

# CAPITALS OPEN PUCK SEASON HERE TONIGHT

## WILL FACE HUB MAROONS AT ARCTIC RINK IN FIRST HOME FIXTURE THIS SEASON; ICE IN PERFECT CONDITION

### Locals Work Out At Rink Last Night; Eddie Powers Of Toronto May See Action With Maroons Tonight; Hub Plays St. Croix Wed. Night

The Fredericton Capitals take on the Moncton Maroons here tonight to inaugurate the schedule of the Southern New Brunswick Hockey League for the season in this city.

Last night Coach Bill Gill had his charges out in the first practice here this season at Arctic Rink where ice had been made since the cold weather of the week-end. A full team was out and limbered up with a practice game to give them better condition for the 60 minutes of play tonight.

Cliff Young will be in the goal and in front of him will be Gill, "Snap" Thompson, Ralph Goodine, John Kilburn and possibly Waterhouse, who was not out last night because of his absence from the city.

On the forward lines will be Keenan, Morehouse, MacIntyre, Lifford, McLenahan, Mills, Haining and probably others. Jarvis who tended goals for the Bathurst Papermakers a few seasons ago was also practicing with the Fredericton team.

The ice in the rink was in good shape this morning for the opening of the league here and will be in tip-top shape for a fast fixture.

### Joe Louis Denies Rumors Of Split With Blackburn

Joe Louis gives his trainer, Jack Blackburn, most of the credit for his climb from a \$25 a week employe in an automobile plant to the boss man of the million-dollar heavyweight boxing championship in less than five years.

The revelation was made recently when Bomber Joe laughed off rumors that Blackburn's job was in peril because of his alleged differences with Julian Black, co-manager with John Roxborough of the champ.

"Jack is the brains of the combination," Joe explained. "He's just as important to me as a tank of gas is to an automobile."

In other words, Joe meant that Blackburn was indispensable to him and there wasn't much chance of Jack losing his position.

At the same time Louis smiled the vain that he won't fight any more. "I'm going to make three fights before meeting Max Schmeling again next June," he declared. "I'll make one each in Chicago, Detroit, and Los Angeles."

Joe doesn't know where the first one will be held, but he asserted it will take place in February.

### Third Broken Leg On Canuck Club

It is said that injuries, along with other events, go in cycles of three. Montreal Canadians, dashing French Canadian team of National League are in a position to prove this. When Armand Mondou, centre of the "speed line" of eo. Mantha and Rod Lorrain, recently broke his leg at Boston, it was the third such accident in the modern history of the club, extending over a period of years. In the play-off of 1932, "Pit" Leoine suffered a broken leg in a collision with "Bun" Cook. Last spring, Howie Morenz crashed the boards, suffered a broken leg which later developed complications from which he died.

## Howie Morenz Fund Totals Over \$30,000

### SPORT DUST —BY— "Timmy" Green

If anyone read this post yesterday they will remember that we said something about "just a warm-up scrap for the Teuton and nothing more." Thomas must be a tough nut though—seven knock-downs and he didn't take advantage of resting until nine, bobbed up at the first or second count each time. Schmeling is too clever and crafty, a veteran who has been through too many ring wars to let himself be tagged by a rugged but unskilled recruit who never even had a real baptism of fire.

Speaking of fights, if Jimmy Braddock hasn't deteriorated a lot in the lay-off, and hasn't grown four or five years older in the last few months, the Braddock-Farr scrap should be quite interesting. Farr isn't what could be called a sniper, nor is he the master boxer. Braddock, as we have seen is something the same type, lots of grit, tough and a little clumsy with the gloves. The match should be good because of this fact—two men, of the same type—and end in a slugging match.

The poor St. Croix! They can't seem to get going. It is quite obvious that the Capitals have a stronger squad from the comparative showings. We grant you that the Caps are still quite a ways between the Saint John and Hub crews, but have a lot more confidence in them reaching the same level as the leaders than we have of ever seeing the Border crew at par. In fact, the fans are going to see their team starting to pass out a few lickings to some of the other teams before they have their ice very long. We don't expect it tonight, but do expect to see a much more even match than heretofore.

### COOLFERS

Ford Frick, president of the National League, is urging clubs to adopt lighter materials for uniforms. The Cincinnati Reds have used Palm Beach suits for years. They discarded them as soon as summer arrived. The Cubs followed suit last year.

