



WHYS AND OTHERWISE

AS SEEN BY
H. L. G.

Under the caption "The Rangers Died on April 24th, 1934," Lester Patrick discussed the hockey situation for the new year. Following is an excerpt of a letter from L. S. B. Shapiro to D. A. L. McDonald printed in the recent issue of "Sports:"

Look at the New York Rangers with me. Last year they started the season with the same starry aggregation that had catapulted them into the playoffs every year since 1926 and they ended up with reorganization plans. I think it was in January of this year that the Americans beat them by a large-sized margin and on that night I felt that the great Ranger machine had cracked for all time. The Rangers showed nothing except the urge and the record books contain no instance of a team winning by the margin of an urge.

I went to see Lester Patrick about it. Nonchalantly filching one of his cigarettes, I looked him straight in the eyes and said: "Lester, if I were writing the history of the National Hockey League, I would say that the Ranger machine broke last night in the Garden. I think your team is through."

Lester did not break into tears. As a matter of fact he smiled a little and let me go on talking.

"I think great machines break in a single game, Lester," I continued. "I can remember quite vividly the night that the great Canadian machine broke, and it is a sort of blind justice that you should have broken it. You remember that in the spring of 1930 Canadiens swept through the National League and won the Stanley Cup in succession. The year after that the Frenchmen continued to ride roughshod over the other teams in the League and ended in first place in the Canadian section. They met Rangers in the opening Stanley Cup playoff series and beat them handily. I think the score was 4-1. It seemed that nothing could stop them, especially when in the second game of the best-of-five series they carried a 3-1 lead into the third period. It was in that third period that Ching Johnson crashed through the Canadian defence to score a soft goal."

"That was the breaking point. Rangers tied up the score and went on to win in overtime. In New York they polished off Canadiens in two straight games and entered the final. The great Canadian machine had been broken. From that fateful period until this day they have never cut much ice. "The Canadian machine broke that night, Lester, and I think in the very same way your machine was broken last night by Americans."

Lester was silent for a little while. Then he took one of his rapidly-disappearing cigarettes, carefully placed his feet on the surface of his mahogany desk and began speaking.

"You're right in many respects, but not quite right," he said. "It's true that the great Canadian machine broke the night that Bunny Cook beat them in the long overtime game in Montreal, but it's not true that the Ranger machine broke last night against Americans."

"No," he said, "our team didn't break last night. Great machines don't break in regular scheduled games. Great machines break in critical playoff games when nerves are tense and the opposition is heaviest."

"The Ranger machine broke almost two years ago in a playoff game against Maroons. It was a two-game, total-goal series and we held Maroons to a scoreless tie in Montreal. Here in the Garden the young Maroons trimmed us 2-1 with Earl Robinson scoring both goals. That was in the spring of 1934—April 24th to be exact. From that date on Rangers have not been a great machine. We've been rebuilding and we'll continue rebuilding. You can put it down in the book. The Ranger machine died on April 24th, 1934."

Fredericton High Cop First Place in Rugby League

MAJOR LEAGUES WANT MORE CATCHERS FOR NEW SEASON

NEW YORK, Oct. 25—Admittedly the pitching the American League was below par this past season. Some have blamed it on the strong offensives. Some have said the league's better pitchers are aging and losing much of their effectiveness. Some cling to the belief that the ball may have been livelier. Others maintain the catchers were at fault.

Whether there is any truth in the last opinion matters not. It is, however, of great importance to five or six managers in the junior loop that they have catching problems to solve if they are to make any headway in the next race. The way it looks now changes behind the plate will be made on every team with the probable exception of the Yankees.

The world champions figure to stand pat with Bill Dickey and his two substitutes, Arndt Jorgens and Joe Glenn. The Yanks lose a heavy explosive when Dickey isn't in the lineup, but the other two are rated as better than fair alternates as receivers.

Much interest is centered on the Browns' catching corps, made up largely of Rollie Hemsley, because no one really expects the rollicking playboy to be with the team next year. Hemsley got into trouble with Hornsby last summer and was fined. Insiders think he has lost favor in St. Louis and that he will be sold or traded to Detroit or Washington.

