

Heaven Is A Thing Called National Hockey League

Just like the song says, the road's going to be "lonelier and rougher" this season for 20-year-old Oak Ridges hockey star Bob Wall as he takes on steam for the uphill skate from junior into professional hockey. "But I feel sure I'll be able to stick with the pros," offers Bob from behind a sturdy 180-pound frame and four just-completed seasons as a defenseman with the Hamilton Junior "A" Cubs in the Detroit Red Wing chain.

"It's something I made up my mind to do a long time ago when I was just starting out in minor hockey at home. You have to have a lot of confidence in yourself. I lost my confidence once and now that it's back I don't intend to lose it again."

Bob's loss of confidence came in his second season with the Hamilton Cubs when "I all of a sudden forgot how to play hockey."

"The coach benched me for one game," he recalls, "and when I started the next one I was worse than ever. I couldn't do anything right."

Bob's miseries and woes staggered

ed along for about two months as the puck insisted on going one way when he was going to the other.

"It was then the coach and myself," he said, "decided the only way to lick this thing was for me to step down and play some games with the Junior 'B' club until I found myself again."

Life with the Junior 'B's' was of short duration for Bob as he discovered the rarified atmosphere of the "A" league was the only bouquet of roses for him.

"After two games I had my confidence again and I finished out the year with the Cubs." Bob's "finish" was unique to the point where he was voted the club's best defenseman.

This was just one of several similar awards Bob managed to cop in his four seasons of Junior "A" hockey.

"I was just about 16 when I joined the Cubs for the 1959-60 season," he reminisced. "I was right out of minor hockey and green as grass."

Bob soon adjusted to his duties

though and before the season was over won the Cub's "Rookie of the Year Trophy" and scored something like six goals and 20 assists from his rear-guard position.

"The club didn't do so well that year," said Bob observing that the Cubs finished a "dead last". Of course Bob and his mates were facing some fairly stiff competitors in the forms of present day NHL'ers the like of Ed Westfall, Pat Stapleton — and a chap by the name of Dave Keon.

The next year came Bob's slump, then his recovery to lead the team's defense.

But it took the season of 1961-62 to provide Bob with his biggest hockey thrill to date.

"That was the year," he remembers wistfully, "that we captured the Memorial Cup. Now that was a thrill. We finished in second spot and then went on to take the OHA and Memorial Cup title." Oh, incidentally, Bob was named best defenseman for his club all over again.

But it was doldrum time again for Hamilton last year as the club

finished a rather dejected fourth in the league due in part to the loss of many of its key players. This didn't stop Bob though as he once again took the team's trophy as top defenseman. He was a member of the league's first All-Star Team during his final two seasons.

As for the future, Bob feels the pro league "will be tougher if only because the players are older and a lot wiser in the tricks of the game."

But Bob has had his taste of some of the tricks in short stints with Edmonton and Pittsburgh of the AHL and in workouts with the parent Detroit Red Wings.

"I've always admired the Red Wings," Bob said, "and especially Gordie Howe."

It was the great Howe that poured in on Wall during one of the training sessions and pulled a shift on me "that I'm still trying to recover from. I still don't know where he went to."

Of the defencemen in the NHL, Bob has the most admiration for Tim Horton of the Maple Leafs and Pierre Pilote of the Chicago Black Hawks.

"That Horton is quite a player," he pointed out. "He has a great knack of getting the puck out of his own end."

Bob also has an "unhealthy" admiration for the much-touted Horton slap-shot.