"Strangler" Ed Lewis, one of the old guard of wrestlers, has quit the game to retire with a comfortable fortune. A record of over 6,000 matches grossing gates totalling over \$15,000,000 is quite a record at that. He's through definitely, he says. Drillon is still at the top of the list of point getters in the N.H.L. despite the fact that the Leafs only took one game last week. Canadians and Maroons clash tonight for the third time this year. One win apiece so far, the Frenchmen taking theirs by a slightly wider margin. The game should be quite a scrap. The 1940 Olympic Winter Games go to Japan. If the land of the Rising Sun hasn't the 550,000,000 Chinese conquered and tamed by that time, maybe they'd better try trimming them in the games—snowshoeing or something. That's all.

### Greatest Amount Ever Given For Player's Benefit

Generosity is a proverbial attribute of sport, and the professional hockey structure, including club-owners, players and customers, have taken a foremost ranking in open-hearted charity in cases of necessity.

When a few years ago Ace Bailey of Toronto-Leafs suffered a fractured skull in a fall, and was thus lost to hockey for all time, a fund of \$27,969 was created for him at a great benefit game in Toronto.

Later Montreal gave about \$8,000 to aid Nels Crutchfield, promising rookie star who fractured his skull in an automobile accident during the off-season.

Generosity of owners, players and public soared to high peaks in the benefit game recently staged for the Howie Morenz Memorial Fund in Montreal, in memory of the peerless centre who broke a leg in a game last winter and died later as complications set in.

The donations were even greater than the total of \$26,595.32 show. Each club is listed as donating \$500 except the Canadian club, which donated \$2,000, while Canadian players voted the fund a full play-off share \$500 and gave \$400 more from their own pockets.

The donations not shown were contributed in the form of expenses paid by the clubs who sent players to align themselves on the All Star team which played the pick of Montreal Maroons and Canadiens as the leading event of the benefit.

The New York Americans, for instance, sent a couple of players about 2,000 miles, to be at the game. They were training in Calgary at the time. New York Rangers sent their nominees from Winnipeg, the Boston Bruins from Haverhill, Pa., the farthest south point at which a National League team ever trained. "Black Hawks came" halfway across the continent from their mid-west camp. The travelling and hotel expenses of these players ran into thousands of dollars, gladly paid by the club owners in tribute to the memory of a mighty athlete.

### Max Schmeling Gets Technical K. O. Over Harry Thomas In 8th

NEW YORK, Dec. 13—Max Schmeling, former world heavyweight champion, stopped Harry Thomas, rugged Chicagoan, in the eighth round of a 15-round match tonight in Madison Square Garden. The German was declared winner on a technical knockout after flooring Thomas seven times. Schmeling weighed 196, Thomas 196½.

Schmeling, signalling his return to the fistie wars, was systematic as he cut down the crude but willing Chicago heavyweight before a near-capacity crowd.

The German, back in a New York ring for the first time since he flattened Joe Louis in the summer of 1936, toyed with Thomas for six rounds, put on the seventh, and stopped his rugged opponent with a slam-bang finish.

Thomas, bobbing up and down like a rubber ball from the impact of Schmeling's terrific right-hand blows, was knocked to the canvas seven times before Referee Arthur Donovan halted the one-sided affair, with only six rounds of the eighth round remaining. Never before flattened in the course of an ambitious but not too conspicuous career, Thomas was the victim of a technical knockout after carrying the fight to his famous opponent for six rounds and doing his best to make the 6 to 1 favorite look bad.

### HAIL JOE GORDON AS SUCCESSOR TO LAZZERI AT SECOND

#### Slugger Joe Is Sure Of Job In 1938 Yank Lineup

Nobody knew Joe Gordon when he reported to the Yanks at their Spring training headquarters in St. Petersburg. In fact when Joe stuck his head in the dressing room, told his name and said he was supposed to get a tryout, they thought he was just another ambitious kid and chased him away.

Today Joe is hailed as the successor to Tony Lazzeri at second base and the lad who can make or break the Yanks next season.

That first day at St. Pete was a sad one for Joe. He went South with high hopes but nobody knew him. McCarthy wouldn't pay any attention to him. He watched first practice from a seat in the stands. Late in the day Joe timidly sought McCarthy again at the hotel.