The Tigers need a classy backstop. Mickey Cochrane says he hopes to play seventy or possibly eighty games next year, but even if he does live up to his own expectations, the Detroiters will still have half their games in unskilled hands back of the plate unless aid comes from some outside source.

Relief for Sewell
The White Sox climaxed a grand season by overpowering the Cubs for the city championship in 1936, but they, too, will need some additional support in mask and pads next season. Luke Sewell bore the brunt of the catching duties as the Sox finished in the first division for the first time in sixteen years, but old Lucius will be 37 when the next campaign rolls around, and at that ripe age he will have to cool his heels in the shade of the dugout at more frequent intervals. None of the other Sox receivers is big league material.

The Senators, who, like the Sox, were surprises last season, are in a bad way for a regular backstop. Cliff Bolton, the lumbering North Carolinian who decided to wend his way homeward of his own accord late last season, only to be suspended for the balance of the campaign, is not wanted by Owner Clark Griffith. Shanty Hogan and Walter Millies, the two other Senator catchers are only fair. There may be something to the rumor that Bolton will land in St. Louis together with other players and cash for Hemsley.

Cleveland has yet to settle its catching problem. Billy Sullivan can hit, but he has not ironed out several mechanical faults. Frankie Pytlak suffered a broken jaw in midseason when it seemed he had finally swung into stride. He is a question mark again. With an outstanding receiver, the Indians would be the Yanks' chief rival for pennant honors.

Rick Ferrell of the Red Sox was a dandy receiver throughout the campaign, one of the Yawkey athletes to play up to his best form, but he cannot work every day. He needs a capable assistant, and some think Skeets Dickey will develop into such if he can improve his hitting.

Hayes is Mack's Hope
Frankie Hayes, the hardest working receiver in the league, again will be Connie Mack's No. 1 man back of the plate, and, for a replacement, the A's have purchased Earl Brucker from Portland of the Pacific Coast League for the draft price of \$7,500.

In the midst of this scarcity of catching talent everywhere, it may be noted that the St. Louis Cardinals will find themselves fairly overstocked with able receivers next season. Spud Davis and Brucie Ogradowski divided the chores this year. Bill DeLancey, out all season on account of a serious siege of typhoid, will be back. Arnold Owen, the Columbus rookie, has been tabbed one of the major prospects in the minors, and will be up for inspection next spring.

Owen, only 19 years old, is regarded so highly in St. Louis headquarters that a reported price of \$100,000 and players for his services, supposed to have been made by Detroit, was turned down a couple of months ago. The youth hit around .340 in the American Association. He throws strikes to second base, and is a natural handler of pitchers.

MAROONS AND BRUINS MEET AT ST. JOHN

N.H.L. Clubs Open Maritime Barnstorming Tour --- McManus, Getliffe, Cowley to Show.

SAINT JOHN, Oct. 26—Montreal Maroons and Boston Bruins lineup at The Forum tonight at 8.30 o'clock in the first of a seven-game series for the Maritime professional hockey championship, which carries with it the Admiral Beatty Hotel cup.

Fans are assured that both squads, who have put in strenuous training at the Montreal Forum and Boston Garden, will tonight and Wednesday night produce as good hockey as in many a hard-fought struggle during the coming season, despite the fact that their peak may not be reached until the race for the N. H. L. title has reached the quarter mark.

Described as a "natural" by those who know the clubs and the bitter rivalry that exists between them, three players will share the limelight for local fans tonight and on Wednesday, for they await with interest the showing of Ray Getliffe, Sammy McManus and Bill Cowley, all members of the Boston Bruins, and former Maritime amateur stars for their respective teams in the fastest amateur loop that ever operated on this continent.

Getliffe, who was with Charlotte-town Abbies and Saint John Beavers, will centre the Bruins' front line. McManus was left winger for the Montreal Hawks famed Allen Cup team and Cowley was formerly with the Halifax Wolverines.

The march of all three to the big time has created interest among Maritime fans and their work through the present season with the Bruins will be keenly watched.

