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NEWS of SPORT

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SEVEN-MAN HOCKEY URGED TO BEAT DEFENCE

Fans Not Satisfied with Style of Play—Playoff System Also is Handled Some Knocks.

Hockey as it is played in the National Hockey League is coming in for criticism. The Montreal Star knocks the playoff system and also advocates a return to the seven-man game to counteract the defence play of these days.

The Star says,—
The weakness of the National Hockey League play-off system now in vogue was proven at the end of last season. Last night's comments by the Forum crowd must have given President Frank Calder and the important hockey men who are financially and otherwise interested in the two teams that were playing and the fortunes of the big rink, another jolt in that respect.

The ugly accusation of "Fake" has not been uttered for many years at a N. H. L. game. And while there was no justification for it last night, it shows the frame of mind of the "Fans." They imagine that because Ottawa and Montreal are virtually certain of places in the play-off these teams will, from now on, put forth merely enough energy to hang on to their standing, and the "Fans" very forcibly expressed the opinion based upon that imaginary situation.

The pro hockey law-makers will be well advised if they again adopt the system by which the winner of a straight schedule defends or challenges for the Stanley Cup.

The Dreadnaught Defence.

There is another thing that will bear grave consideration.

The overwhelming strength of the defence and the paucity of goals scored. The feeling against the present rules, which would not be so bad if they were only enforced, is growing slowly but surely.

This is the way a prominent business man, a veteran player, celebrated for his work in the early days of Stanley Cup history, when amateurs were amateurs, sized up the situation after a recent game at the Forum:

"The game is fast but with so many men on the defence there are hardly any players left for the team-play which is the most fascinating part of the sport. And people are getting tired of scoreless matches. They like to see goals scored in a lively, yet artistic manner. Scoring nowadays is almost entirely shorn of its science and artistry, and seems to have become as such a prosaic business as that of a grocer measuring out a peck of potatoes or a butcher hacking off a chop. "If the hockey law-makers insist upon keeping on the voluminous defence now allowed, they will, if they desire to keep their patrons, have to fall back upon the seven men game."

"For the iron-clad, dreadnaught defence now in use needs a human torpedo boat to blow it up occasionally, and the seventh man would come in handy there."

SUES RICKARD FOR AN ANKLE

New York, March 4—When Luis Angel Firpo knocked Jack Dempsey out of the ring at the Polo Grounds on that memorable night of September 14, 1923, he practically broke Theodore Molinelli's ankle.

Molinelli is suing Tex Rickard's Polo Grounds Athletic Club for \$10,000 claiming serious injury to his right ankle when his seat gave way, "owing to improper and faulty construction." He doesn't say how far he fell, but it was a \$27.50 seat. The trial began Tuesday.

The defendant club replies that the backs of many seats gave way under "terrific strain" when the crowd "went wild" as Firpo, knocked off his feet three times by Dempsey, came back and knocked the champion out of the ring.

Bathurst Beat Local Team in Exhibition Game Thursday 4 to 2

Not Extra Good Hockey—Fredericton Team Not at Full Strength—Home Team Careless About the Net.

Bathurst on tour won an exhibition game Thursday night from Fredericton 4 to 2. It was not good hockey and the home team was the worst offender. Poor work around the net let Bathurst start their scoring. Fredericton did not play at full strength. Feeney of Marysville was in the net instead of Hickson and Keene was missing from the forward line having been ill and also saving himself for tonight's game with U. N. B. against King's College at Moncton for the Summer Cup. In the net Feeney played a good game but was shaded by Finnegan of Bathurst who baffled Fredericton in the last period when his team was leading.

Bathurst lost the opening game of the tour at Chatham. They play at Saint John tonight and at Moncton Saturday.

Edgar Wade was the most effective player of Fredericton although not breaking into the scoring. Alden Clark scored one nice goal but in general played below standard. Jim Sterling and Alan Sterling worked hard and covered much ice and Steen was good. "Nuck" Irvine was sent in as relief quite often and Keenan for but a short time.

The game was clean one penalty being handed out. There could have been others but nothing very serious occurred. Dan Cripps retired with a clip on the head but the incident got by the referee. The liveliest period was the third when Fredericton was working hard to score.

