

Does a Player EVER Goof?

By JIM VIPOND

Globe and Mail Sports Editor

THE PAST 24 hours have brought down the wrath of Toronto hockey executives, players and fans on the broad shoulders of Mr. Frank Udvari, a most experienced referee in the National Hockey League.

"He goofed," they've been screaming ever since Mr. Udvari disallowed a goal by Ron Stewart at 6:10 of the second period of the first game of Series B of the Stanley Cup playoffs in which Detroit defeated Toronto, 2-1.

Regardless of what the flickers may divulge, it seems rather unfair to me to make one person the goat of the game. This qualified referee, under continual verbal attack from excited players and coaches made a split-second decision. In his job there is no time for deliberation.

Leafs, after being vastly outplayed in the first period, were ganging the Detroit goal area. Referee Udvari raised his hand signalling a penalty to Pete Geogan for interference. He did not blow his whistle until, as he thought, Toronto lost possession of the puck. That second of decision arrived within a fraction of the time that Stewart fired into a wide-open net.

So, no goal. So, Udvari goofed (and that is a matter of biased opinion).

So, let's not kid ourselves about any referee's decision costing any team any game. If Mr. Udvari goofed, so did a lot of players on both teams. For instance, although we hesitate to point the finger at such a hard-working player, we imagine Bert Olmstead would be the first to admit he goofed in missing the open net in the final minute of play. That goal would undoubtedly have forced overtime.

Didn't Johnny Bower goof when he hesitated in clearing a puck early in the game and Gordie Howe poked it into the net? Didn't Jack McIntyre goof minutes later when he couldn't get his stick on a Howe pass at the goalmouth, not once but twice?

Didn't Dickie Duff, George Armstrong and Billy Harris goof when they let Detroit's third line of McIntyre, Len Haley, Val Fontcyne and/or Jerry Melnyk check them dizzy all night? This was supposed to be the line against which Duff and Co. would fly.

Didn't Norm Ullman and Alec Delvecchio goof on breakaways in the third period when they insisted on passing the puck instead of shooting?

Two coaches of our acquaintance, Punch Imlach of the Leafs and Bob Goldham of St. Michael's Majors, insist that hockey is a game of mistakes. Apparently this thinking is for players only, not referees who are under pressure all the time. And once again, we insist this is not to imply that Mr. Udvari goofed.

Amid all the first game post-mortems the quiet comment of Billy Harris bears repeating. In fact the professor in charge of Toronto hockey psychology might well chalk Harris' words on the dressing room blackboard.

"It's about time we quit thinking about Canadiens and concentrated on beating this club. All we've heard around here is that we have to beat Canadiens. What about the Wings?"

Even the rival general manager, Jovial Jawn Adams, conceded this was sound thinking on Harris' part.

Indicative of the length to which hockey buffs deliberate their favorite sporting sport at playoff time is the challenge of Wesley Earl and Vic Anderson. They hold to the common belief that Canadiens are all but invincible.

And as they also hold that neither Chicago, Detroit nor Toronto will be capable of stopping Montreal from winning a fifth consecutive Stanley Cup, they challenge Canadiens to score a goal at 6:12 of the third period of the third game of the final round.

"And we're willing to bet that the puck will be sitting there in the net at that time."

TIMELY TOPICS: Red Wings worked for an hour at the Gardens yesterday morning. . . Gordie Howe was excused after a light skate. . . Goalie Terry Sawchuk bruised his right hand in stopping a shot but ice packs reduced the swelling. . . Gus Ryder writes from Honolulu where he is enjoying a three months' rest. . . Meanwhile his buddies at Lakeshore Swimming Club are having filtration trouble. . . So much so that the pool will be closed on Sunday. . . Members still desirous of swimming are reminded to take sharp pickaxes to break the thick ice on the lakefront. . . Buck McKenna, former Argo footballer and sandlot baseball player is in St. Joseph's Hospital. . . Murph Blandford, our portly little outside man, has been appointed manager of the Isabella Hotel. . . Who says umpires don't get ahead in the world?

