

SAINT JOHN BEAVERS EDGE CAPITALS 2-1

DEFEAT GILL CREW IN HARD FOUGHT BATTLE IN ARCTIC RINK LAST NIGHT IN FIRST VISIT HERE THIS SEASON

Over 1,000 Fans See Capitals Beaten By Narrow Margin; Local Team Carried Play Through Most Of Game; Doucette Injured, Out For Some Time; Many Penalties

The Saint John Beavers handed Bill Gill's Capitals a 2-1 defeat in their first appearance on Fredericton ice this year, when they clashed in the Arctic Rink last evening. Much better ice than could be offered in the Fredericton-Moncton game Tuesday night speeded the game up although close checking by both teams at times made the play look ragged.

Over one thousand fans poured into the arena to witness the fray in which the Capitals proved that they have the wallop that will keep them in the running throughout the season. Savane attacks followed each other in quick succession and the Green and White jerseys attempted to get through a stiff defence for a crack at Dickie, stellar Saint John net minder. The Capitals carried the play to the Beavers, throughout more of the game and kept it well in enemy territory, while the Beaver clan relied on occasional rushes.

The game featured hard bumping on both sides as well as a considerable string of penalties including a misconduct penalty apiece for Bun McLennan of the Caps and Dave Pickard, Beaver rearguard. The Fredericton crew suffered one casualty when Doran Doucette, former Bathurst Papermaker and Charlottetown Abbie, was carried off the ice and seven stitches taken in his head where he was cracked by a stick. His first start in the Capital ranks since he hooked up with the club a few days ago, it is expected that he will be out of the game for some time.

Beavers Take Lead

The first period saw Saint John take a one goal lead when Beaton, first line right winger on the Beaver team drilled one past Young, 2½ minutes before the end of the frame, on a pass from Livingston, husky defenceman. The pair broke away leaving the Capital down the ice. Livingston went down the boards past the defence and flipped a perfect pass to Beaton who was on top of the goal. The shot clipped the corner giving the goalie no chance whatever.

The period, which started slowly, picked up when the Capitals turned on the power. For ten minutes in the middle of the period the play came within the Capital blue-line only twice. Pickard received the first penalty for tripping MacIntyre. Things looked a little dark as Olsen, clever Beaver winger, broke away after an attack on the Saint John net and went down the ice in a solo rush with only Gill between him and the goal. A hard body check upset him and spoiled the shot.

Two to Min. Penalties

The Beavers stepped it up toward the end of the heat but were tied down by some hard checking. McLennan got a ten minute misconduct penalty and Doucette replaced him. It looked like a score for the Caps as they swarmed around Dickie for a few moments. Young shone when he came out to smother a rebound from Olsen's shot. Another fast play saw the disk drilled at him again. He came out in an attempt to clear and the puck missed the corner as Olsen again figured in the play and sent another one toward the twines. Pickard took a two minute penalty for holding and Referee "Shorty" Clark jumped it to twelve when the big defenceman objected too strenuously. Shortly after the scoring play Livingston was ordered to the box for tripping MacIntyre and McLennan drew the same penalty for tripping Price.

Caps in Tough Spot

With McLennan still warming the penalty seat at the beginning of the second frame, the Caps were in a tough spot when Gill was handed two minutes for tripping Price. A much harassed Capital trio kept the play away from Young to a great extent although at times he was kicking shots from every direction. With the two men missing a Keenan-Morehouse combo nearly clicked as the two went through the defence. With Morehouse in firing position a pass misfired, spoiling the play. Back at full strength the Capitals treated Dickie to a dose of hot medicine. A four man attack looked good until Kilburn with good scoring chance missed a pass from Keenan.

Gill Evens Score

The Capitals climbed up on an even basis again when Bill Gill drove the only Fredericton marker past Dickie at the 7:55 mark. He broke away leading a three man rush, slipped a quick pass to MacIntyre who smashed it into Dickie's pads. Gill picked up the rebound and drove it home before the goalie had a chance to face him.