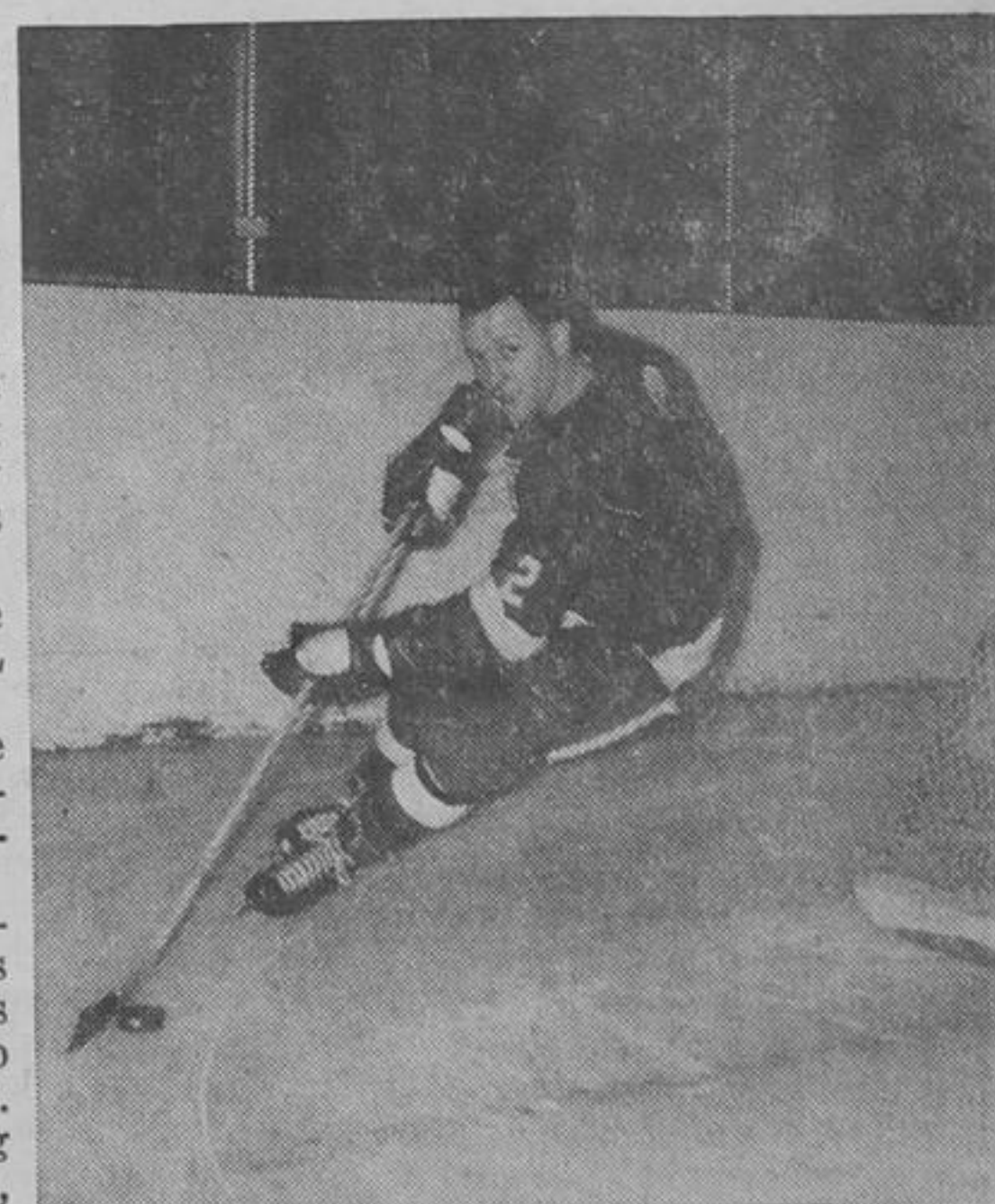
"I was playing against him in an exhibition game when he let loose with a real blister. I tried to block it. The trouble was I did. It hit my shin pad and I thought my leg was broken."

Bob feels that he will be able to hold his own someday in the NHL — but maybe not for a while.

"I'd like to get some experience under my belt in the minor professional league for a while before tackling the big league."

But in the meantime Bob is cooling his summer-heels as he waits word from the Detroit Red Wings to report to their training camp which opens on or about September 8.

"I don't know who I'll be playing with this season," concluded Bob, "but whoever it is I'll be in there to make good."



