

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, January 10, 1990—16

Merchants edge Capitals but are losing hope for third

from MERCHANTS on page 14 from Daw at 1:45 of the second. Brampton's Paul Tamburro replied when he swept a rebound under Muldoon at 9:40.

As the period ran out, Foster picked up a pass and as the goalie came out to meet him he swept around and fired into the net 30 feet away but the buzzer beat the puck and the score remained 4-3.

Figliano displayed great concentration when he spun around as he was falling and shot the puck under Mazzoli at 2:25 of the third period to restore Milton's two-goal lead.

A minute and a half later, Brampton's Vito Marciello tucked the disc upstairs on a sprawled Muldoon but only a minute after that Jason Caccamo converted a three-on-two for the Merchants.

Thirteen seconds later, Brampton's Clancy Seymour fired a shot from the point and brought his team back to within one goal.

At 15:36, Hart scored the final goal of the game when he fired a rebound in from the deep slot low to the glove side.

As the game wound down, Capital Nick Davero and Merchant Pat O'Leary had words in front of the Capital net. Davero shoved O'Leary and the Merchant popped him. The linesmen stopped anything further from happening but as the players skated back to the bench, Brampton's Len Sparks skated over to O'Leary spoiling for a fight.

When the dust settled, referee Ron MacLean gave Brampton an extra penalty even though they had little to do with instigating the incident.

Five Brampton players followed MacLean around the ice demanding an explanation. As play resumed the Brampton bench let forth with its displeasure. The penalty had effectively



K.C. Foster scored once

ended hopes for a Brampton comeback.

"I can't believe calls like that," said McElroy. "In front of the net there should have been an instigator penalty called." He was visibly upset, and said McLean had officiated Capitals' game the night before.

"We let a couple of garbage goals in and so did their guy (Mazzoli) and he can be top notch," said Merchant coach Rick Bince.

"We were in control. It seems that when we gave the opposition a break they'd score, but our breaks weren't going in."

Central Ontario Jr. B

	G	W	L	T	Pt
Oakville	31	21	3	7	49
Streetsville	31	17	7	7	41
Burlington	30	18	9	3	39
Milton	31	14	13	4	32
Peterborough	29	9	15	5	23
Brampton	30	6	17	7	19
Georgetown	30	4	25	1	9

Stars complain to Gordie; Beddoes tells Ballard's version

By BRAD REAUME

A pair of sports-related books hit the market recently. Both volumes exhibit a twist on the usual sports formula of event writing.

After the Applause by Charles Wilkins, with writing credits to Colleen and Gordie Howe, traces the present circumstances of a number of former National Hockey League stars such as Phil Esposito, Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion, Stan Mikita, and Bobby Hull. The book gives a brief description of each player's hockey career as much for a character study as a biography.