Scores Unassisted

A little over a half minute later Saint John again went by as Olsen, alone, tore up the ice with only Kilburn to stop him. The defenceman missed him by a wide margin and the Beaver left-winger sailed in on Young to sag the twines with an almost impossible shot.

Mills drew a penalty for tripping and was followed to the box a few minutes later by Marshall of Saint

SPORT DUST

-BY-

"Timmy" Green

The Capitals again proved they are not to be fooled with, in the scrap with the Beavers last night, and also proved that the Beavers are not so far ahead of them. The Saint John crew has the edge on combination play, passing smoother, and every man being just about where he should be; otherwise the Caps stand shoulder to shoulder with them. Although looking a little more crash proof, the Loyalist town defence has nothing on Gill and his alternates. It appears that their strong appearance is not due to a great formidability but to the fact that the forwards have their men covered to the extent that they are both forwards and defencemen. To offset this advantage the Caps seem to have more punch, more aggressiveness, and last night the only thing that kept them from climbing was the spectacular work of Dickie.

There is no reason why the Caps will not improve on these two counts—passing and covering their man. We feel they could not get a better coach than Gill. On top of this the boys will, and can, do just whatever he says. That's all they need—more practice—they are getting it every day—watch those Caps as the season gets a little older!

There are some men on the Beaver lines that have to be watched. No doubt fans noticed the way Sherwood was always on the spot—the right spot—when ever the play was up around the Fredericton goal. He was right there waiting for a pass and it's blamed lucky that the Capital forwards kept the pass from being forthcoming. There are some more but we're not going to review each case. It's enough to say that they need watching. If the Caps are going to hand them a trimming.

Doucette got a tough break in his first start on the Capital lines. Some fans thought that he got the crack when he ran into Gill. He would not have run into Gill if he hadn't gotten the crack with Burbridge's stick, and putting his hands to his face, didn't see Gill and coasted into him. A little comedy relief from the scene in the dressing room when he was being sewed up, was furnished by the accident victim himself.

John, Fredericton had a two man advantage for a few seconds as Livingston also took a trip to the box for holding. A busy gathering around the Beaver net failed to develop into a score for the Caps although anything was possible. Doucette missed the corner by scant fractions of an inch when he picked up a loose puck and blazed away at the pipes.

Doucette Injured

The tricky winger was carried off the ice a few minutes later after a melee near the Saint John net. In the scramble he was accidentally hit over the left eye by Burbridge's stick, opening up a three inch gash. As he put his glove to his head he and Gill coasted together, upsetting the already injured man.

Saint John Defensive

The Beavers played a careful game in the third heat keeping three and four men near their own blue line most of the time and using two man attacks. The Capitals carried the play for the rest of the game but the defence was too airtight to allow them to endanger Dickie to any extent. Loose passes also kept the Caps from getting several whacks at the Saint John goal.

YANKEES PACE

A. L. PITCHERS

Pitching Staff Was Much Maligned In 1937 Season

NEW YORK, Dec. 17—If there is any conclusion to be drawn from the official averages released recently—other than the fact that Vernon Gomez of New York is the not so goofy southpaw, and Johnny Allen, Cleveland's temperamental right-hander, were the hottest pair of hurlers in the American League—it's that the Yankee pitching staff was the most maligned group in the national pastime.

Thanks to the numbing slugging of New York's latest murderers' row, Gehrig, DiMaggio and Dickey, the Yankees turned another championship conquest into a cross-country race, leading the rest of the trailing pack across the finish line by a margin which was only slightly slimmer than their 20 game lead in 1936.

At least, that's the general opinion. What wasn't generally known was that the New York pitching staff enjoyed just about as discouraging an advantage over the staffs of other teams, which enjoyed a higher popular rating, particularly Cleveland and Chicago.

