

SPORT SPOTS

by Ron Craine

It doesn't matter one little bit what the scientists have to say on the matter — December 24th is far and away the longest night of the year. Ask any six or seven year old what his opinion is and December 24th is just four times and seven hours longer than any of the remaining three hundred and sixty-four days.

Christmas is a magical time for many people. Old grudges and feuds are temporarily forgotten or forgiven and scowling faces wear a happy smile albeit a little weak. It's a pity that the Spirit of Christmas can't carry over through all the year. It would certainly be a vastly different world.

During years of war and strife, when Christian nations fought bitterly, one against the other, the Christmas season was usually a time when hostilities, although not completely halted, seemed to be a little less of a war of attrition and a lull was definitely noticeable.

During the past few weeks, news of a new war, that promises no cessation of hostilities, nor even any lull, is with us. On every sports page of every newspaper in the country are found leads that read —

"SCORES WINNING GOAL, ENDS UP IN HOSPITAL"
That caption was the result of a game of hockey played in an Eastern Ontario town. The goal scored was the lone goal of the game and feelings ran somewhat high. Four minutes before the game ended, the boy who scored the winning goal was carved up around the head as someone used a hockey stick more like an axe than anything else. The injury was so bad and the bleeding so profuse that the player had to be hospitalized.

It isn't a nice story at all. The terrifying part about it is the fact that this is NOT an isolated case of hooliganism but just one incident in a trend that seems to demand sheer downright brutality on the part of hockey players in any league or age group.

Think back, you hockey fans, to games that you have seen this year and you'll recall at least one instance of slashing or spearing that was attempted, if not successful.

Recently, on a nation-wide hockey telecast, viewers, and many of them children, were treated to the sight of two lustrous names in the N.H.L. jousting at each other with hockey sticks. What great entertainment! As HOCKEY players these boys are better than most. As FENCERS they don't even begin to be entertaining nor are they very skilful. Despite rumours to the contrary, most people go to see hockey played and they are not entertained by such stupid behaviour from players that definitely do know better, or should.

At the end of the second period of the game mentioned above, "Punch" Imlach of the Leafs was interviewed and was asked his opinion of the charges of brutality levelled by Andy Bathgate.

Mr. Imlach said he would have been hurt if his team had not been a target for Bathgate's charges and as far as he was concerned he wasn't interested in having a Lady Byng trophy winner on his club!

His statements seem to be an endorsement of Mr. Bathgate's charges and one would almost gather that hockey club executives like players who have a talent for clobbering the opposition illegally but neatly enough to go undetected, at least most of the time.

Frank Boucher, centerman of the famed Cook, Boucher, Cook line of the New York Rangers won the Lady Byng seven times and was finally awarded permanent possession of the trophy. The trophy awarded now is a replica of the original.

Mr. Boucher not only played clean, sportsmanlike hockey, he also became the star centerman of all time. Take a look in the records of the Hall of Fame, and Frank Boucher's name is very prominent.

It is a lucky thing that he came on the scene before Punch Imlach and that someone on the New York Ranger executive didn't have Imlach's outlook. Who would have heard of Frank Boucher? And what would the Cook boys have done for a living?

Let's not kid ourselves. The style of play from Glace Bay to Heckangone is set by what professional hockey club executives think the public want to see. They seem to think that the finer points of play are not appreciated and that to sell the game a little dirt is necessary. Somewhat like producing Shakespeare with a chorus line added. In neither case is anything enhanced, rather the production loses a great deal of its original intent.

Out on the unlightened west coast, hockey attendance had sagged very badly. Hockey executives were down to their last roll of tape when they decided on a very novel approach, they were going to present HOCKEY. International rules were adopted and the public was so overcome at seeing hockey played as it was meant to be played that attendance rose and rose and rose. Boy! let me tell you these fellows out on the coast will just never learn — will they?

Strategy in the N.H.L. today seems to be comparatively simple. If the other team has a GREAT hockey player, send a not-quite-so-good player out against him. Let the player be as cute as a button and tie the good player up by any means, fair or foul. A mediocre player can make a super-star look ordinary when he is draped over his back most of the evening with a little strategic clutch and grab thrown in.

This whole piece started out about Christmas and Christmas leads, most naturally, to kids. Ever watched the younger set play hockey? They are out there emulating the hero of the moment and if Pat Smith hits a guy a bit dirty to stop 'im, so'll I.

