

Hood makes tough calls in new book

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Bruce Hood may no longer wear the zebra stripes, but he's still making the tough calls.

These days the former NHL referee is doing so through his recently-released second book — which, in hard-hitting and somewhat controversial fashion, questions this country's commitment to developing truly talented hockey players.

"When Paul Henderson scored the most famous goal in Canadian hockey history, it might not have been such a good thing," the area resident and travel agency owner writes in the opening paragraph of 'The Good of the Game: Recapturing Hockey's Greatness'.

He isn't the first to address the touchy subject of Canada's diminishing on-ice skills, although he certainly has the background to speak to the matter with some authority.

Officiating at the 1972 Summit Series, Mr. Hood was there when Canada knocked off the Russians — which he said should have been a wake up call that Canadians were beginning to lose their

"We're being left behind because of our emphasis on tough, physical play. By the time kids graduate to junior hockey, the sport only gets more violent. Skating and play making take a back seat to slashing, holding and brawling."

BRUCE HOOD

invincibility on the global front.

From there, he refereed for several more years, during a period when many nations began gaining ground on hockey's homeland.

In his 257-page hard cover publication — co-authored by sports writer and Champion lifestyle columnist Murray Townsend of Milton — Mr. Hood said this country is "primarily producing third and

• see **BOOK** on page 16

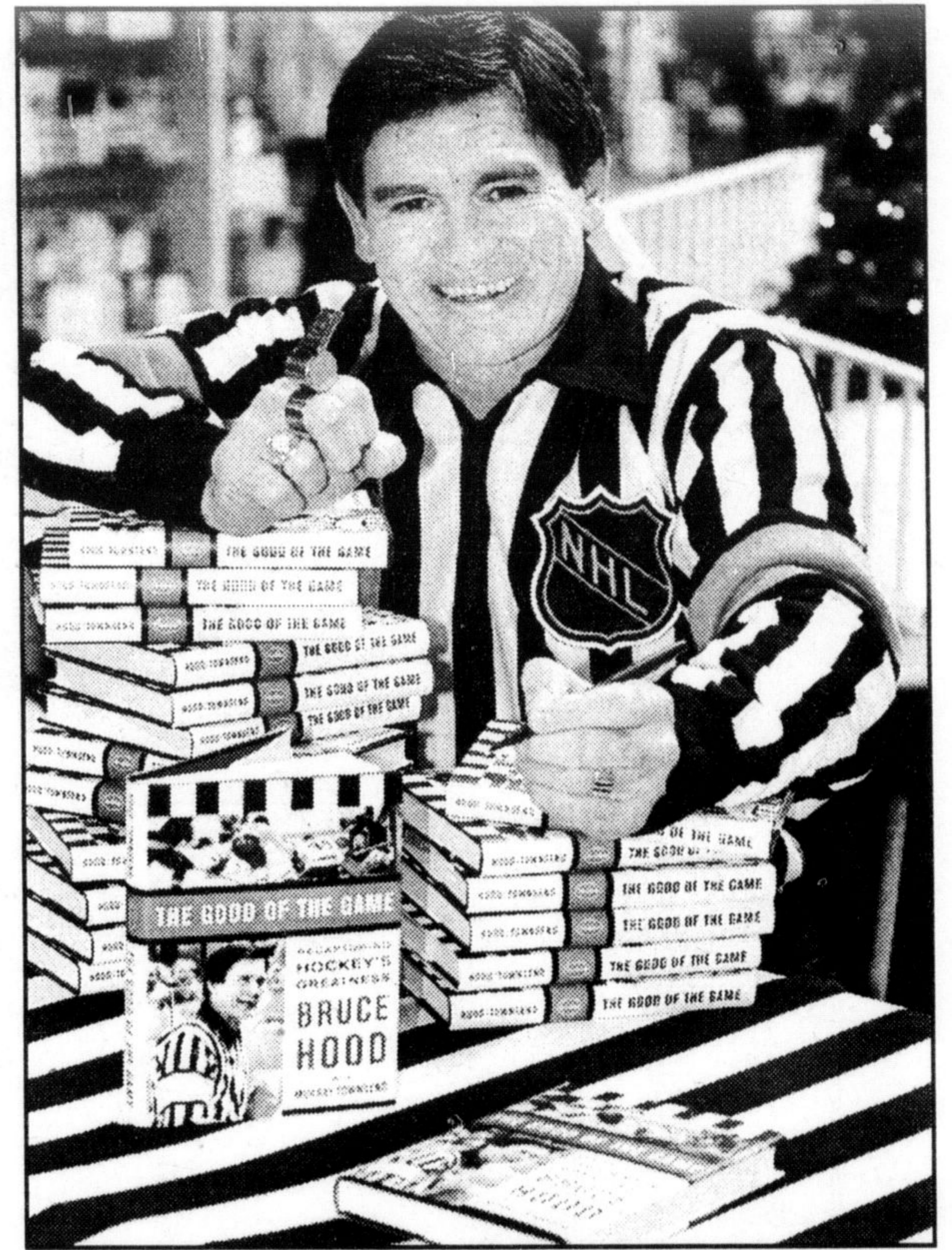


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Former NHL referee Bruce Hood is still calling the shots in his recently-released second book.

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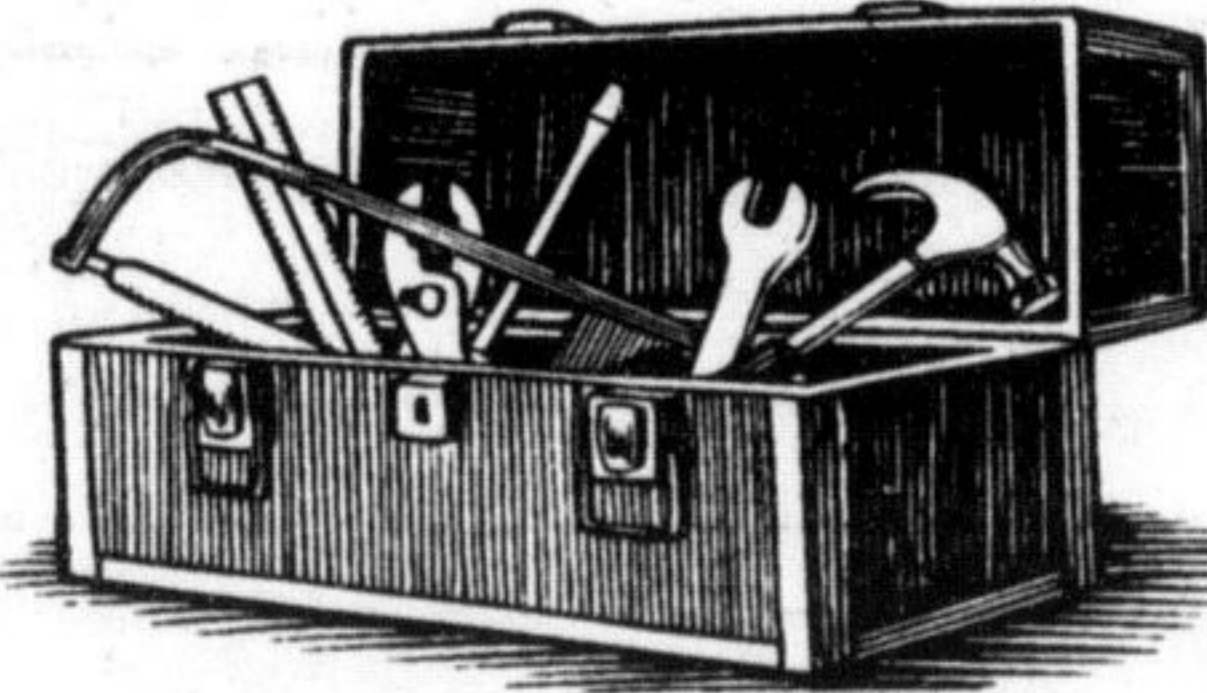
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