Yanks Far In Front

Compiling the score—cross-country fashion, since that's the way the Yankees have been playing the game for the past few years—according to the order in which each pitcher finished in the earned run column, New York was away out in front at the finish with a low seven-man staff total of only 118. Close behind were Chicago with 148 and Cleveland with 153.

Detroit, crippled by the loss of Schoolboy Rowe, finished fourth with 223, followed by Washington 226, Red Sox 228 and Philadelphia 272. The St. Louis Browns were hopelessly last with 410.

Since pitching is still counted 40 per cent of a club's strength, this reveals that the Yankees were something more than a pulverizing group of sluggers; and goes a long way, too towards explaining the collapse of the Red Sox, who can credit the fact that they finished as high as they did to the fact that their attack was better than their pitching.

For only their veteran portside, Robert Moses Grove, finished in the first ten with a win-loss record of 17-9, and an earned run average of 3.02; and only Jack Wilson, the strong armed youngster, was in the second group, finishing twelfth with earned run average of 3.71 and 16 victories against 10 defeats.

Gomez Strikeout King

Gomez replaced Grove, the 1936 leader, as the most effective pitcher in the league, with a low earned run average of 2.33. He was also the only one to win more than 20 games and was the league's strikeout king as well, with 194 victims to his credit. Allen compiled the highest won-loss average in the 37 year history of the American League—9288—also erasing a mark by Grove, 886, established in 1930, when he won 31 games and lost only four for Philadelphia—by annexing 15 straight victories before dropping his final start of the season, 1 to 0, to Jake Wade of Detroit.

Second to Gomez in earned runs was Monte Stratton of Chicago, with Allen third. Close to Gomez in the matter of victories was his own team mate, Charles "The Red" Ruffing, who was the only other A. L. pitcher to win 20 games.

Other "mosts" were attributed to Bob Feller, Cleveland, for 16 strikeouts in a single game, only one less than his record.

and McLennan (10 minutes misconduct).

Second period—2, Fredericton, Gill (MacIntyre) 7:55; 3, Saint John, Olsen 8:32. Penalties, Gill Mills, Marshall, Livingston.

Third period—No scoring. Penalties Marshall, Lynch.

The Summary

Saint John—Dickie, goal; Livingston, Lynch, Pickard, Burbridge, defence; Doran, Price, Burke, centres; Beaton, Sherwood inner right wing; Marshall, Olsen, left wing.

Fredericton—Young, goal; Thompson, Gill, Kilburn, Goodine, defence; Keenan, McLennan, centres; MacIntyre, Morehouse, Doucette right wing; Mills Lifford, left wing.

Referees—Clark and Mersereau. First period—1, Saint John, Beaton (Livingston) 17:50. Penalties, Pickard (2), Livingston, McLennan, Pickard

CANADIENS ONE OF GAME'S MOST COLORFUL TEAMS

Ability Of "Old Men" Often Is Wrongly Discounted

Every year Les Canadiens of Montreal are counted out of the National Hockey League race before it starts. But every year the club continues to hop over rivals and win games. Players like Aurel Joliat, tiny Frenchman of the black cap, and shifty Johnny Gagnon, supposedly on their last legs, keep sifting through opposing defences and slamming the disk into the netting.

Last year, when nearly every set in the circuit except Les Canadiens was mentioned as a title contender, it was the Flying Frenchmen who came through. They're colorful, game and clever, which is a perfect pitch combination.

The forward line of Polly Drouin, who's subbing at center for Armand Mondou, George Mantha and Rod Lorrain, wins, is one of the fastest in hockey. Drouin, a rookie front-liner, looks like one of the greatest finds of the year.

Drouin Makes Good

When Mondou broke his leg in Boston it was thought the famous speed line was crippled beyond repair, and with it the Canadiens' scoring punch. But young Drouin stepped in with sensational play, and the Frenchmen have been cleaning up.

