

★ By Jim Coleman ★

GORDON HOWE, the magnificent right-winger of the Detroit Red Wings, is a Leg-Man. This does NOT mean that he owns an imposing collection of slick-paper cartoons, drawn by Petty, the gentleman who specialized in long-stemmed female beauties. Howe is an athlete who believes that his own legs are his most important asset in the field of athletic endeavor.

This morning's brief lecture is designed primarily for those teenagers who believe that an indolently waved thumb is the best method of transportation. It is directed, too, at those of us who, in middle age, climb into our automobiles even when we are travelling only two blocks to the shopping plaza, to pick up a bottle of seltzer.

Howe's pre-eminence as an athlete results, in part, from the fact that he has re-discovered the Lost Art of Walking. Howe walks many miles each day when lesser athletes are sitting on their — er — chairs in hotel lobbies. Of course, Howe learned to walk at a very early age and grew up in Floral, Sask., in a section of the country where the most important plumbing appliances are located about 200 feet behind the house. (I well remember watching my grandfather sprinting for the house on those nights when the temperature was 30 degrees below zero.)

Howe and Rocket Richard are two outstanding examples of the fact that walking contributes to the durability of an athlete. Warren Spahn, who still must be rated as one of baseball's greatest pitchers, at the age of 39, is a man who takes a five-mile walk every night of his life.

Those of us who were watching professional hockey in the Twenties and the Thirties are fond of talking of the "Iron Men" of that era. The actual facts are that the so-called "Iron-Men" logged about 1,300 to 1,400 minutes of playing-time in an entire season. Howe's time on the ice in the recent 70-game schedule was between 2,000 and 2,200 minutes.

Limbs to Limbo

Dr. Millard Copping, a professor of physical education at a midwestern university, has predicted that the human lower limbs will become almost completely useless within another 100 years if the present rate of deterioration continues. Dr. Copping is of the opinion that, in the year 2075, the only humans capable of

walking on their hind-legs will be members of certain tribes in Africa and in the more inaccessible areas of Tibet and Northern China.

Personally, I've always felt that, as physical adornments, human feet had very little to recommend them. Human feet always have reminded me of something that belonged in the bottom of the deep-freeze refrigerator.

Some art critics profess to believe that the female human foot can be a thing of beauty. (Not when they're wearing corn-plasters, Bud.) Art critics to the contrary, I maintain stoutly that female feet should be hidden from the public view, encased in tastefully built pumps. When the average bimbo wears a pair of open-toed shoes and jacksons her nails, the resultant spectacle is reminiscent of a brace of Louisiana shrimp, blushing in embarrassment.

Male Legs, Ugh

In justice to the modern ladies, their legs generally are in much better condition than the legs which support modern men. This results from normal female vanity and the fact that fashion decrees that their legs should be displayed on public thoroughfares.

Men, on the other hand, are not compelled to display their legs in public. Their lower limbs are protected by trousers which have been draped skilfully by expensive tailors.

But, you should have the opportunity to invade the locker-room of a business-men's club. Exposed to the cold light of the day, men's lower limbs, in groups of 20 or 30, are utterly indescribable. (Well, I'll have a TRY at describing the scene—have you ever looked at a huge platter of pork spareribs—AFTER the meat was removed from the bones?)

Now Hear This

Although this is written in wide-eyed innocence, rather than in indignation, the fact remains that all of us have been neglecting our pedal extremities.

For a start, tell your teen-ager to emulate Gordie Howe, instead of emulating Stirling Moss.

Don't let your teen-ager use the family car EVERY time he wishes to call on his girl.

Don't give a ride to every teen-ager who is "thumbing" on a well-paved city street. As for yourself:

Don't drive your car to the Brewers' Retail Store—walk, and you can wheel the beer home in a baby-carriage.



Jim Coleman

Leafs' Main Worry: How to Halt Howe

By REX MacLEOD

Globe and Mail Reporter

Peterborough, March 25 — Two paramount problems should occupy the thoughts of Toronto Maple Leafs when they depart from here tomorrow to meet Detroit Red Wings in the second game of their Stanley Cup series in the Gardens.

For the benefit of inter-planetary visitors, this best-of-seven series is now 1-0 in favor of the Wings. Referees, rolling pucks, one Gordie Howe and an undetected comet (Haley, natch) from outer space combined to disillusion Leafs in the first game of the series.

Leafs' intelligence corps has decided that in order to win this series Leafs have to (a) devise ways and means of stopping (b) Howe and (b) devise ways and

means of activating a couple of malingering Leafs' left-wingers named Dick Duff and Frank Mahovlich.

As far as (a) is concerned, it has been suggested that Leafs revise their strategy and hope for the best. Howe, most experts maintain, should be regarded as an irresistible force or an act of God. Just let him drift and hope for the breaks.

In defense of this preposterous suggestion it should be pointed out that during the schedule Leafs never paid any special attention to the great Gordie. And they defeated Wings in nine of 14 games. And Howe scored only (gulp!) eight goals on them. Which might indicate that he is less dangerous if he is not molested.

