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Goldham Still Starring National Hockey League

This year Georgetown's Bob Goldham is again a stellar defenceman with Detroit Red Wings of the National Hockey League, and every day or two his name bobs up in a prominent place in the daily paper sport pages.

Milt Dunnell devoted his column in the Toronto Star to Bob in one of last week's issues. Headed "They Date a Man by Company He Kept" he reviews Bob's career as follows:

You might as well hum, "Yes We Have No Bananas" as refer to Robert John Goldham as "The Golden Boy." It's just another way of dating yourself. That Golden Boy label belongs to the era of Gordie Drillon, Bucko McDonald and Nick Metz. It's a product of the historic season that saw Hap Day spot the Detroit's first three games in the Stanley Cup gambols and then knock the champagne-filled basin out of their hands. In the lives of men, it was only the day before yesterday. In hockey careers, it's a mighty long time. Robert John has been to war since then. He survived that and the Chicago Black Hawks. The other day, when he was in town with the Red Wings who brought him across hockey's railroad tracks, Goldham spoke warmly of the Chicagos as generous and considerate bosses. After all, it wasn't their fault entirely that their hard-working employees seldom got a look at playoff cheques.

"I suppose I was disappointed, at first to discover the Leafs could get along without me," Goldham admitted. "But I couldn't afford to worry about that. I had just been married and I wanted big-league pay. The Leafs looked to be pretty well set on defence. They had Jim Thompson, Bill Barilko, Wally Stanowski, Gus Morton, and Garth Boesch. When Mr. Smythe traded five of us to get Max Bentley and Cy Thomas, I was down in Pittsburgh. I realized the trade meant another chance in the NHL, and I always will be grateful to the Black Hawks for that."

Another chap who didn't show in the deal, but who probably was a factor in it, was Pat Egan, the rugged Irishman, who nailed Goldham with a bodycheck one night as he came off the boards. Bob was hit so hard he suffered a fracture of both bones in his arm. The injury required bone grafting and four metal screws to put Goldham back together again. Leafs filled the gap in their line-up by calling up a cocky greenie named Bill Barilko, who didn't take long to make it obvious he'd be hard to displace when Goldham got well.

Re-broke Arm On Riopelle's Head

Not long after he was sent to Chicago, Goldham stumbled during a game with Canadiens. He broke the arm again by whacking it on Rip Riopelle's head. What actually happened was that one of the screwballs had come loose and the sudden jar caused a hairline fracture. But everyone put two and two together. It added up to five. The almost unanimous decision was that Conn Smythe had unloaded a brittle player on Chicago as part-payment for Bentley. It was pretty well agreed that Goldham was washed up. That is an encouraging reminder for young hockey players who suffer injuries which jeopardise their hockey careers. No person ever got more morbid notices than Goldham when his arm was broken for the second time. It hasn't bothered him since — especially when he's been reaching for those play-off bonuses as a member of the Red Wings. He left the Hawks as he had joined them — in a mass deal. It was called the biggest in hockey history. Harry Lumley, Jack Stewart, Al Dewsbury, Pete Babando, and Don Morrison all went to the Chihawks. After nearly 10 years, Goldham had landed in Detroit, where he was intended to go in the first place. Roy Mason, manager of the Guelph Juniors, who then were part of the Detroit system, had gone to Goldham's home town of Georgetown to sign Bob. He arrived about two weeks after young Mr. Goldham had departed for Northern Vocational school in Toronto — as a ward of the Leafs.

"The thing that bothered me about the shift to Detroit was that I was the only defenceman acquired by the Wings," Goldham grinned. "That meant I was supposed to take the place of Black Jack Stewart, who, in my opinion at least, had been the No. 1 defenceman in the league."

Goldham is still very much around. Black Jack is gone. So are most of the four who went from Toronto with Bob in the Bentley swap: Ernie Dickens, Gays Stewart, Gus Bodnar and Bud Folle.

If Smythe slipped the Hawks a little player, then it's more of the

Legion Notes

And as the holiday season approaches, let's offer our heartfelt good-wishes, on behalf of Branch 120's executive, to all members, their families and the Legion's many friends. It has been a memorable year, with many improvements made, and also the one that saw the celebration of our twenty fifth anniversary, as well as that

of the Auxiliary... such a good year, one that has been conspicuous by the harmony existing in the branch, has only been possible through the cooperation of every member of the Branch. So thanks, once again, fellows.

This Sunday sees the annual Christmas Tree for the kiddies. Due to the fact that there are so many children on the roll, it will be on a

Sunday afternoon, to allow the children to get away at a reasonable hour. For full details, see the advertisement in this issue.

The annual New Year's party will be held again this year on New Year's Eve, December 31st. This has become one of the highlights of the year and we expect that it will be bigger and better than ever this year. Dancing will

start at 10 p.m. so anyone wishing to get in, should try and make it as early as possible, as there is always a huge crowd. This is only for Legion members and wives or girl friends, and W.A. members and their husbands.

The Legion Hall will be closed at 6.30 p.m. Christmas Eve and will remain closed until Saturday, Dec. 26th at noon.



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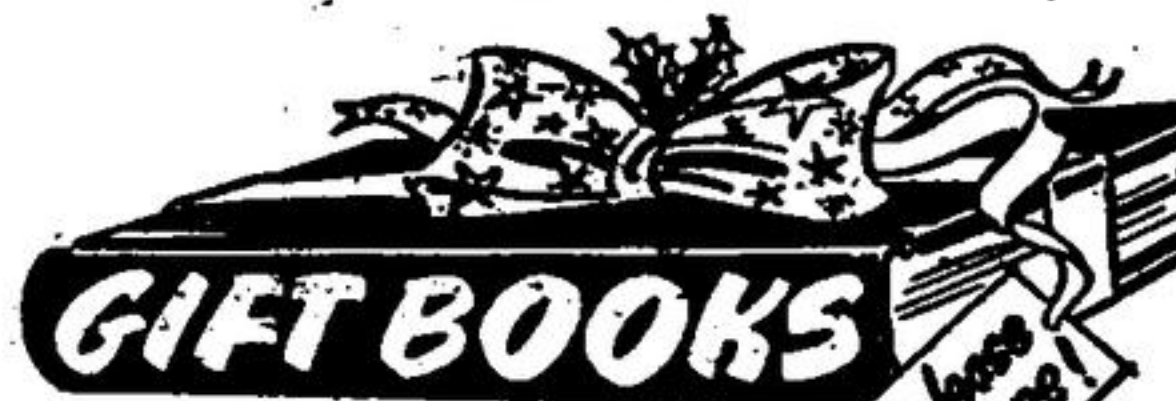
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