BOB WALL IN ACTION

SPORT SPOTS

BY RON CRAINE



Come this time of the year and most everyone we know starts to take a big interest in football. It seems to come a little earlier each year. Time was when September was football time and it was all over before Christmas. Now it starts in July, ends some time after New Year's Day, and gets plenty of newspaper ink in the intervening months.

Under the system of yesteryear, Friday afternoon was the traditional time for high school football games while the O.R.F.U. and Big Four teams always played on Saturday afternoons. All that has gone by the boards, too. Pick any day from Monday to Friday and high school teams are hard at it. The pros don't play much Saturday ball any more, but seem to prefer night games throughout the week. All the tradition is being shot to heck!

On a golden autumn Saturday afternoon, Varsity Stadium used to be like a big magnet, attracting people from all corners of the City of Toronto and environs. They came by street car, bus, automobile, some hitch-hiked, while others walked. It was a festive occasion and, while the football was taken seriously, especially in games between Hamilton and Toronto, the crowd was in a holiday mood.

These days the big boys have deserted the more compact Varsity Stadium for the wide open spaces of the C.N.E. Grandstand. More spectators can jam in to see the game, but the fun seems to have gone out of it. Everyone is so deadly serious! No one seems to have a really good time.

As far as the calibre of the football played in the big leagues is concerned, it's undoubtedly better. Where football used to be a sideline with Toronto Argonauts and Hamilton Tiger-Cats players, who mostly played for fun, today's pro player is a serious young specialist. He plays clinically sound football but somehow he lacks the colour of a guy named Red Storey, who used to hitch-hike down to Varsity Stadium just to play football for the sheer joy of it. He was so well paid that he had to hitch-hike back to Barrie after each game!

WATCH OUR INDIANS

If that's the kind of football you remember and would like to see again, then by all means turn out to watch the Richmond Hill Indians operate in the Toronto Rugby Football Union games. Last year the Indians won the league championship and every team in the league will be out to dethrone them this year.

There isn't one Indian who earns so much as a shipplaster for his efforts. They are out playing football because they enjoy it, and for no other reason. The rest of the teams in the league are comprised of players who feel exactly the same way about the game. It makes for good, fast, crowd-pleasing football.

Because they are playing the game for fun and not for a nice fat pay cheque, the players come up with a wide-open razzle-dazzle type of game. Some of the plays are real dippy-doodle affairs and are reminiscent of the hot potato type ball once employed by the Argos of old. A thrill a minute and, if you stop to sneeze, you never know what you might miss!

Most of last year's Indian squad is in harness and ready for the opener on August 31st against their arch-rivals, the Northwestern Ghosts. The opener will be played at Keelestdale Park, while the Indians will play at home on Saturday, September 7. Game time is set for 2 p.m. at the Richmond Hill Town Park. Rain or shine, it will be a game well worth seeing.

So if you, too, once enjoyed football on a golden autumn Saturday afternoon, try to get to see at least one of these games. Somehow the nice bright sunshine, a hazy fall afternoon, and the smell of burning leaves adds something to the game. Something you can recapture on a Saturday afternoon at (Continued On Page 10)

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The Liberal

"In Essentials Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty; in all things Charity"

RICHMOND HILL, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 1963

HOME PAPER OF THE DISTRICT SINCE 1878

Second Section



Indians Getting In The Mood

Getting off on the right foot is the philosophy of the champion Richmond Hill Indians and two members show it here as they practice the vital point-after-touchdown during practice scrimmages this week at the town park. Putting the toe to the pigskin is defensive end Dick Reiner while ace halfback Ian McIntosh looks on approvingly after placing the ball. The Indians open August 31 against the Northwestern Ghosts at Keelestdale Park. Their first home game in the Metro Rugby Football League is slated for the afternoon of September 7 at the Richmond Hill Town Park.

Kent Clothes

Put Out Of Playdowns

It was a mighty short O.A.S.A. season for the Kent Clothes junior softball team. They played only one game against Scarborough and lost a 4-0 decision to the east-end squad.

