AS NHL PLAYOFFS RESUME

All but the Flyers are heavily favored

By ED SIMON
The Canadian Press

Apart from Philadelphia Flyers, who seem bent on doing things the hard way in the National Hockey League playoffs this season, just about everyone performed as expected when the Stanley Cup quarter-finals opened Monday night.

Mike Bossy filled the Chicago net as New York Islanders breezed to a 6-2 victory over the Black Hawks. Don Cherry's lunch-pail brigade dined on fricasseed Penguin as Boston Bruins vanquished Pittsburgh by the same score. And Guy Lafleur defied diligent Toronto checking, contributing four points to Montreal's 8-2 rout of the Maple Leafs.

Only the Flyers, who managed to lose to the lowly Vancouver Canucks at the Spectrum last week before winning their best-of-three preliminary round, encountered heavy weather. Trailing New York Rangers 2-0 late in the second period, they finally earned a 3-2 decision on rookie Ken Linseman's overtime goal.

Tonight, all four winners will attempt to press their home-ice advantage by going two up in the best-of-seven series. And, apart from the unpredictable Flyers, all are heavily favored.

The Penguins, forced into overtime in the deciding game of their preliminary series against Buffalo Sabres, are playing their seventh game in 12 days at Boston, while the Bruins are brimming with health and vigor after sitting out the preliminary round with a bye.

The Black Hawks were also spared from first-round activity as winners of the Smythe Division but were reeling from a three-goal performance in the opener by Bossy. The NHL's leading goal-scorer accomplished the feat while firing only four shots at goaltender Tony Esposito, running his total to nine goals in his last three starts.

Chicago, which finished the regular season 43 points

MIKE BOSSY
. . . he's hot

MARIO TREMBLAY
. . . he's hurt

behind the Islanders, appeared overmatched against the team which dethroned Montreal this season as the league's over-all leaders.

As is their custom, the Islanders will rest goaltender Glenn Resch, who played the first game, in favor of Billy Smith. The two have started alternate games all season. Esposito is expected to be back in the nets for the Black Hawks.

LOSING STREAK GROWS

"If we are better prepared, we may be able to do better," said the Chicago goalie, whose team won its last playoff game in 1975.

For Toronto coach Roger Neilson, who has not beaten the Canadiens since he took the job at the start of last season, the chief problem is trying to find a legal way to harness the multitalented Lafleur. Doing it illegally exposes the Leafs to the deadly Montreal power play, which stung them for two goals Monday night.

The Canadiens may be without right winger Mario Tremblay, who suffered a leg injury in a first-period fight with Toronto's Pat Boutette.

Philadelphia is getting top-notch goaltending from young Robbie Moore, who hasn't lost yet in seven starts for the Flyers and took the job from Wayne Stephenson after their playoff loss to Vancouver.

The Rangers, angry at themselves for blowing their two-goal lead Monday, swore to pay closer attention to coach Fred Shero next time.

"Freddy was telling us to go into their zone and force the play," said right winger Don Murdoch. "But we just weren't doing it."

Rogues end strike

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Memphis Rogues of the North American Soccer League have voted to end a five-day walkout and return to work, Rogues vice-president Rudi Schiffer announced early today.

"The team met Tuesday night and unanimously voted to return to work at 1 p.m. (CST) today," Schiffer said. "They will be back in time for this afternoon's practice."

Schiffer did not disclose details of the meeting.

All but one of the Rogues' 15 players walked out last Friday as part of a league-wide strike called by the NASL's Players' Association.

The association called the strike because NASL owners have not recognized the union at the collective bargaining agent for the players.

Playing with a pickup team which included coach Eddie McCredie, the Rogues were blown out, 6-0, last Saturday night in Detroit by the Express. Midfielder Ruben Astigarraga of Argentina was the only regular Rogues player to make the trip.

The Rogues, 1-3, will play Houston Saturday night at Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium in Memphis.

Trail wins crown

KIMBERLEY, B.C. (CP) — Kimberley Dynamiters' first home-ice loss in this year's Western International Hockey League playoffs cost them the league title and a chance to retain the Canadian championship.

Trail Smoke Eaters thumped the Dynamiters 6-2 Tuesday to capture the WIHL championship and advance to the Western Canadian Allan Cup finals. Trail won the best-of-seven league final 4-3.

Steinbach Huskies of the Central Amateur Senior Hockey League are host to Trail Friday as the best-of-five series opens in the Manitoba community.

The Smokies had four unanswered third-period goals and got outstanding goaltending from Henry Durkin for the win before 2,000 spectators.

The winners led 1-0 after the first period but Kimberley, the defending Canadian senior hockey champions, evened it 2-2 after 40 minutes.

Traders nip Raiders

FORT SASKATCHEWAN, Alta. (CP) — Fort Saskatchewan Traders defeated Prince Albert Raiders 5-3 Tuesday to stay in contention in the Centennial Cup junior hockey western final series.

The Raiders lead the best-of-seven playoff two games to one. Game four is slated for Fort Saskatchewan tonight.

Mike Ferris had two goals for Traders, with Terry Oakes, Don Keller and John Ewasiuk scoring one each. Eric Jonath, Dave Moore and Dean Burles got the Raider markers.

Fort Saskatchewan edged Prince Albert 31-30 in shots on goal and held period leads of 2-1 and 4-2.