The Scoring.

Bathurst showed their usual speed early in the game. Fredericton met them at it but fell down in other departments of play. R. Cripps went through for Bathurst's first goal without any real effort being made to stop him. He beat Feeney out with a left wing shot.

The second period opened with Bathurst travelling fast. Lawlor went in and scored Bathurst's second. Fredericton came to and bored in. Alan Sterling scored in half a minute. Fredericton got the upper hand and held it. Alden Clark scored on the most spectacular play of the game. He took the puck away from the Bathurst forwards as they started a rush, stick-handled through the defence and drove it past Finnegan. This tied the game up and the home crowd saw victory.

In the rest of the period Fredericton was very careless about the net and that carelessness let Lawlor score again and put Bathurst in the lead. He was left uncovered and scored when the rubber was passed back to him from a mixup near the net.

The third period showed more life. Fredericton worked hard but Finnegan had a night on. Nothing went past him. The fourth Bathurst goal came late in the period. Bathurst bored in and Feeney went down to save the score. He sat on the rubber and others piled up. Referee Payne decided a goal had been scored. Many of the spectators believed that the puck went in the side of the net.

The teams were:—
Bathurst—Goal, Finnegan; Defence, Cripps, Crosby; Forwards, Gammon, Cripps, Lawlor, Carrod.

Fredericton—Goal, Feeney; Defence, Steen, E. Wade; Forwards, A. Sterling, J. Sterling, Clark, Irvine, Keenan. Referee, J. A. Payne, Sain, John.

"Stick 'em up or I'll plug ye," came the voice from behind the mask.

"Shoot if you must," answered the pedestrian. "If I drop this vase I'm done for anyway."

"Pass, friend," said the bandit in a husky voice. "I've got a wife at home meself."

MONTREAL LOST HARD GAME TO BOSTON

Ottawa Won by Customary 1 to 0 Score — St. Patricks Fell Victims to New York.

Montreal, March 4—Boston kept very much in the running for play-off rights in the National Hockey League when they nosed out the Montreal Maroons here tonight 3 to 2.

Sailor Herberts, aggressive centre of the Bruins, clinched the game for the visitors when he rushed in between the Maroon defence pair and beat Benedict with the goal which broke the deadlock and enable Boston to keep ahead of Pittsburgh in the race for third place.

Montreal made it look like a certain win in the first two minutes of the game when they rammed home two goals.

Boston fought back. Slowly and steadily at first, but at a terrific clip once they had resigned confidence after the initial reverses.

By Usual Score.

New York, March 4—The final lap drive of the New York Americans in the National Hockey League race was halted by the Ottawa Senators here tonight when the league leaders sent the home sextette down to its first defeat in five starts by a score of 1-0.

The lone goal of the match went to King Clancy, brawny Senator defense pillar, in the opening period. Opening at a top-speed clip, the more than 14,000 that witnessed the match were held on their toes with the dazzling attacks and strenuous checking of the opposing sixes.

After eight minutes of the white heat play Clancy tore away by himself, wormed through the entire New York team and bore in on Forbes to net the puck. The game was easily the hardest fought of any seen in Madison Square Garden a total of 20 penalties being doled out with each team drawing a like number.

Easy Victory Won.

Pittsburgh, March 4—The Pittsburgh hockey team easily defeated the St. Pat's of Toronto, here tonight in a listless game 7 to 2. The pirates sewed up the contest in the second period when they opened an attack which netted them four goals.

The Canadian sextette, despite the big advantage, made a game stand in the closing period when Adams twice pounced the puck into the net. Numerous assaults by the visitors availed them nothing for the home team presented defence which was impregnable.

ABBIES TIED CAMPBELLTON IN FIRST GAME

Charlottetown, March 4—The long awaited Abegweit-Campbellton initial game for the hockey championship of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island is over. Fifteen hundred wildly excited fans were handed their full share of thrills at the Arena tonight, when two hard working and courageous sextettes fought to a 1-1 draw on a soft ice surface which developed into a slushy mire after ten minutes of each period was over.

The Abbies leave tomorrow for Campbellton, accompanied by their opponents, where they play Saturday night in the latter's town in the final game of the series.