Game Defaulted The second game saw the game awarded to Scarborough as the Clothiers turned out to play with only eight men available. Game over right there and Scarborough advances into the next round of the provincial play-downs.

The result was particularly disappointing for Kent Hurler Larry Guio. In the opening game of the series he struck out 14 only to have two Kent errors and a Scarborough home run spell defeat. He never got a chance to even up with the second game going by default!

Exhibition Games Playoffs in their league are somewhat up in the air and coach Joe Cornack figures to finish out the season with a series of exhibition tilts. The Clothiers have provided some fine softball entertainment during the year and it is our sincere hope that their sponsor

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Newmarket And District Soccer Results

Maple 5, Barrie 4; Newmarket First 4, Etobicoke First 1; Orillia 5, Midland 5; Richmond Hill 2, Etobicoke Seconds 0; Uxbridge 2, Aurora Seconds 0; Aurora First 4, Newmarket Seconds 0.

League Standings	P	W	L	T	Pts.
Aurora I's	15	13	2	0	26
N'm'ket I's	15	12	2	1	25
Maple	15	12	3	0	24
Barrie	14	9	4	1	19
Rich. Hill	15	8	4	3	19
Midland	15	6	5	4	16
Uxbridge	15	7	6	2	16
Etobi. I's	14	4	8	2	10
Orillia	14	3	8	3	9
N'm'ket II's	15	2	11	2	6
Etobi. II's	14	2	12	0	4
Aurora II's	15	1	14	0	2

Local Lawn Bowlers Impress At Oshawa

Members of the Richmond Hill Lawn Bowling Club did themselves up proud recently when they managed a seventh place finish in a field of 80 competing clubs throughout Ontario at Oshawa.

The occasion was that city's Gold Cup Tournament. "The competition was really stiff," comments Jim Grainger, skip of the four-man local team. Other stalwarts were Stan Piper, Ed Lane, "Curley" Lynett.

Winning honors went to Jack Beacon's Balmy Beach squad.

Clubs competing were from scattered centres such as Belleville, Cornwall, Windsor and Kingston.

Youth Bowling League At Allencourt Lanes

The five pin bowling season is almost here and a new departure in children's leagues is being attempted at Allencourt Lanes. For a registration fee of 50c, young bowlers will be enrolled in the Ontario Youth Bowling Council which operates under the guidance of the B.P.A.O.

In former years bowling awards were beyond the reach of the very young bowler. This year a new award system will make even the youngest bowler eligible to win awards of merit.

Registration for this league will be held at Allencourt Lanes on Saturday, September 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is 50c with bowlers from 8 to 18 years eligible. Bowling will start at 8.30 a.m. Saturday mornings and carry through until 11.30 a.m.

Instruction for the youthful bowlers will be provided by Jim Hoult and Bill Kirk. Each bowler will be assigned to a team and each team will have a responsible coach. Supervisors will be on hand to take care of any needs or mishaps that may arise.

President of the new league is a major league bowler, Mr. Les Chidley. General secretary is Mrs. Ellen Parrett with Mrs. Joan Laird attending to the duties of treasurer. The two supervisors, Mrs. Madge Nicholson and Mr. Pat Patterson have many years of children's bowling league experience behind them.

During the bowling season it is planned to take teams to other

WILLOWDALE: A proposal to give North York Township control over the cutting up of streets for utilities installations has been turned over to the executive committee of Council. The proposal recommends all utilities installations be approved first by North York giving it control over location of services and establishing a Court of Appeal for public protests.

Metro Major Fastball Standing

	P	W	T	L	G	Pts.
Franklin	19	15	0	4	1	30
Dynes	20	13	1	6	0	27
Aurora D's	20	9	0	11	0	18
Gazzola & Allen	19	8	1	11	1	17
Markham	20	8	0	12	0	16
Robertshaw	20	5	0	15	0	10
One game left with Gazzola & Allen and Franklin's Men's Wear to decide fourth and third standing.						

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