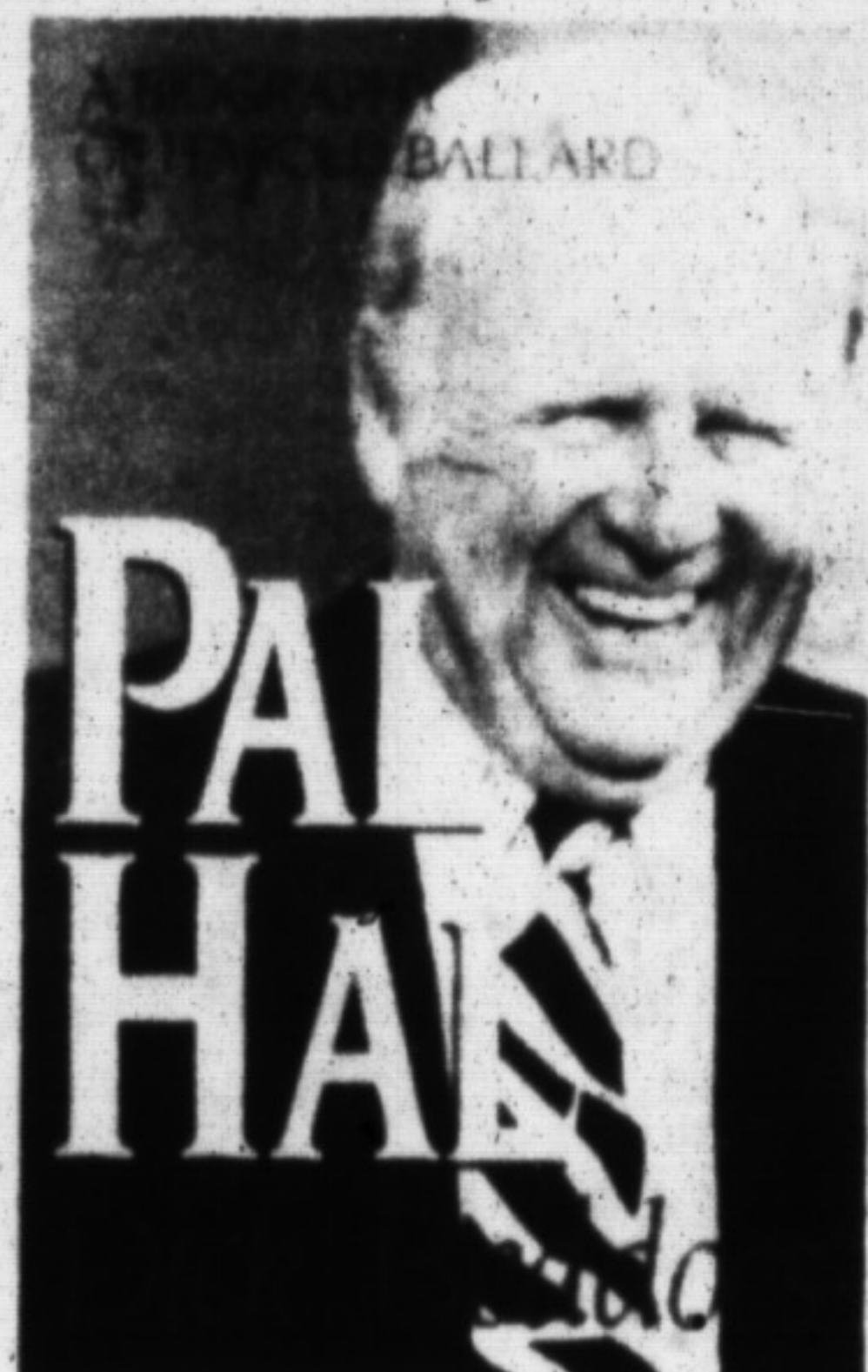
Pal Hal by Dick Beddoes, purports to be a definitive biography of Harold Ballard. It is, however, written with Ballard's authorization and encouragement, so like all books written under such circumstances, how definitive can it be?

After the Applause isn't much more than a litany of complaints about management mistreatment. Not that the former players don't have a right to complain but all those interviewed are living in comfortable circumstances.

The real story is the players, of an earlier day, who were left with nothing after a career in hockey, who were merely discarded when their skills deteriorated. That is barely mentioned.

The book does succeed when the athlete looks back at himself, explains his motivations, abilities and reasons for playing, and for other greater or lesser known actions. It is the illumination of a celebrated life which makes the book interesting.

When the athletes reveal it didn't cross their minds that 15,000 fans paying \$5 a ticket to watch a game put \$75,000 into the owner's pocket in a single contest, and when they admit they realized they were underpaid even by the standards of the day let alone the present standards of professional sport, it is hard to sympathize with them.



At the same time it is easy to sympathize with the broken promises facing the players once their careers were over. Management jobs turning into scouting in remote territories, instantaneous cuts in pay, heavy schedules of appearances and promotions all for the organization which promised more than it delivered.

The real story was missed. For every single star player ensconced in the book there are hundreds of lesser lights, faces in the crowd, who are left in obscurity, in dire circumstances because they chose a career that spat them out as obsolete at 35 years of age. Gordie Howe, "Rocket" Richard, Phil Esposito and Stan Mikita stepped out of the spotlight, they didn't fall.

Pal Hal by Dick Beddoes is superficial in its treatment of Harold Ballard. Beddoes dutifully takes notes of what Ballard says and with little or no research to back up those statements merely writes them down.

The title page of the book says it all. "PAL HAL: An uninhibited, no-holds-barred account of the life and times of Harold Ballard writ-

ten by his great and irreverent friend Dick Beddoes."

That explanation does contain a shred of truth; the book is more about the times that Ballard lived in than it is about the man himself. The probable reason is that a sympathetic biography of Ballard would not fill a magazine article let alone a book.

The book is full of history about Maple Leaf Gardens, about Conn Smythe's Sportsman's Battalion in the Second World War, and about the swirl of history which surrounded Ballard. The problem is the same swirl of history surrounded you, me, and all the used-car salesmen in the world.

Beddoes colloquializes and trivializes history. "A few Canadians were scheduled to help the Americans finish what the Japanese had started in the Pacific. We were saved from that perilous adventure when Harry Truman certified the dropping of atomic super-bombs on the doomed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Retrospection and second-guessing of our inhumanity to a wicked enemy came later," he writes.

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