If you think this is any exaggeration, watch the minor games and see how the younger set behaves. The best example to be found today is Mr. Roger Cote of the Marlboros. This kid doesn't play hockey so much as steam rollers into or over anyone who is unfortunate enough to be on the ice with him. Someday, sometime, someone will be hurt seriously by one of Cote's wild rushes. The sad part is that Roger can be a great hockey player if only his bosses straighten him out in time.

There is an old saying that as the twig is bent, so grows the tree. Young twigs these days are having a good part of their characters moulded by what they see of hockey on the television screen, and the mould is not a good one.

Hockey is the greatest game on earth and the fastest. Injuries can be come by quite accidentally by the sheer speed of the game alone without adding to the hazard by employing illegal tactics.

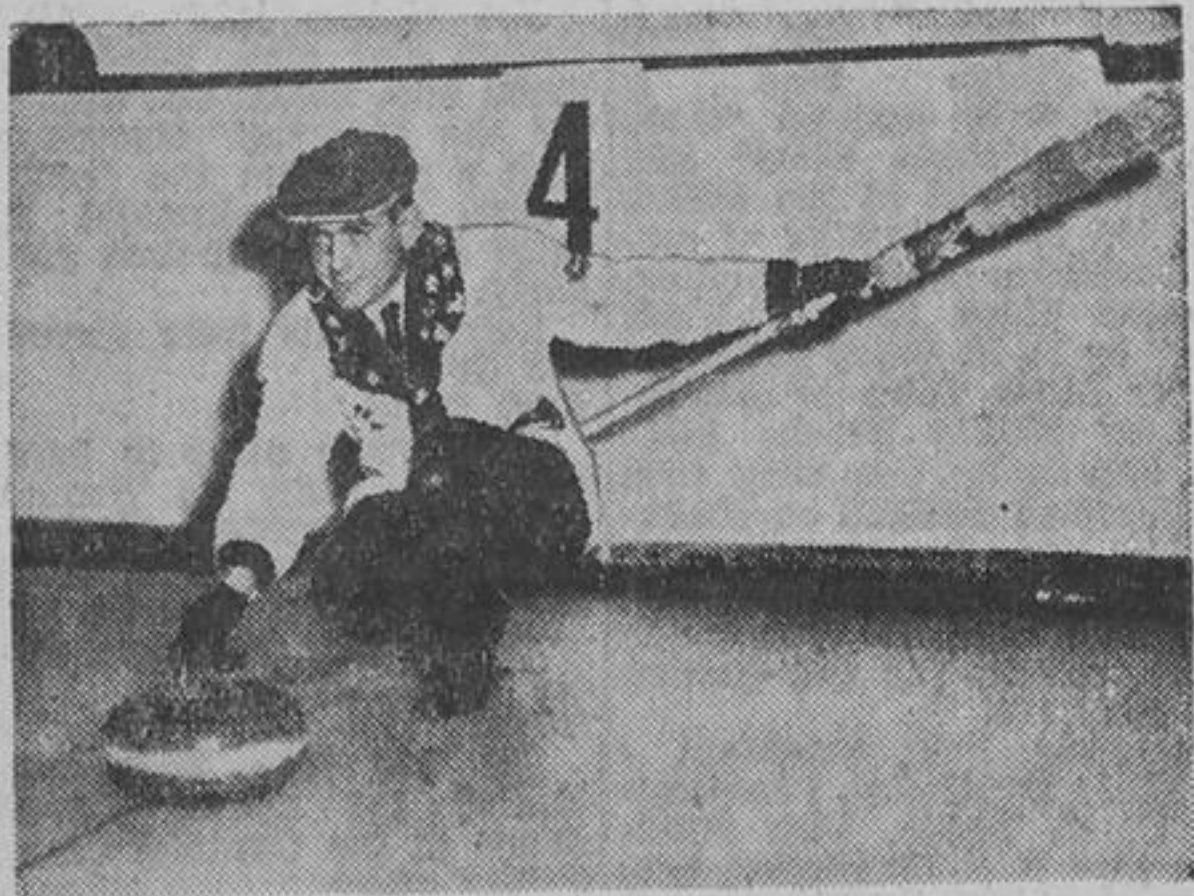
Let's give everyone a big Christmas present by cleaning up the game of hockey. Everybody would be a big winner, players, coaches, directors and hockey club presidents — but the biggest winners of all would be the young hockey players in your family and mine.

