SWEDISH PRINCE TO WED COMMONER

Soon to be wed in America are Prince Carl Johan of Sweden, son of Crown Prince Gustaf Adolf and favorite grandson of King Gustaf, who renounced his royal birthright for love of Mrs. Kerstin Wijkmark, seven years his senior. The 35-year-old divorcee is a newspaperwoman and editor. The marriage will climax a five-year romance carried on over strongest opposition from the prince's family. The couple plan to live in the U. S., as plain Mr. and Mrs. Bernadotte, the Swedish royal family's name.

THE INSIDE ON HOCKEY

By ED. FITKIN

Now that Bill Durnan is back in their net, Montreal Canadiens again look like the team that has been dominating NHL hockey for the past two and a half seasons.

* * *

With all due respect to Paul Bibeault, who is a fine goalie, Dick Irvin says that Durnan is more valuable to Canadiens than a lot of people are willing to admit. He has been shouting this, in fact, for years but it wasn't until recently when Dapper William was injured that the hockey experts paid much heed to Irvin's remarks.

* * *

But with Durnan on the sidelines, the Hurtling Habs ceased to hurtle and went into a tailspin that dropped them from first to third place. Then last week-end Durnan returned to the lineup and Canadiens promptly regained their old poise--and more importantly, their winning ways. They knocked off Chicago 6-2 and followed through with a 3-0 win over Boston.

* * *

Now they're back in the contention for top honors and the flags have ceased to fly at half-mast in Moreal.

* * *

By the time this appears, a decision on Walter (Babe) Pratt's case should be announced. In hockey's inner circles it is anticipate dthat Pratt will be reinstated and that it's quite possible he may rejoin the Maple Leafs for Saturday night's important game with Canadiens in Toronto.

* * *

The Leafs, incidentally, are hockey's hottest team of the moment. They've lost only two games in their last eleven starts--and both to Boston. They've won six and tied three . . . which, in short, means they've taken 15 of their last 22 points. As the baseballers would say, that's a .681 average.

* * *

Even without Babe Pratt in their last five games, the Leafs managed to win one, lose one and tie three. The return of Turk Broda to the nets has bolstered the Toronto defense considerably for the Turk stepped back into the N.H.L. picture--after being away for 2½ years--as if he had never left the scene.

* * *

It took Brimsek a month to whip himself into condition for a return to NHL conmpetition--and when he did make his debut he was beaten eight times. Broda, back in Canada little more than a week, was propelled into action against Boston Bruins in Beantown and played a fine game in that 3-3 tie. He was little short of terrific in the two games with Detroit last week-end --so that in three games he has conceded only 6 goals.

* * *

Where Turk had the edge on Brimsek, of course, was in being able to play considerable hockey in Holland and England before returning to Canada this winter. He scored nine shutouts in his first 10 games overseas and played more than 30 games all told before sailing for home.

* * *

Canadiens have Durnan—and he's been the tops in the league for the past two years. Young Harry Lumley, Detroit's 19-year-old wonder, is a standout and headed for great things. The Leafs have Broda and McCool; Rangers have slick Charlie Rayner and Chicago's swift-moving Black Hawks are benefitting by the inspired playing of the veteran Mike Karakas.

* * *

And by the way, have you tried to figure out the probable all-star lineup for this season? Brother, don't try it. You'll wind up in a daze!

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