For Additional Sport
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Defeated Rothesay Here on Muddy Field Saturday 12 to 0--Four Tries Unconverted.

Fredericton High School defeated Rothesay Intercollegiate School on Saturday afternoon on a muddy College Field, the score being 12-0, and thus took a firm hold on first place in the "Big Three" Interscholastic League.

The victory for Fredericton shoves Saint John High back into second place. The latter club had been tied with the Yellow and Black by virtue of its 8-0 defeat of Rothesay on Friday.

The Yellow and Black scored two tries in the first half and two in the second half, all of which were unconverted by Captain Art McLennahan, whose kicking toe was not up to usual in the muddy, wet field.

Bill Clark scored the first try for the local High School when he plunged across after a three-quarter line run in about ten minutes of play in the first half. A few minutes before the half ended Irvine Cameron grabbed a loose ball and raced across the Rothesay line, falling on the ball to make the score 6 to 0.

Picked It From Scrum
About midway of the second period Cameron again picked up the ball from a scrum, near the Rothesay line and pounded across the Rothesay line to score. Captain Art McLennahan raced across for the fourth try of the game near the end of the half to end the scoring.

Although the field was sloppy and muddy, play was wide open with some scintillating passing and play by the backs, who handled the ball well. Rothesay's fullback, Ashton, was outstanding and his kicking and ball handling were superb.

For the Yellow and Black, McLennahan, Cameron, Clark, Markey were good. In a preliminary game the Fredericton High School seconds defeated the newly organized Minto High School squad by the score of 6 to 10. Mazerial scored both tries.

"Shorty" Clark refereed the contest. The lineups were as follows: Fredericton High—Forwards, Hoyt, Todd, T. Allen, B. Allen, Cameron, Collier, Thorpe; halves, McFee, McLennahan, Brewer, three-quarters, Markey, Clark, Wade, Elgee; fullback, Baird; subs, Olive, Horwood.

Rothesay Collegiate—Forwards, Goodwin, Weldon, Steele, Dickson, Burroughs, Wilson, Mortimer; halves, Scott, McAvity, Squibbs; three-quarters, Houston, Corbett, Burchill, Pirie; fullback, Ashton; sub, Murchie.

IRVINE WITH NEW HAVEN; TRAINS IN ONT.

OSHAWA, Ont., Oct. 26—New Haven Eagles of the International American Hockey League, completed pre-season training arrangements here Saturday and will settle down to a definite routine starting today.

With the help he expects to receive from the New York Americans of the National Hockey League, manager Normie Himes is confident that he will have a well-balanced contending team.

The New Haven-owned players who have reported are: Gordie Reid, defence; Frank Biesler, defence; Bill Mitchell, defence; Walter Jackson, centre; "Knucker" Irvine, left wing; Obs Heximer, left wing, and Alfir Moore, goal. Gus Forslund, right winger, is expected to be on hand when the squad takes the ice tomorrow.

The New Haven team will comprise either 15 or 16 players and on paper should be the strongest minor league team that has trained here to date.

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CONNIE SMYTHE ENTHUSES OVER HIS NEW PLAYERS

PRESTON, Oct. 25—Hammer and Messrs. Hainsworth, Broda and Stein a very busy afternoon. Irvin presented a new attacking division in Jack Shill at centre, Frank Finnigan right and Bobby Davidson, and they worked together very well. Shill, incidentally, is still feeling the effects of the injured foot received in the last drill, but after testing the member he was satisfied that he would be able to take part in the proceedings.

"Baby Line" in Form
Smooth-skating Nick Metz is flashing his old-time form, apparently none the worse for the injury incurred last season. Our guess is that that young forward line, Art Jackson, Metz and 'Pep' Kelly will be a standout in the N.H.L. this year. Seldom in the drill did they miss putting the puck behind the goaler in practices, which suggests that all three might be very prominent in the scoring records this coming campaign.