Bus Buswell and Babe Siebert are the first line defencemen, and two tougher gents at blocking goals and throwing body checks would be hard to find. Babe particularly is a stand-out. He is considered one of the best defence men in the game and there isn't a manager in the lingo who wouldn't grab him if he could.

Get Fast Start

The Canadiens proved themselves early in the season by running through a long string without defeat, beating the strongest teams in the circuit.

Back of the Montreal team is the keen mind of Cecil Hart, who was re-hired as the team's coach and manager last year. He knows hockey and is one of the most popular bosses in the game.

He is a keen judge of talent. Last season he hired 15 scouts—14 for Canadian duty and one for England. They recommended a total of 42 players for tryouts. Cecil compromised on 22 and found 10 of these enough to bind with contracts.

"The so-and-so," the former Papermaker gitted, "he's from Bathurst too!" . . . Goodine and McLennan may temporarily join the ranks of the U.N.B. team which will tour Newfoundland in February. . . . Nels Stewart fooled a lot of people with his sensational comeback. He is going great guns on the American aggregation. Sometimes it's hard to tell how many races are left in an old horse. . . . Japan isn't sure that they will be able to stage the Olympic games in 1940. Apparently they have changed their minds about how long it will take them to trim the Chinks—if they ever do. . . . That's all!

CHIT Young turned in a fine performance in the last period, making several beautiful saves. He made an outstanding stop when Beaton beat Gill to a cleared puck and blasted a hard shot in his direction. In the last few minutes the Capitals put even more wallop into the game. Combinations were clicking better and they also passed out some hard bumping and close checking. Marshall, Beaver winger drew a penalty for bumping McLennan into the boards. Lynch followed to the box shortly after Marshall was released and spent the last few seconds of the game there.



BAER TRAINING FOR RETURN TO SQUARE CIRCLE

Manager Claims Max Reformed Since Becoming Daddy

NEW YORK, Dec. 17—The heavy-weight title is popularly supposed to be worth \$1,000,000 to its owner but the fact is the title is worth that much only if the champion has that elusive indefinable something known as "color."

Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Max Schmeling, Jack Sharkey and Max Baer had it—and each made more than a million. Joe Louis has it—and is well on his way to his million. Jim Braddock didn't have it—nor did he ever get near the million.

Baer's manager, Ancil Hoffman, today revealed for the first time just how much the title meant to the colorful Baer after being assured by Joe Louis that he was willing to oblige Max again at any time.

"You know," said Hoffman, "Max is just as serious now about a comeback as was Schmeling. He's reformed since becoming a proud daddy. You wouldn't know him. He's in great shape and is training every day."

Hoffman declared Max wasn't attempting a comeback because he needed money.

"Far from it. Max foolishly tossed away more than \$500,000 burning up the bright lights. Why, he actually spent more than \$100,000 on lawyers."

"Then he began to get wise to him-

CONACHER LEADS LEAFS TO VICTORY OVER CANUCKS; RANGERS BLANK THE AMERKS 2-0; CHI HAWKS TRIM WINGS 3-1

Toronto Ace Scores Two Of Four Tallies; Aurel Joliat Counters Two For Canadiens; Rangers Now Lead Amer. Sec.; Wings Lose 4 Straight

MONTREAL, Dec. 16—Chiefly through the bombing of big Charlie Conacher, Toronto Maple Leafs won their way to within a point of the leading Canadiens in their section of the N. H. L. tonight as they defeated the Montreal team 4 to 2 before 6,000 fans here. Conacher, who returned to the Leaf line-up last Saturday after a layoff through injury, scored the first Toronto goal one minute after the start and added what proved to be the winning one in the third period. Red Horner got the second Leaf score and Nick Metz finished off the triumph less than a minute from the finish. Tiny Aurel Joliat scored both Canadian goals, assisted by his forward line mates, Paul Haynes and Johnny Gagnon.

But without George Mantha, out through injury, Canadiens looked weak on the attack. The loss was their second straight after a streak of nine games in which they had gone unbeaten.