A very Merry Christmas to you and yours and may it be just as happy as your every wish.

DISTRICT SPORT NEWS

Ken Watson On Curling

Sag Your Muscles When Tossing Rock



Arnold Richardson shows balanced stance needed for delivery.

(By KEN WATSON)
Distributed by Toronto Telegram News Service (Canada's "Mr. Curling", Ken Watson of Winnipeg, is covering the Canadian curling scene for "The Liberal". This is another in a series of 20 articles.)

To be poised and relaxed at the same time verges on the paradoxical yet it is true that most champions, whatever the sport, can achieve this sublime combination of tense inward concentration and outer muscular composure. Curling is no exception and any rock-tosser who wants to be effective must acquire the ability to sag his muscles without relaxing his mental intensity while in the hack.

The pert, young gentleman posing in the accompanying illustration as a model for all curlers to emulate, is the Number 3 man of the current Canadian and International Champions, Arnold Richardson of Regina. This youthful vice-skip practices a balanced stance, delivery and follow-through that is beautiful to behold. He optimizes the perfect form of poised relaxation in the hack that every curler imagines himself practising until some sadistic friend takes a snapshot and reveals the horrible truth.

Take another look at Canada's best third man in 1959 and picture your profile in the hack against his style. How do you thrust out easily to the side

with the broom straw pointed slightly up and away from your body? Does your right arm reach lazily forward at full length to the handle of the stone? Are the fingers of your right hand resting lightly on the handle instead of frantically clutching it in a vice-like grip? Are you sitting on your right heel comfortably or are you stretching forward with your haunches high in the air like Disney's Pluto putting on the brakes? The stance is a take-off - not a landing. Arnold Richardson demonstrates the position of a curler in the hack ready to commence his backswing. Every part of his anatomy faces the skip's broom squarely - his feet, his knees, his shoulders, his hips and most important of all - his eyes. Take a quick look at yourself next visit to the hack. Put on your own quiz show but be honest to avoid special investigation.

Here is another tip to help you relax your muscles. After you have dusted off your rock and taken your stance, inhale strongly, then exhale slowly just before you begin the backswing. A silent prayer may help, too. NEXT: "WATCH YOUR FEET."

Elimination Bouts Feature Wrestling

The Central Canadian wrestling Association is presenting a fine wrestling card for this coming Tuesday, December 29, at the Thornhill Market. There will be no feature event, rather a series of bouts that will eventually decide a winner with the said winner to pick up a bonus of \$100.00. Ten wrestlers will be on the card, eight of them being in an elimination for the grand prize.

A one fall match will start out the entertainment, with Eddie Garner of Langstaff testing the skill of shifty little Kenny Monckton, not too popular but a real toughie.

The wrestlers in the \$100.00 elimination are as follows: Gori Mangotich, Joe "Scissors" Greenfield, Len Hewitt, Karl Mueller, newcomer Don Woods, Al Pekoe, Grant Wylder and last but by no means least, Jack Diamond the lighter half of the Hamilton Hoods. There will be four one fall matches one fall or 20 minutes in the event that there are no falls scored they will have a five minute overtime round, with the judges voting for the winner. Then the four winners will be paired off again in one fall or 20 minutes matches, which will leave two winners. The two winners will go at it in the final, with the winner getting the bonus of \$100.00.

This will be very nice to take home, at least that is what Gori Mangotich had to say. He will be a prime favorite to cop the prize but with opposition like Al Pekoe, Jack Diamond and the tough Tueton Karl Mueller as well as the other top flight boys, he will have to be good. For the benefit of many of the fans who have been complaining about the sleeper hold that Mangotich has been using, we have this to say. The Quebec Athletic Association has banned the hold at the Palais des Sports in Montreal where Mangotich is a frequent performer, and the Canadian Federation, Roy MacMahon, chairman, will most likely have a ruling on the hold before next Tuesday's eliminations.