Canadiens Edge Black Hawks, 4-3

Chicago Misses Bobby Hull, Out With Throat Infection

MONTREAL, March 24 (CP)—Montreal Canadiens tonight won the first game of their Stanley Cup semi-final series with Chicago Black Hawks with a 4-3 win before 14,193 spectators.

The big Montreal line of Jean Beliveau-Bernie Geoffrion and Marcel Bonin was the deciding factor in Canadiens' victory, scoring two goals.

Beliveau and Geoffrion scored one each and Geoffrion and Bonin each picked up two assists.

The other Montreal goals were by Dickie Moore and Andre Pronovost. Murray Balfour, Ted Lindsay and Ron Murphy scored for Chicago.

Second game in the best-of-seven series will be played here Saturday night, before the teams move to Chicago for the next two games Tuesday and Thursday of next week.

Chicago was obviously hurt by the loss of 39-goal scorer Bobby Hull, who entered hospital today with an infected throat and high fever. His spot at left wing with Bill Hay and Murray Balfour was filled by Balfour, who switched from right wing, while Eddie Litzenberger was sent in at right wing.

For the first two periods of play Canadiens had a decided edge in a wide-open game. Hawks tried desperately to close the gap in the third period but never quite made it.

Erle Nesterenko and Tod Sloan suffered face cuts late in the game when they collided head-on in the Chicago zone. Nesterenko hit his head on the boards and had to be helped to the clinic, weak-kneed and bleeding. Sloan got up under his own steam and followed him to the clinic. Nesterenko needed five stitches to close a face cut and Sloan three.

Montreal coach Toe Blake accepted the victory, but was not entirely pleased with the performance of his Canadiens, seeking their fifth Stanley Cup in a row.

"We missed too many chances," he said. "We weren't sharp at all." Rudy Pilous, coach of the Hawks, closed the dressing room to reporters after the game.

Beliveau opened the scoring halfway through the first period, with a close-in shot off Bonin's pass from behind the goal.

At about the 15-minute mark, Pronovost made it 2-0 when his shot hit goalie Glenn Hall's stick and flipped in. Balfour cut the lead to 2-1 little more than a minute later, slapping the puck into the net with Montreal goalie Jacques Plante sprawled at the side of the goal.

Midway through the second, Moore scored on a screened shot while Chicago was short-handed one player. Jack Evans was in the penalty box at the time.

Lindsay, a tireless skater for Chicago, picked up his marker late in the second period, scoring on a partly screened shot from directly in front of the net. Ken Wharram, one of the best Hawks during the game, set up the goal in the Canadiens' zone.

Canadiens made it 4-2 at 10:32 of the third period with Geoffrion's brilliant goal on a breakaway through Chicago defenseman Pierre Pilote and Elmer Vasko. Beliveau's pass to Geoffrion at the Canadiens' blue line sent the right winger streaking in on Hall. Boom-Boom faked Hall out of position and slapped the puck into the net.

Murphy cut the lead to 4-3 with less than two minutes to play, slipping in a backhand from 20 feet out. The puck shot in between Plante's leg and the goal post, though the Montreal goalie made a stab at the puck with his gloved hand.

Wayne Hicks, brought up from Sault Ste. Marie Thunderbirds, a Chicago farm club in



Jean Beliveau (10) Watches His Shot Elude Glenn Hall for First Canadian Goal Last Night
Chicago defencemen Jack Evans (5) and Al Arbour (2) stand helpless as Gros Bill opens scoring.

Subdued Leafs Waltz, Worry Huddle on How to Hobble Howitzer Howe

By REX MACKGILL

Globe and Mail Reporter

Peterborough, March 24.—Toronto Maple Leafs, obviously subdued by their 2-1 loss to Detroit Red Wings in Toronto Wednesday, went back to practising today in the hope of discovering an antidote to Glenn Howe and his buddies.

Earlier this week, in this contemplative playoff recess, it was reported that Leafs whittled through workouts that were the last word in ferocity. Well, they weren't nearly as energetic as on belligerent today. Now it looks as if some of the Leafs, especially the management, have finally realized that you can't reach the moon with a bazooka stick.

