

Frank Mahovlich's Role Humiliates Red Wings



They're Discovering He's Double Trouble At Scoring, Fighting

By REX MACLEOD
Globe and Mail Reporter

Detroit, March 28—When Toronto Maple Leafs played Detroit Red Wings here in the final game of the National Hockey League schedule a week ago Frank Mahovlich, the capricious left-wing shinny genius of Leafs, had a brief tiff with Gordon Howe, who shall be identified henceforth as a Detroit player.

This Detroit player, a patient fellow who insists he resorts to combat just as a last resort, became so enraged that he hauled off and punched Mahovlich severely on the shoulder pad. His aim was poor.

"I wish Howe had hit that guy (Mahovlich) right on the nose," said Bootnose Abel, the Detroit coach, in a reconstructed opinion after the game. "He (Mahovlich) wouldn't have bothered us after that. We wouldn't have to worry about him in the playoffs."

Ironically enough it was Mahovlich, a tireless, strong-skating fellow, who is too young to recognize fatigue, who scored the winning goal here against Wings in that prolonged game Sunday night. At the three-minute mark of the third overtime period Mahovlich tipped in Red Kelly's shot to give Leafs a 5-4 win and a 2-1 lead in this best-of-seven semi-final.

That was a bitter ending to a frustrating game for the Wings but even more humiliating was an earlier episode in which Mahovlich also had the lead role.

Pete Goegan, who is supposed to be the Wings' light-heavyweight champ, discarded his gloves and invited Mahovlich to indulge in an extra-curricular punching duel.

Maybe Goegan was disconcerted by Mahovlich's eagerness. Any-hoo, the Toronto player accepted the challenge with alacrity, as they say in the trade, and with his first punch he knocked Goegan to the ice. Then it became a wrestling match as most hockey bouts do.

Whether this had any adverse effect on Wings is doubtful but, from Abel down, they had been led to believe Mahovlich was just a compassionate, good-natured oaf with a strong aversion to man-to-man combat. They will never be deluded this way again.

It was the impression of many that Wings cannot recover from that disillusioning loss to Leafs here. Wings, the experts insist, have been going with desire alone (plus Howe) and that should evaporate after Sunday's staggering defeat. But here are a few other opinions.

Alf Pike, TV star and coach of New York Rangers: "I thought the angels were with Leafs, not only Sunday but also in the game in Toronto Saturday."

day. Red Wings should have won both games."

George Imlach, M-C of Leafs: "As a team we're starting to play a little better but they can still improve a lot. They're still not playing as well as they did in the last couple of games in the series with Boston Bruins a year ago."

King Clancy, Imlach's aide-de-camp: "I think that guy Howe has a chance to make good in this league if the Wings would only give him some ice time. If they bottled his sweat it might be a popular drink for hockey players."

Sid Abel, Wings' coach: "You might think that a loss like that hurts us but don't believe it. We've been getting breaks like that all season. That Bower had no license to make the save he did. We'll come back just like we did all season and we're still looking for a break or two and, if we get them, we'll still win. We're just as good as Leafs."

Jack Adams, Wings general manager: "No, we're not sorry we traded Kelly even if he scored two goals. He's very fortunate that we let him go to Toronto after he refused to report to Rangers. And he's lucky to be playing with that big Mahovlich."

Red Kelly, a player with Leafs: "Gosh, hang. I'm just playing as well as I can and I'm not mad at anybody."

Unidentified reporter: "Watch your language Kelly. There are newspapermen present."

Comet in Orbit—Like three men on a huge rotor machine, Dick Duff, Carl Brewer and George Armstrong appear to be bucking the pull of gravity as they watch

Detroit Red Wings' Len (The Comet) Haley zoom into orbit during Sunday's Stanley Cup hockey action at Detroit. Haley was spectacular, but Leafs won the game, 5-4, in overtime.

Hawks Ice Full Squad For 3rd Tilt

Chicago, March 28 (AP) — Clean-up operations from an ice show that ended last night in Chicago Stadium prevented the Black Hawks from scrimmaging today.

