

Pounding the Sports Beat . . .



FIRST GAME of the N.H.L. semifinals between Canadiens and Chicago last Tuesday night brought the familiar playoff atmosphere to millions of Canadians and Americans who are fortunate enough to be within range of Canadian TV stations.

Hustling like they attached no importance to the legend of Canadiens invincibility, the Hawks threw everything but the kitchen sink at the Monties but still lacked the punch to win the opener. O'Leary credited with being the most important game of a series, the first game was established Canadiens as favorites to cup the series.

Hawks are a lot better team than they showed Tuesday, however, and it is this scribe's opinion that if any team can upset the Habs, they are the ones who can do it. The series could go the limit.

Meanwhile, Toronto riddled with injuries, take on Detroit in a series which we think the Leafs will win handily. Even the presence of Gordie Howe in the Red Wings line-up doesn't qualify them as Leaf beaters. The Toronto club has played well in spite of many injuries this season.

We're banking on a final between Canadiens and the Maple Leafs.

HOW MANY fans who witnessed both opening games of the Stanley Cup semifinals on television noticed the difference in picture content between the two openers?

Several fans have commented to this scribe on the sharpness and overall clarity of the Montreal game. They claimed they got a better idea of play from the camera angle in the forum.

In complete agreement, the Toronto cameramen isolate plays and it often fails to give the viewer a complete picture of what is taking place. In Montreal, the camera seems to hover over all the action and the viewer is treated to little side displays that often have a bearing on the play in progress.

Concentrating on close-ups may give us some of the players' expressions but it seems to me it detracts from the game's action as a whole.

ACTON council's decision to take the bull by the horns and face the arena question squarely elicits nothing but huzzas from this column. It has been fashionable the last few years to pretend the problem doesn't exist

and dole a few shekels out to the arena in a half dilapidated state. Now, with the co-operation of the committee organized to raise funds, council may be able to do something constructive in the near future.

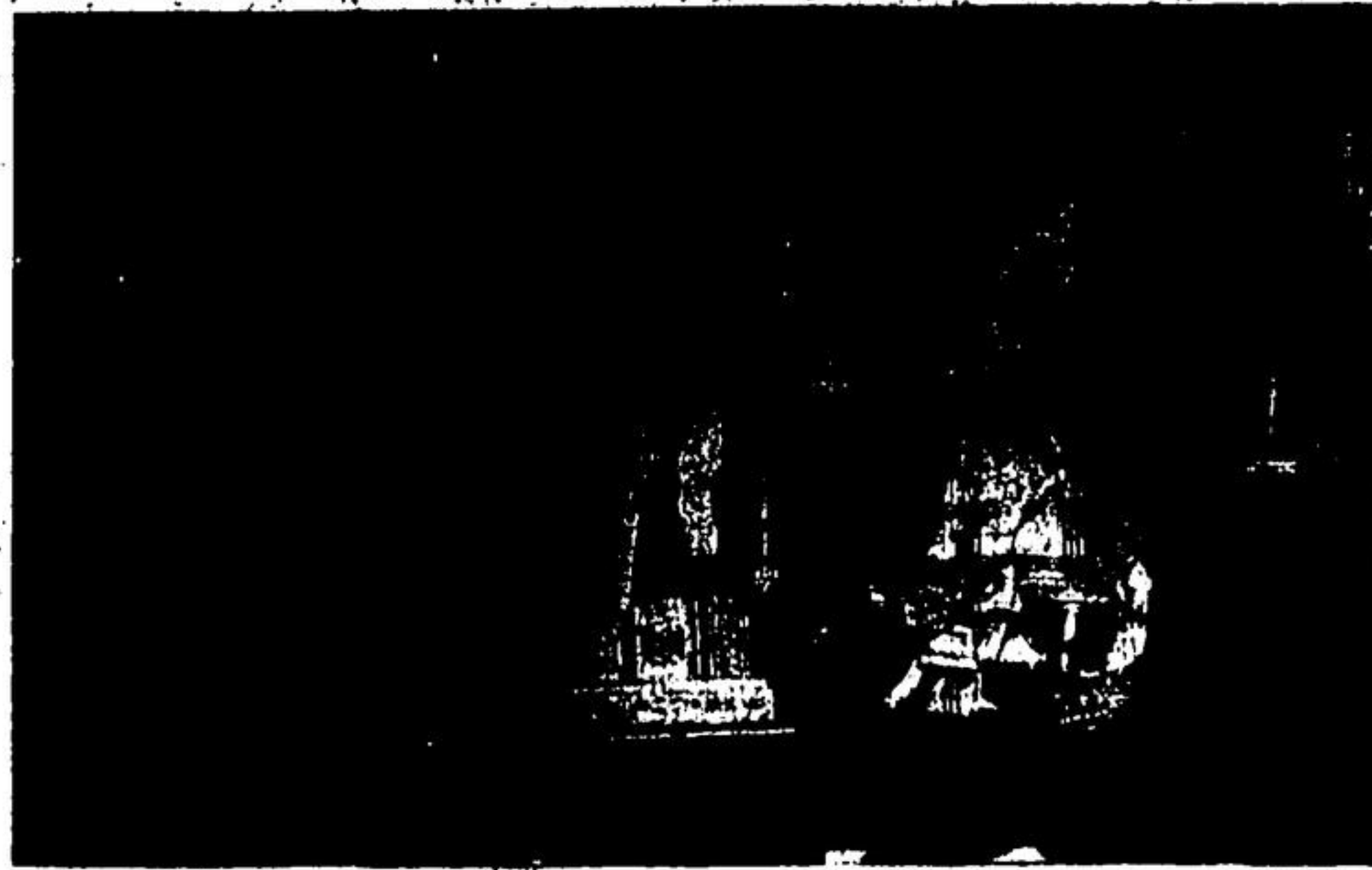
It leaves things squarely in the laps of the public. With the front of the arena torn down, only two choices remain for them:

(1) Renovate the arena and install artificial ice.