The game featured rough play throughout, with some players squaring off before the first puck was even dropped.

Watt holds title

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP) — Jim Watt, a 30-year-old Scot, pounded Alfredo Pitalua of Colombia to defeat at 1:55 of the 12th round Tuesday night and won the vacant World Boxing Council lightweight title.

The title was recently vacated by Roberto Duran of Panama, who had reigned for seven years. Duran is now campaigning as a welterweight.

Watt, who had knocked Pitalua down in the seventh round, took complete control of the fight in the 11th round and had the 25-year-old Colombian against the ropes and hit him with a flurry of lefts.

Watt continued on the attack in the 12th round and pummelled his opponent for more than a minute until the Colombian's defences were completely demolished.

American referee Arthur Mercante separated them and stopped the contest.

Watt weighed 134½ pounds and Pitalua just made the stipulated 135 pounds.

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WIN SEVENTH GAMES

Broncos, Hawks in WHL finals

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lethbridge Broncos and Portland Winter Hawks turned in convincing victories Tuesday night to win their divisional titles in the seventh games of best-of-seven series and join Brandon Wheat Kings in the final championship series of the Western Hockey League.

The league championship will be settled by a round-robin series followed by a best-of-seven final. The round-robin begins Thursday when Brandon plays at Lethbridge.

Lethbridge won the central division title by turning back Calgary Wranglers 5-2 before a record crowd of 5,507 at Lethbridge.

Kevin Ginnell, Dave Falkenberg, Duane Sutter, Doug Morrison and Earl Ingarfield scored in a well-rounded Broncos' effort which saw the team leading 2-1 and 3-2 by periods. Kelly Kisio and Rocky Greenwood replied for the Wranglers, who had forced the seventh game with a 7-3 win on their home ice Monday.

At Portland, the Winter Hawks won at home before 5,522 fans as right-winger Jim Dobson broke out for three goals to lead the team to a 7-2 victory over Victoria Cougars. Dobson had been held to only five goals in the first 14 playoff games.

Victoria goalie Steve Amiss, who had stymied Portland in the fifth and sixth games, had a tough night with 39 shots while his team-mates fired only 29 at Bart Hunter in the Portland nets.

Perry Turnbull, Mike Toal, Blake Wesley and Florent Robidoux added markers for Portland. Geordie Robertson got Victoria off to a lead at 2:52 of the first period. Bob Smith gave the Cougars their last lead of the night with a power-play goal at 5:38 of the second.

For Lethbridge, it was the first divisional title since the club moved from Swift Current five seasons ago.

Quebec midgets win

WINNIPEG (CP) — Quebec shut out Newfoundland 14-0 Tuesday in Canadian midget hockey hockey championship tournament.

The Quebec team, from Ste. Foy, held 6-0 and 13-0 period leads over their Corner Brook, Nfld. opponents.

Phils paste Pirates, Expos slip by Mets

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pittsburgh Pirates manager Chuck Tanner looked like a man grabbing at straws when he singled out 31-year-old righthanded relief pitcher Enrique Romo as the bright spot in a 13-2 loss to Philadelphia Phillies.

It was Romo who yielded Garry Maddox's grand slam homer in the Phils' six-run fifth inning Tuesday night.

However, noted Tanner, in the next 2 2-3 innings Romo gave up one hit, struck out five and didn't walk a man.

"They just waxed us," Tanner said, "but these ball games aren't all going to be one or two-run affairs.

"Romo is a good sign. After he gave up the grand slam, he came back, he didn't fall on his face."

Outside of Romo, there wasn't much to cheer about on the Pittsburgh bench. The Phils pasted starter Bert Blyleven, 0-2, for 10 hits and seven runs in the first 2 2-3 innings, and they went on to collect 17 hits in the ball game.

Bake McBride homered twice to drive in five runs and Mike Schmidt added a solo shot, his fourth, for the Phils. Steve Carlton, 2-1, went six innings, gave up three of Pittsburgh's runs on Bill Robinson's first-inning homer, and rested the last three innings.

Elsewhere in the National League, Montreal Expos edged New York Mets 5-4 in 12 innings, Chicago Cubs downed St. Louis Cardinals 8-3, Cincinnati Reds whipped Atlanta Braves 7-4, San Diego Padres got by San Francisco Giants 4-3 and Los Angeles Dodgers topped Houston Astros 10-8.

STEVE CARLTON
. . . gains win

BAKE McBRIDE
. . . two homers

Meanwhile in the American League, Minnesota Twins fans gave Rod Carew a standing ovation, and thanks to Nolan Ryan, it was the only time they cheered all day.

In Tuesday's other American League games, Oakland A's nosed out Seattle Mariners 6-5, Boston Red Sox edged Milwaukee Brewers 6-5, New York Yankees beat Baltimore Orioles 5-1, Texas Rangers trimmed Cleveland Indians 6-2, Detroit Tigers defeated Kansas City Royals 6-3 and Chicago White Sox whipped Toronto Blue Jays 7-1.

"I guess the standing ovation didn't surprise me," said Carew, who felt Twins owner Calvin Griffith never paid him what he was worth. Carew forced the trade by saying he would play out his option.

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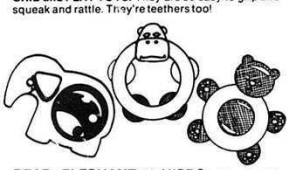

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