Hockey Scores

Blueliners 13, King City 2
The last time that King City played the Richmond Hill Blueliners the score was 6 to 5 for the Blueliners and the Hill boys had only eight of their players out. The situation was just reversed last Thursday and King had only eight players out, due to the high school exams. But we feel that even with their full team out, the Blueliners would have beaten them. The King City boys played hard all the time and even if they were short on players and ability they made up for it in effort. They never stopped trying at any time and even with a lop-sided score like 12 to 0 they managed to sneak by two goals and they surely earned them. The Richmond Hill club looked very inept at times even against a weak team, and if they play against Newmarket as they did against King City, they will surely get beaten. Goals for the Blueliners were scored by: Rod Kelson 1, Paul Reynolds 2, Ritchie Elliott 1, Bruce Walker 2, John Grieves 2, Jim Briden 2, Dennis Richardson 3.

Newmarket 9, Blueliners 2
Newmarket Midsets clobbered the highly rated Richmond Hill Blueliners last Friday at the Newmarket Arena and looked like an N.H.L. team. The Blueliners held them for one period and then the fun began, they skated the Hill boys right into the ice, their passes were perfect, their checking superlative. They handcuffed "Fireball" Bruce Walker and showered goalie Don Laurie with rubber. Laurie incidentally played much better than the score would indicate. He played heads-up hockey and made some sensational stops especially in the second period when Newmarket went wild with five goals. Let us hope that the Blueliners got a bad one out of their system, better now than in the playoffs. Jim Briden played well for the Richmond Hill club and scored the first goal as did Denny Richardson who got the other tally.

TO ALL OUR
WRESTLING FANS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Central Canadian Wrestling Assoc.
E. D. GARNER JOE GREENFIELD

Sheppard and Gill Lumber Co., Ltd.
Builders' Supplies
LUMBER - LATHS - TRIM - SHINGLES - GYPROC
ROOFING MATERIALS
71 Centre Street East TU. 4-1361

Chrysanthemums!
For that little extra colour at Christmas time or perhaps as a gift, come and take your pick from our varied selection of potted mums — direct from the grower to you — selection limited make yours soon. Phone Stoffville 275W-2 or visit us at the greenhouse Highway 48 and 19th Ave East.
HARGRAVE GREENHOUSES, MARKHAM, ONT.

ARENA ATTRACTIONS
Skating Holiday Schedule
DECEMBER 23 AND 24 —
2 to 4 p.m. — Public Skating
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
DECEMBER 26 —
8 to 10 p.m. — Public Skating
DECEMBER 28, 29, 30, 31 —
2 to 4 p.m. — Public Skating
CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 2 —
8 to 10 p.m. — Public Skating
ICE TIME AVAILABLE
RICHMOND HILL ARENA ASSOCIATION
RICHMOND HILL TU. 4-1368

Have yourself a happy Christmas
Everyone has his own special way of making Christmas a warm and meaningful season. Taking the family to church... trimming the tree the night before... singing carols before a cozy fireplace. We hope yours is a happy Christmas and a safe one, too. When you drive, be careful... everybody's looking forward to a wonderful holiday. Merry Christmas.

JAS. GRAINGER
130 Yonge St. S.
Richmond Hill
TU. 4-1529

NORMAN BRIANT
Suite 1, Grd. Floor
31 Yonge St. North
Richmond Hill, Ont.
TU. 4-2291

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

Hockey Results

JR. "A"
Paris Electric Tiger Cubs 5
Don Thurston Tee Pees 1
Jimmy Wilson went on the rampage for the Cubs as his production for the game was three goals and an assist. Dave Duffy scored a nice goal while the other goal came off the stick of Jim Gordon assisted by Ken Chapman.

The big feature of the game for the Teepees was the fine goal scored by Midge Hiley on a nice solo effort.

Mills and Hadwin Billmores 4
Rumbles Transport Petes 0
Harvey Gordon was the sharpshooter for the Bills as he scored three goals and assisted Dave Brodrick on the team's fourth goal. Ron Leddy worked hard for Petes while Petes goalie Gary Methel played very well despite the score.

Victoria Orange Lodge Flyers 1
Consumers Gas Marlboros 0
Goal keeper Alex Bain proved to be unbeatable in the Flyer net as team mate Peter Bird notched the winning counter. Gary Parsons went well for Marlboros, but was unable to beat Mr. Bain.