Jack Church and Reggie Hamilton form a hard-hitting defense combination, while another effective unit is the front line of Murray Armstrong, centre, and Gordon Drillon and Geo. Parsons, in fact, there is a great array of fine material which should be most pleasing to Eddie Powers of the Stars, for whichever players make the grade with the Leafs the Syracuse mastermind will still have a powerful outfit for his minor league battles. Powers is awaiting the arrival of three players who are due to check in shortly. They are 'Scotty' Martin, Niagara Falls; Eddie Burke, Toronto, and Jack Markle, from Owen Sound. They form one front line for the Stars.

The strenuous work told on the players it was shown when they stepped on the scales. Apps had taken off three pounds, while several others reported they were down on the last weigh-in. And about 'King' Clancy, the evergreen Ottawa. There was a general lifting of eyebrows when the King reported his weight at 170 on the first day, for he had never gone above the 160 mark in recent years.

But a check-up revealed that the Irishman was not pulling the wool over anybody's eyes. Clancy, as usual is the spark of the squad. Talking it up at all times, he dashes hither and yon, bumping and checking players in the most convenient way to him, and he has lost none of his dash. Those who were under the opinion that the King's playing days were over had better guess again.

Picture-taking occupied a good deal of the hockey spell, but nevertheless a really spirited workout was indulged in under Coach Dick Irvin's directions. Fifteen players took the ice for the first hour's sojourn, with the remainder of the squad following. When they were not battling as two teams, Irvin had his men rushing as

forward or defense units, which gave Messrs. Hainsworth, Broda and Stein a very busy afternoon. Irvin presented a new attacking division in Jack Shill at centre, Frank Finnigan right and Bobby Davidson, and they worked together very well. Shill, incidentally, is still feeling the effects of the injured foot received in the last drill, but after testing the member he was satisfied that he would be able to take part in the proceedings.

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LESS PASSING IN HOCKEY IN NEW SEASON

K-LESS PASSING—Sport a. . . . OSHAWA, Oct. 26—Puck-carriers will be boring further in during this next National Hockey League season because of the new rule limiting assists on a goal to two.

That's on the authority of Art Chapman, who is qualified to broadcast opinions on the matter. The New York American centre has developed the art of puck-passing to the stage where he has led the league in assists for the past two seasons.

Arthur paused in his training labors at the American camp today to remark that the boys won't be passing the puck in the centre zone after this. "They'll be more apt to carry it right in there and qualify for the assist point before slipping it to some one else," the Winnipeg centre said.

(Continued on Page Two)

CONNIE MACK COMBS MINORS FOR PLAYERS

It seems that Connie Mack has his own unique methods of acquiring diamond talent. He lures his prospects out of college, off the sandlots or via the draft. Gone are the days when the Tall Tactician made raids on the minors for the best there was and purchased a Grove or an Earnshaw or a Bishop. His new methods are not as risky.

For instance, Mack will pay the draft price of \$7,500 for a Class AA player with a clause in the agreement that he can return the player and get back \$5,000 of his original investment. Thus, all he will risk is \$2,500, a meager sum when compared with the prices ranging between \$25,000 and \$105,000 which he used to pay on the line for a minor league star.

In the latest draft ten players were graduated to big league teams, and Mack was the only manager to obtain as many as two. Last year the A's pilot purchased four athletes in the draft, which was four more than the National League teams came up with.

Mack's newest draftees are a couple of thirty-three-year-olds, Chalmers (Bill) Cissell and Earle Brucker. It may be understood why Mack is not bound by age restrictions in his player choices when it is recalled that the leading American League rookie pitcher in 1935 was Harry Kelley, a 35-year-old right-hander, whom the A's manager drafted from Atlanta.

Cissell a Costly Player
Cissell is the same infielder who cost the late Charles Comiskey of the White Sox over \$100,000 in cash and players about ten years ago, one of the highest sums ever paid for a minor leaguer. He failed to measure up to expectations. From the White Sox he went to Cleveland, Boston and Portland on the Pacific Coast.

Last season Cissell moved on to Baltimore where he showed a general improvement. He clouted at a .350 pace, hustled hard every afternoon and shed some twenty-five pounds. Mack believes Cissell is a better player now than when Comiskey bought him in 1926. Billy will be the A's regular second baseman.

(Continued on Page Seven)



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