UNIV. OF N. B. AWAY TO MEET KING'S COLLEGE

Regular Team to Play—Keene Has Recovered From Illness—Deadlock on Choice of Referee.

The University of New Brunswick hockey team left this morning for Moncton to meet King's College tonight on Sunny Brae ice in the match for the Summer Cup. The Red and Black team is the same as that which played Acadia and St. Francis Xavier at Truro last week. It will take the ice as follows:—Goal, Hickson; Defence, Fraser, Steen; Wings, Keene, Keenan; Centre, Chalmers; relief players, Lynch, Gagnon, Doddridge.

The ice surface is one of the largest in Eastern Canada.

The referee has not been chosen up to the time the team left. The two colleges deadlocked on the question each naming men not acceptable to the other. The Intercollegiate Athletic Conference has had the question referred to it.

Last year U. N. B. beat King's 2 to 0 for the cup. King's is strong this year losing to St. F. X. only 2 to 0.

The Summer Cup has been in competition for more than fifteen years. Three successive wins are required for permanent possession. The deed of gift by which it was devoted names U. N. B., Acadia, Mt. Allison and King's as the competing colleges and that fact makes an awkward playoff as King's now is in the Eastern Intercollegiate Section and the other three in the Western.

BETTING NOW ON PENNANT RACE

New York, March 4—Sentiment favoring the chances of the New York Giants and the Philadelphia Athletics in the major league pennant races this year is indicated in the early betting odds quoted by commission firms in the financial districts.

One bet of \$3,000 against \$5,000 has been offered that the Giants will beat out the Pittsburgh Pirates for the National League championship and another of \$4,000 against \$5,000 that the Athletics will succeed the Washington Senators as the American League champions.

Tongue Was Coated Bad Taste In Mouth Every Morning

Mrs. J. R. Adams, Assiniboia, Sask., writes:—"For months I was troubled with a coated tongue, and had a bad taste in my mouth every morning."

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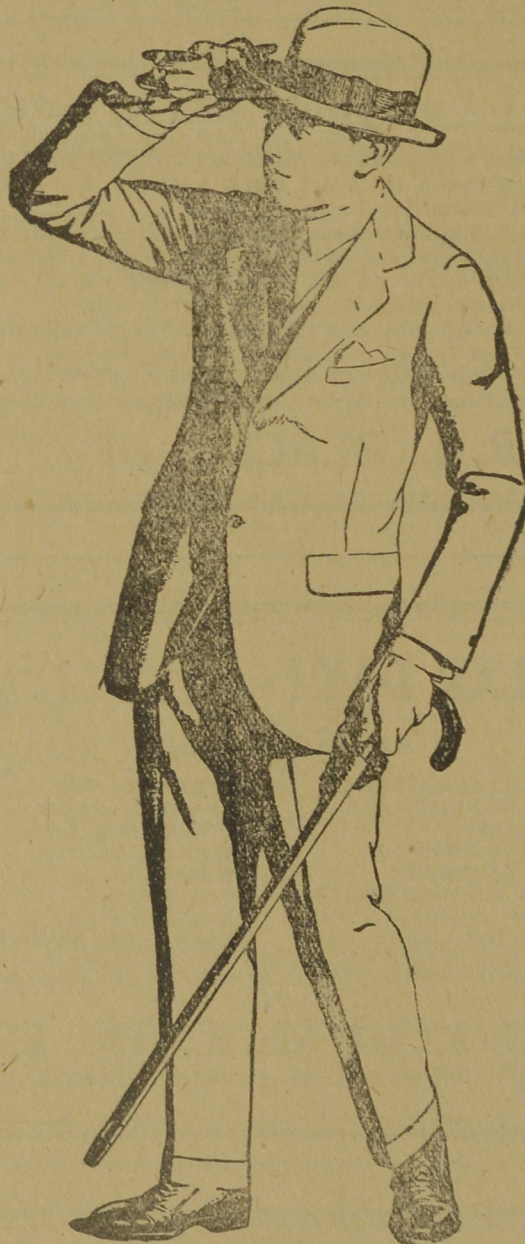
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