Leafs went through the customary practice manoeuvres today and wound up with a scrimmage that could have been conducted in a ballroom. But maybe this time they are conserving their energy for their next tilt against the Wings.

Some of the Leafs are suspecting they went into Wednesday's series opener with the wrong attitude. They had been dreaming of the delicious prospect of beating Montreal Canadiens in the Stanley Cup final. For the past few weeks their soothsayers have kept reassuring them that they could beat Canadiens. Some of the guys might have partaken too liberally of this heady potion.

Leafs figure they can still repel the Red Wings but now they are looking for a long series. You don't have any mention of Leafs winning in five games any more. Howitzer Howe revised a few opinions in

that respect in Wednesday's game.

George Imlach, the worried manager-coach of Leafs, spent yesterday in his laboratory trying to devise ways and means of stopping Howe. And the only solution he came up with was an elephant gun. But a check with NHL headquarters brought the sad news that this was not permitted in a playoff game.

"One pall-bearer sought to console Imlach by suggesting that the 2-1 loss to Wings would undoubtedly cause Leafs to play much harder in future games. Leafs, it was ventured piously, had been taught a lesson.

"The hell with the lesson," retorted Imlach. "I'd sooner have a win to fall back on."

King Clancy, Imlach's chief

aide and spiritual counsel, suggested that Wings were a bit fortunate to win the opening game of the series—despite Howe's celestial performance.

"I don't think we (Leafs) played well enough to deserve a win," explained Clancy. "But we had better scoring chances than the Wings. One thing I'm sure of. The puck will never bounce like that for the Wings again."

Clancy thought that most of the breaks went to the Wings.

Leafs worked out for about 70 minutes today and Imlach decided to experiment with his lines. Dick Duff and Frank Mahovlich, two leftwingers who have given him nervous tremors all season, appeared on a line with Red Kelly. Kelly

played at centre, with Duff on right wing and Mahovlich on left.

Another line had Billy Harris at centre with George Armstrong on right wing and Gerry Ehman on left. Ehman is normally a right winger. Imlach said he might try these lines in the second game of the series in the Gardens on Saturday.

"I wanted to see if the changes would make any difference," he said. "Frankly, I wasn't impressed with the way they went. It was a lousy practice. But I might just try them that way in the next game."

Notes: Larry Regan was hit by a deflected puck in today's workout and he required four stitches to close a rip on his left cheekbone. . . Goalkeeper Johnny Bower, who appeared nervous in the series opener against Wings, looked alert in today's drill. . . Gerry James defeated Duke Edmundson in a speed-skating exhibition of science and skill but Edmundson is demanding a rematch. . . Look for a few changes in Leafs' lineup if they lose their second game to Wings on Saturday.

Chicago—Goal, Hall; defense, Pilote, Vasko, Arbour, Evans, St. Laurent; forwards, Hay, M. Balfour, Litzenberger, Lindsay, Sloan, Murphy, Skov, Nesterenko, Wharram, N. Johnson, Hicks, E. Balfour.

Montreal—Goal, Plante; defense, Harvey, Langlois, T. Johnson, Turner, Talbot; forwards, Beliveau, Geoffrion, Bonin, Backstrom, Hicke, M. Richard, Moser, Pronovost, H. Richard, Goyette, Marshall, Pronovost.

Referee, Eddie Powers; linesmen, Neil Armstrong and Louie Doolittle.

First Period

1—Montreal, Beliveau (Geoffrion, Bonin) 11:30

2—Montreal, Pronovost (Goyette) 13:04

3—Chicago, M. Balfour (Hay, Litzenberger) 16:15

Penalties—Evans, 3:00; Johnson, 7:05; Pilote, 13:05; Litzenberger, 19:25.

Second Period

4—Montreal, Moore (Bonin, Geoffrion) 8:45

5—Chicago, Lindsay (Wharram) 16:18

Penalties: Langlois 3:41, Evans 8:10, Talbot 13:31

Third Period

6—Montreal, Geoffrion (Beliveau, Bonin) 10:32

7—Chicago, Murphy (Hicks, Pilote) 18:17

Penalties—None.

Shots on Goal

By Montreal 23 10 9—57

By Chicago 4 9 9—22