The Yank manager, to get rid of him, finally asked him what it was all about. Joe explained. Bill Essick, Yank scout on the Coast, had told him to report. Then McCarthy remembered.

#### Talent Recognized

From then on it was clear sailing for Joe. He got a uniform the next day and in subsequent practices so impressed the Yank boss that this year he will be a regular in the big time. McCarthy expected little from this youngster. Essick had told him Gordon looked like a fair prospect and let it go at that. McCarthy planned to look him over and then ship him off to one of the lesser farm teams.

Each day, Gordon looked better. He was fast, covered acres of ground and had a fine arm. The only drawback was his hitting and experience. He had to be farmed out, but it was to no small farm team. McCarthy sent him to Newark, the No. 1 team in the Yank chain system.

At Newark Joe developed remarkably. He was rated the best second baseman in the league blossomed into a home run hitter and was among the leading sluggers.

## SAINT JOHN BEAVERS DOWN ST. CROIX HOCKEY AGGREGATION TO TUNE OF 11-0 ON BORDER TOWN ICE LAST NIGHT

### Doran Gets Goal, 4 Assists; Dickie Unbeatable In Saint John Goal; Price Rifles In 3 Goals; Forster, Camyre, MacNichol Are Outstanding

ST. STEPHEN, Dec. 13—Upward of 700 border fans watched the St. Stephen entry in the Southern New Brunswick Hockey League go down under an avalanche of rubber in the St. Croix rink here tonight when the Saint John Beavers administered an 11-0 lacing to the border club.

Only in the first period did the St. Croix show signs of good hockey and threatened to score on several occasions only to be turned back at the defence. No matter how hard they tried tonight, in their second encounter with Beavers, this season, the St. Stephen squad could not beat Bill Dickie, who was between the uprights for the Saint John team.

### FIGURE LEIBER GOOD FOR GIANTS JOB NEXT YEAR

#### .400 Series Batting Average Discounts Early Slump

Many rooters have figured that Hank Leiber's .400 batting average in the World Series should be enough to restore him to the confidence of the Giants' powers-to-be, who indicated before and since October that they were dissatisfied.

If they expect to procure a better right-hand hitting center fielder, they'll have to find him in some other league. Only three National outfielders who operate from the right side of the dish, out-slammed the husky Arizonian last season.

They were Medwick, Demaree and the 33-year-old Pepper Martin, who was in poor condition, winding up with a .304 average, most of which was compiled early in the year.

On Aug. 1, when Leiber came back from two months' struggling with concussion, his mark was .043. He had made just one hit in 23 times up and how he even hit that one is hard to explain, considering the condition of his noodle.

The crowning example of Terry's lack of confidence in Hank came in the world series when the big fellow was used only against southpaw pitching until, in desperation, he had to be used in the fourth game. Leiber responded with two hits in the fourth game and two in the fifth.

President Horace Stoneham was quoted recently as saying he could use a hard-hitting center fielder. The only middle gardener who outshined Hank in 1936 was Lloyd Waner, who swings from the left side.

The Beavers notched three goals in the first session, continued on with four more in the second and ended up with four more in the final canto.

Although the St. Croix worked hard they could not hold up with the much better conditioned Saint John team.

Harry Doran was outstanding for the Beavers. He notched a goal and four assists for five points.

Price scored three goals for Saint John, his first coming in the second period when Shields, playing defence for St. Stephen threw his stick and deflected the puck. The goal was allowed. He got another about two minutes later and tallied his last in the third session.

Jimmie Innes and Bobby Beaton provided two goals and an assist each for Beavers.

Forster, Camyre and MacNichol were the outstanding players for the order club. They worked hard throughout the 40 minutes during the time they were on and proved troublesome to the Saint John defence on their raids.

The St. Croix next meet the Moncton Maroons. The game is scheduled for St. Stephen on Wednesday night. It will be the first visit of the Moncton club to the border this season and the St. Croix boys hope by then to be improved with two tough workouts to get the men in shape.

The loss tonight kept St. Croix in a tie with Fredericton in the league cellar with no victories to date.

### FARR GIVEN CUP

Tommy Farr was presented by the National Sporting Club of London with a trophy for "his gallant showing during his fight with Joe Louis". The presentation was made before the crowd attending the Neusel-Strickland fight in London.


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