(2) Leave the arena as it is until deterioration is final and even the shell is ordered closed.

HEAT NICKS . . . New Hampshire Juniors have taken a 3-1 lead in their best of seven Junior D series with Milton . . . Saturday's showing of the world amateur hockey championships between Trail Smoke Eaters and the Russians strengthened our conviction that the Europeans have a long way to go yet before they are ready to challenge N.H.L. teams to tournaments. The game was little better than the intermediate hockey seen in this neck of the woods. . . 1961 will go down as one of the shortest minor hockey seasons in Acton's history. . . A tip of the champion from this column to the gentlemen representing Acton Legion who took all honors in a cribbage tourney in Hamilton Saturday. . . A few more trophies and the local legionnaires would have needed a truck to bring all their trophies home. . .

HEAT BITS . . . Bruce Andrews added another laurel to the many he has picked up in track meets this year by finishing second behind D. Hayes, Michigan, in the 1st Highlanders' 36th anniversary track meet at Hamilton on Saturday. . . It was a one mile race for boys 19 and under. . . Georgetown Raiders eliminated Oakville from the Central Ontario Intermediate playoffs four games to one. The Raiders are now entangled with Barrie, Milton's competitors, losing the first game of the group finals Monday night 5-4 in the Lake Simcoe town. . . Milton Merchants, in an effort to balance their books for the season after being eliminated in the first round, challenged Oakville to a series for the old Harris cup, emblematic of Halton County intermediate supremacy, but the Oaks declined. . . Doesn't seem so long ago that the cup was a bone of contention between Georgetown and Acton in past seasons. . .



BRANCH 197 Acton took Legion District "B" cribbage championship at Hamilton Saturday afternoon and defeated 24 other teams competing. Loaded with trophies, the eight players came home with team championship as well as individual honors. Pictured above, the winners are, front row, left to right, Hughie O'Rourke, George Higgins, and Hector Lambert, back row, Mel Jordan, Bob Martingell, Norm Cunningham, Jack Bullough and Hughie Smith. The players now represent the district in the Ontario finals.

O.B.A. Honor McMullen

The 43rd annual convention of the Ontario Baseball Association was held on the weekend at Kitchener. Several members of the Halton County Baseball Association were in attendance and four of them were made members of the O.B.A. executive.

Peter McMullen of Milton, past president of the parent O.B.A. and the current president of the Halton league, (a position which he has held for the past 14 years) was made a life member of the O.B.A. to honor his line years of service. Mr. McMullen served as president for three years and prior to that was a member of the executive.

Olle Johnson of Oakville, for many years an executive member, was also voted a life membership in the organization. **First Vice Here** Jim Waldie who last year moved from an executive position into the post of third vice-president, climbed closer to the top spot this year when he was named first vice-president.

Jim Black of Oakville, who has been appointed to the executive by the Halton Association became third vice-president, giving this area strong representation in the parent body.

Jack Carson of Belleville, a veteran of many years in baseball circles, took the big step Saturday and opposed Otto Manske of Waterloo for the president's chair. Carson took over this duty on a majority vote and is reported to have gained considerable backing in his bid for the leadership. He noted in his thank you speech that criticism at any level was welcomed in order that any and all mistakes can be compensated for. **Old Boundaries**

Biggest news from the amendment discussion department has found the amalgamation setup which has taken over across the province will be taken care of this year. Any clubs which represent



PETER McMULLEN, Honorary O.B.A. Member

A community which is pobbled up by a larger area can apply to the O.B.A. for their old boundaries and classification. Brown has done this for the past two years and has had special timing, and now all other clubs can do the same.

The Inter-County Baseball Association was host for the big show that saw some 67 delegates present. Mike Weichel, MP for Waterloo county was present for the

Acton Legion Branch 197 Sweeps Card Tourney

Acces of the Canadian Legion District "B" cribbage tournament in Hamilton Saturday were the Acton entry from Branch 197.

Not only did the Acton team walk off with the district championship but Hector Lambert and Hughie O'Rourke piled the prizes trophy on top of that for a sweep of the event.

Twenty-four teams were entered in the tournament embracing 192 players. The Acton team, in third position in early play, moved up to win the crown. Individual awards were presented to each member of the team as well as the team championship trophy.

The pairs champions each received a trophy making a total of 11 awards the local Branch toted home.

Members of the team are Mel Jordan, Bob Martingell, Norm Cunningham, Jack Bullough, Hughie O'Rourke, Jimmy Higgins and Hector Lambert.

The Acton team will now represent District "B" in the Ontario finals at Newmarket Saturday, April 29.

Hockey War Still On Raiders Meet Barrie

The hockey wars continue in the district this week, as Barrie Lakeviews and Georgetown Raiders begin their series for the right to go on into O.H.A. Intermediate "A" playdowns, and as Bradford Fords start their venture through O.H.A. Intermediate "B" wars.

Bradford was the top team in the Central Ontario League this year, even though it was one of the two "B" classification clubs. The Fords have put out the other C.O.H.L. contender, Port Credit, and went on to face Durham-Thurkies, losing the first game by a 7-5 score.

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INDIVIDUAL TROPHIES were presented to two Legion cribbage players Saturday when they defeated all comers in the Legion District "B" championships at Hamilton. Hector Lambert and Hughie O'Rourke proudly display their awards and are eager to get a chance at the Ontario finals the end of April. The Acton players competed against 192 players from the district.

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