not well earlier in the season. Is just working back into shape after the accident in January that injured him, and caused the death of his wife. Might be ready now.

If that was the coach's intention, it worked out—almost well enough. Litzenberger made the finest single play of the game to go around Doug Harvey and make a pass to Murray Balfour for the first Chicago goal. But all through the piece, Hawks never could get closer than one goal down. The fair-haired young buster who was watching it on TV from a hospital bed easily might have made the difference.

Maple Leafs Have 28 Eligible for Playoffs

Nine potential Maple Leafs: Steve Kraftcheck, Al MacNeil, are standing in the wings at Allan Stanley; forwards: George Rochester and another is minding Armstrong, Hank Ciesla, Dave-ing goal at Sudbury, according Creighton, Dick Duff, Gary Ed-to the lists of eligibles in Stan-ley Cup playoffs released this week.

In addition to the 18 regulars, the Leafs can call on forwards: Hank Ciesla, Dave Creighton, Ted Hampson, Rudy Migay, Bob Nevin and Dick Van Impe; defensemen: Steve Kraftcheck and Al MacNeil, and goalkeepers Ed Chadwick and Gerry McNamara. The last mentioned is with Sudbury Wolves of the Eastern Professional Hockey League.

Following is a complete list of the eligibles on the four clubs:

Canadiens — Goal: Jacques Plante, Gerry McNeil, Charlie Hodge; defense: Bob Turner, J. C. Tremblay, Jean Guy Talbot, Albert Langlois, Claude Labreque, Tom Johnson, Doug Harvey; forwards: Ralph Backstrom, Jean Beliveau, Marcel Bonin, William Carter, Ben Fleming, Bernie Geoffrion, Phil Goyette, Bill Hicke, Cee Hock-sfra, Don Marshall, Al McDon-ald, Dick Moore, Andre Prono-voit, Claude Provost, Henri Richard, Maurice Richard, Stan-ley, Smrke, Gilles Tremblay.

Maple Leafs — Goal: Johnny Bower, Ed Chadwick, Gerry McNamara; defense: Bobby Baun, Carl Brewer, Tim Horton, Norm Ullman.

Black Hawks — Goal: Glenn Hall, Denis DeJordy, Roy Ed-wards; defense: Al Arbour, Doug Barkley, Jack Evans, Ron Ingram, Pierre Pilote, Dollan St. Laurent, Elmer Vasko; for-wards: Earl Balfour, Murray Balfour, Billy Dea, Howie Glover, Terry Gray, Bill Hay, Wayne Hicks, Bobby Hull, Norm Johnson, Ted Lindsay, Ed Litzenberger, Phil Maloney, Stan Mikita, Ron Murphy, Eric Nes-terenko, Glen Skov, Ted Sloan, Ken Wharram.

Red Wings — Goal: Terry Sawchuk, Dennis Rizzin, Bob Perreault; defense: Warren Haddon, Jimmy Morrison, Gerry Odrowski, Marcel Pro-snovost, Marc Reaume; forwards: Gary Aldcorn, Barry Cullen, Alex Delvecchio, Val Fonteyne, Len Haley, Gordon Howe, Claude Laforge, Len Lunde, Tom McCarthy, Jack McIntyre, Jack McKenzie, Jerry McNyk-Murray Oliver, Brian Smith.



Chicago Squeeze Play—Montreal's Jean Beliveau is taken out of the play by Chicago's Pierre Pilote and Earl Balfour in the early minutes of last night's National Hockey League playoff in Montreal. Montreal held off late Black Hawk rally to score 4-3 win.

Coaches Are Cautious; Have to Be Better: Toe; We Were Tense: Rudy

Montreal, March 24 (UPI)—Coach Toe Blake warned his defending champion Montreal Canadiens tonight they will have to play better next time if they hope to win their fifth consecutive Stanley Cup series.

In the subdued Montreal dressing room, Blake said: "I don't think we played one of our good games. We can do better and so can they, we'll have to pick up if we want to stay ahead."

Montreal General Manager Frank Selke said he thought the

Habituants were too nervous and played "too cautiously."

"I think the kids will have eased up by Saturday, but you never can tell. They gave us a bad time out there tonight."

Blake agreed that his Habs were nervous but said "I can't quite put my finger on the reason for it."

"These guys have all played Stanley Cup hockey before," Blake added. "Something just didn't jell out there tonight."

Blake said he didn't plan any lineup changes for the second game Saturday, except perhaps putting Ab McDonald back in action.

Goalie Jacques Plante, who suffered a painful bruise when hit in the neck during Wednesday's practice, said his neck was sore but "it didn't bother me much."

"It was that good breakaway of Boom-Boom Geoffrion's that saved the game," said Jean Beliveau who scored the first goal and assisted on the Boomer's.

Across the ice in the Hawks' dressing room, neither coach Rudy Pilous nor owner Jim Norris were especially disappointed in their team's showing.

"I thought we were tight at first," Pilous said, "but after we got that tenseness out of us, we played pretty well. We just weren't skating with them at the staff, and when we play them here as well as we do at home, I'll know we're ready."

Goalie Glenn Hall said the Canadiens scored a "couple of easy ones on me, but they could have scored six or eight times on other shots."

Pilous, refusing to be too downcast, even though his ace scorer, Bobby Hull was a late scratch due to an infected tonsil today, said "you can't judge a series on one game. Look at our last seven games of the season. We won three, lost three and tied one. And I think this could be a seven-game series."

"Outside of the first period," said Jim Norris, "we played them even. We've got six or seven kids out there who don't have any playoff experience and it's new to them. I thought we played well the last two periods and I think we'll be all right the rest of the way."