In the first game of the series in Toronto on Wednesday, Leafs' line of Bobby Pulford,

Bert Olmstead and Ron Stewart was defeated with the onerous chore of checking Howe and whatever linemates he happened to choose for the occasion.

And Leafs' volunteers did quite a creditable job, although it was apparent throughout the game that Howe kept steaming down the ice, almost oblivious to the fact that he was being pursued by several frantic shadows.

Some shiny analysts have suggested that Pulford, Stewart and Olmstead have been Leafs' most proficient offensive line throughout the season. So why confront them with the agonizing job of trying to contain Howe?

Let them go out and score goals and leave the checking duties to others who might feel more dedicated for the job—fellows like Gerry James, Duke Edmundson and Johnny Wilson? It should be remembered that Pulford was Leafs' leading goal-scorer in the schedule.

As for (b), it was Leafs' great leader George Imlach who said several weeks ago: "If my left-wingers start playing like I know they can, I won't have a worry in the world."

Imlach was referring explicitly to Duff and Mahovlich, a pair of athletes who, potentially, are two of the best left-wingers in the league. Potentially, that is. But even their own teammates have been dismayed by their incredible apathy.

It was a runaway Mahovlich, with his powerful rushing, who led Leafs to their upset series win over Boston Bruins in last season's semi-final. And the darting Duff also played a major role.

And the consensus is that this able pair can accomplish it again this year — if they feel in the mood to instigate a similar uprising against Howe and the Wings.

But, and this is a large but, if Duff and Mahovlich don't show startling improvement it won't be surprising if Wings win this series in six games. The Wings aren't as good a hockey team but they have the desire and that is the most important factor in a playoff game or games.

Wings' Freshmen May Hold Key To Puck Upset

A Detroit Red Wing nothing line has suddenly come up with something and could be the key to an upset victory in the Stanley Cup semi-finals.

The line, made up of freshmen Jerry Melnyk, Len Haley and Val Fonteyne, produced the winning goal Wednesday night as Wings took the series opener from Toronto Maple Leafs 2-1. Second game of the best-of-seven set is scheduled here tonight.

Leaf coach Punch Imlach had openly figured on concentrating against this unit, supposedly the weakest in the Detroit lineup. His theory: Check the big guns on the Wings' top two lines and count on scoring against the rookies.

But Melnyk, Haley and Fonteyne shot that theory down in flames Wednesday with a fierce, checking defensive game which blunted the Leaf assault and a powerhouse attack which had the Toronto defense reeling.

Coach Sid Abel of Detroit, who admits he had some doubts about his so-called weak unit, is jubilant over the line's showing.

"Maybe I was a little leery at first of using them regularly," said Abel. "But after seeing the way they worked Wednesday you can bet they'll be back together Saturday night."

"They're an excellent checking line. If we need goals badly I'm liable to stick Jack Melnyk on the wing. Otherwise, they look like a pretty steady combination."

Haley, who fired the winning goal in the first period, had a tough time staying in the big league this season. He had only one goal in 27 games.

In the final month of the schedule, however, his fine defensive play became an important part of the Detroit game. Abel says the 28-year-old winger, who spent nine seasons wandering in the minors before his elevation last fall, now is beginning to settle down in National Hockey League ranks.

Hull Recovers Rapidly

★ ★ ★ Will Play Against Habs Tonight ★ ★ ★

Montreal, March 25—Ailing Bobby Hull, 21-year-old scoring champion of the Chicago Black Hawks, was released from the hospital tonight and will be in the lineup tomorrow night against the Montreal Canadiens in the National Hockey League playoffs.

The strapping left winger was rushed to Montreal General Hospital Thursday noon with an acute infection of the tonsils. He missed the opening game of the Stanley Cup semi-finals

Thursday night and was not expected to play in the second game.

Without Hull, coach Rudy Pilous was forced to juggle his lineup in the first game of the best-of-seven series, which Canadiens won, 4-3.

Even before he had received late word on Hull, Pilous said he was "conservatively confident" the Hawks will even the series Saturday. Refusing to cry panic, Pilous said he was encouraged by the Hawks' showing, especially in the final two

periods of the first game "when we played them even."

"Our kids played with great confidence and poise after that first period," Pilous said. "I thought we'd be nervous but I was kind of surprised the Canadiens looked nervous too."

Hull, a 39-goal scorer during the regular season, was not the only Chicago invalid. At one point during Thursday's game, the Hawks were hurting so much that Pilous said: "We were a six-cylinder machine running on one cylinder."

Rookie forward Stan Mikita, who missed the first game because of a badly puffed eye, will also play Saturday. Defenseman Dollard St. Laurent reinjured his right ankle and was limping. Centre Red Hay suffered from indigestion all day Thursday but was declared fit today.

Eric Nesterenko and Tod Sloan were two other casualties Thursday night when they collided late in the game and had 12 stitches taken to repair the damage. Both will play Saturday.