Only a light drill was ordered for tomorrow morning after which manager Tom Ivan and coach Rudy Pilous will have a strategy meeting with the players.

The Black Hawks and Montreal Canadiens, who are to arrive in Chicago tomorrow morning, tangled that night in their best-of-seven semi-final competition of the Stanley Cup hockey series.

Montreal, on its home ice, took a pair of 4-3 victories over the Hawks and lead the series 2-0. They meet again Thursday night in Chicago Stadium. Sell-out crowds of near 17,000 are assured for both nights.

"We may play the Canadiens differently at Chicago Stadium," said Ivan, without elaborating. "We've got to score."

He indicated the Hawks would not sacrifice their own offense to contain the hard-shooting Canadiens.

The Hawks expect to be at full strength for the first time in the playoffs although eight players are being treated for various injuries. Trainer Nick Garen took them in relays today and said the two-day respite will do them a lot of good.

Being treated are Bobby Hull, the National Hockey League's scoring champion; Ted Sloan, Eric Nesterenko, Dollard St. Laurent, Stan Wharram, Al Arbour, Stan Mikita and Red Hay.

A new face mask has been made for Wharram, whose broken jaw is wired. He has been on a diet of ground beef-steak taken through a glass tube.

"I think we can come back," said Ivan. "I don't mean that we aren't on the spot, but I'm certainly proud of the way the guys played in Montreal. In that second game (Saturday night), we could have won it in overtime just as easily as we lost it."

Ivan said Hull, after a two-day rest, will be ready to go tomorrow night, and so will veteran centre Sloan.

Hull, who missed the series opener because of an infected tonsil, returned to action Saturday and scored a goal. But he was unable to go at top speed, suffering a charley horse in the opening minutes after being checked hard by Jean Beliveau.

Sloan missed Saturday's game. A cut on his forehead, suffered in a collision with Nesterenko in the opening game, became infected and his eyes were swollen nearly closed.

Habs Plan No Changes

Champs Have Respect for Hawks

Montreal, March 28 (CP) — Hector (Toe) Blake of Montreal's two-up Canadiens was all compliments about Chicago Black Hawks today in a charitable splurge behoving a coach riding a fruitful bid for a fifth consecutive Stanley Cup.

"No doubt about it, the Hawks are playing great," said the cigar-smoking 47-year-old Blake shortly before the Habs left for Chicago by train for games three and four in the best-of-seven semi-final series.

"We expected a tough series with them and that's what we sure are getting. They're checking fiercely. But I'm not surprised. They were great in the last half of the schedule."

Chicago's hard-driving Hawks disappointed but still convinced they can pull it through, left immediately after dropping Saturday night's affair, 4-3, on Doug Harvey's overtime goal.

They bowed to the Canadiens by the same score in the series opener Thursday night.

Blake put the Canadiens through a 50-minute morning workout today and later reported "they were all skating well" and everyone was set to go.

He said he plans no changes in strategy for tomorrow night's game but there will be a brief skull-session after the club reaches Chicago.

Ab McDonald, the lanky left-winger who does everything a hockey player should except score, sat out the first two games. Would he see action in Chicago?

"If we make any lineup changes they'll be made at the last minute," said Blake. "So I can't say anything on that score now."

But one fellow in the Montreal camp with a problem is Jean Beliveau, the big centre who was shadowed so expertly by Chicago's defensive ace, Glen Skov, Saturday night.

Beliveau picked up an assist on Montreal's third goal but Skov was so effective Jean got only two shots on the net while the pair was on the ice, one a weak deflection.

No one on the Chicago team was specifically assigned to check Beliveau in the opener—he fired a goal and bagged an assist then—and it appeared obvious after Saturday night the Jean would be seeing a lot more of Skov during the series.

"I'm just going to have to try and outskate him," said Beliveau.

The Canadiens carried a two-game cushion into Chicago in their semi-final but were set back in both games there by polishing off the Hawks in the next two.

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