A. H. L.
Loren Gordon Barons 2
Quality Utilities Reds 1
Doug Acomb scored one goal for the Barons and was also given an assist on the goal scored by Dave Smith. Billy Strugnell scored the lone goal for the Reds. As the score would indicate this was a close, hard checking game.

Superior Sand & Gravel Canadians 3
Deciantis & Rice Bisons 2
Canadians squeaked out a win over the Bisons on goals by Albert Windrum and Larry Davis. Windrum scored twice and Davis once with Billy Promaine getting an assist. Danny Shadoff and David Buckley were the Bisons scorers with an assist going to Harold Briden.

Youngs Service Station St. Mikes 3
Als Cycle & Sport Bears 3
This was a well played game with the two teams perfectly matched and was one of the better games of the season to date. Howard Cazaly, Mike Engler and Rich Ringer were the St. Mike scorers while Bob Stephens, George Anderson and Bob Patfield assisted by Ian McAllister did the honours for the bears.

N. H. L.
Halliday Fuels Leafs 5
Griffin Construction Maroons 0
Don Gibson scored two goals as Doug Carter scored one and picked up two assists. Singletons were scored by Phil Bury and Bob Boulden as Johnnie Higgins and Jim Fleming picked up assists. Brian Hixon worked hard for Maroons in a losing cause.

Town & Country Americans 5
Firefighters Canadians 0
Jim Phillips showed the way for the Americans as he scored three goals and picked up an assist. Doug Nichols and Dave

Hughes scored one each, while assists went to Bill Hughes and Mike Milson. Ed Dennis skated miles for Canadiens but was unable to stem the tide.

Rotary Club Rangers 3
Dynes Jewellers Black Hawks 3
This was another hard fought close game with both teams playing heads up hockey. Ranger goals were scored by Doug Danger, Robbie Townsend and Carl Bridges with assists by Dave Pollock, Guy Markle and Gary Everatt. Bernie Jenkins, Barry Mashinter and Bill Stone scored for Hawks assisted by Ken Wainman and Danny Walsh.

James MacKay Red Wings 6
Butler & Baird Bruins 2
Steve Sanders had a big night as he scored four big goals. Paul Ramer notched a goal and two assists with a well deserved goal going to Don Davies. Wayne Haviland scored both Bruin goals as the Bruins lost their first game in eight starts.

STANDINGS

Team	P	W	L	T	Pts.
Billmores	8	7	0	1	15
Tiger Cubs	8	5	2	1	11
Tee Pees	8	3	5	0	6
Petes	8	3	5	0	6
Marlboros	8	1	4	3	5
Flyers	8	2	5	1	5

Team	P	W	L	T	Pts.
Barons	8	6	2	0	12
Bears	8	5	2	1	11
St. Mikes	8	3	3	1	9
Canadians	8	4	4	0	8
Reds	8	3	5	0	6
Bisons	8	1	7	0	2

Team	P	W	L	T	Pts.
Red Wings	8	6	2	0	12
Leafs	8	6	2	0	12
Bruins	8	5	1	2	12
Americans	8	5	3	0	10
Hawks	8	2	3	3	7
Canadians	8	2	3	2	6
Rangers	8	1	4	3	5
Maroons	8	0	8	0	0

World's Champion Defends His Title
Quebec City, December 11. Roger Vallee recognized as the world's middleweight wrestling champion in most of the provinces and the eastern U. S. A., successfully defended his title against Jacques La Rose of Montreal, a former champion. A record crowd of 5000 fans jammed La Tour to witness the event. After the match Vallee announced he will embark on a two month tour of Canada, U.S.A. and Mexico. Alex "Tiger" Jensen defeated Joe White of Montreal in the semi windup of the Championship card.

NORTH YONGE BOWLING
North Yonge Bowling Palace on Yonge St. Willowdale will be closed December 23, 24 and 27.

Bill Ding Says



SEE OUR HUGE SELECTION OF WALL PANELING FOR YOUR HOME... BUY WHAT MATERIALS YOU NEED — ON BUDGET TERMS.

Drive In - Free Parking



RICHVALE on Yonge St. AV. 5-4921
WILLOWDALE, on Yonge St., BA. 1-9316

A FRIENDLY HELLO
With best wishes for Holiday Happiness from our door to yours.
THE MANAGEMENT & STAFF OF YANGTZE PAGODA Restaurant
Yonge St. N. Richmond Hill