Rangers Take First

NEW YORK, Dec. 16—New York Rangers shot into first place in the

self, so about five years ago I took \$126,600 of his money and put it in an annuity, with the proviso that he never be allowed to touch the principal. Five years hence that annuity will begin paying Max \$1,000 a month for the rest of his life.

"You saw the big gate Schmeling drew with an unknown like Thomas? Well, that was no surprise to me, because Schmeling has color. So has Baer and for that reason he can still pack them in. The crowd loves to see him."

"Right now Max is making between \$4,000 and \$5,000 a month just by refereeing and by exhibitions. And the offers he gets would surprise you. For example, the Music Corporation of America offered him \$2,000 a week to lead an orchestra around Europe."

National Hockey League's American group tonight by trimming their city rivals, Americans, 2 to 0. The two points enabled Rangers to oust Boston Bruins from the leadership.

The contest, hard-fought but ragged, was played before more than 15,000 fans.

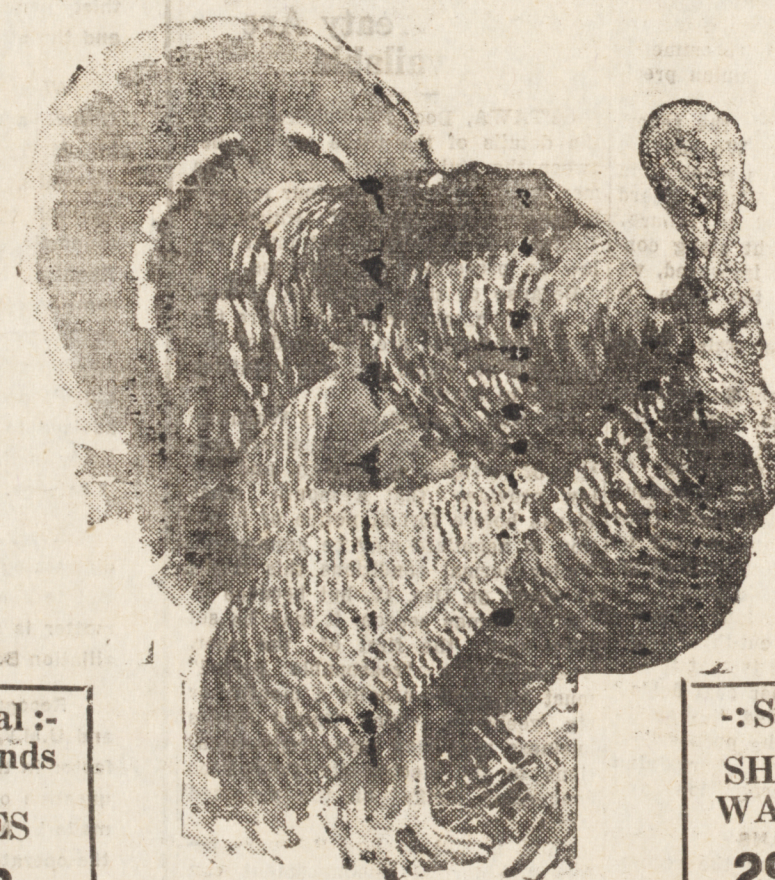
The defeat dropped the Americans to third place in the Canadian group. Lynn Patrick took advantage of the big break of the game to score the initial Ranger tally early in the first period. He intercepted a lateral pass from Sweeney Schriner to break away and score easily. Rangers were a man short at the time.

Hawks Clip Wings

CHICAGO, Dec. 16—Chicago Black Hawks raced into an early lead against Detroit Red Wings tonight and then coasted home to an easy 3 to 1 win against the N. L. champions as the Wings slipped deeper into the sectional cellar.

It was Detroit's fourth straight loss.

The Wings, Stanley Cup winners the last two seasons, were outplayed in all periods. A third period goal by Herb Lewis saved them from a shut-out.



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