

## SPORTS SLANTS

- By Ray Shank

Well, do you believe me now, that I'm the world's greatest "screwer-up-er"? You can't say I didn't warn you well in advance. Here I thought Ottawa Rough Riders were a cinch to breeze by Hamilton Tiger Cats for the CFL eastern conference title (and I said so in my pre-Grey Cup column) (which unfortunately the News did not get to print) and what do they do? They lose by 15 points to the Ticats and thus drop the two-game, total points series by three points. But that's not an unusual prediction for me, folks, as you'll learn in weeks to come. As you're probably aware, this column is written a couple of weeks before publication in the Terrace Bay News. As I'm writing this, the Grey Cup game hasn't been played. I'm picking Hamilton to take the Cup. Now see what happens!!!

Turning to the sport of swimming, Johnny Weismuller the man who played Tarzan many years ago and later was the Jungle Jim of movie and TV, says he was better than Mark Spitz, who won seven gold medals for swimming at the Munich Olympics, when it came to swimming. Weismuller, now 68, won five swimming gold medals for the U.S., three at Paris in 1924 and two at Amsterdam in 1928. "I never lost a race," says Johnny, "even when I was swimming at the YMCA." Weismuller added: "Besides, four of the events Spitz won medals in didn't even exist when I swam in the Olympics. Spitz is a sprinter. I set 67 world records in distance events, from 50 yards to 880 yards." And Weismuller gives a bunch of explanations why it's easier to swim faster nowadays. Sounds, though, like the ex-Tarzan character is peeved that Spitz is going to make a pile of money endorsing various products and making movies. Weismuller didn't benefit from his Olympic medals until two years after his performances, when his coach got him a swimsuit contract that earned him \$500 a week. A short time later he made the first of his 19 movies. Spitz is likely to make millions just this year ...

Turning to hockey, which is more appropriate for this time of year and for this country, Montreal Canadiens' Jacques Lemaire appears to be headed for his greatest goal-scoring season. In his sixth season with the Habs (and in the NHL), the 27 year-old center has never scored more than 32 goals in any one season in the NHL. By now he probably has 25 or 26 he had 19 (tops in the league) when this column was written -- and that was in 22 games. The only player

to have ever scored more goals in 22 games was Bobby Hull. He scored 20 in a 22-game span a few years ago. At the time of this writing, Lemaire also shared the points lead with -- who else -- Boston's Phil Esposito (each had 34) ....

At last count, 17 hat tricks had been recorded in the National Hockey League, a feat never accomplished in so few games. Also at last count, Montreal's Ken Dryden was showing consistency.

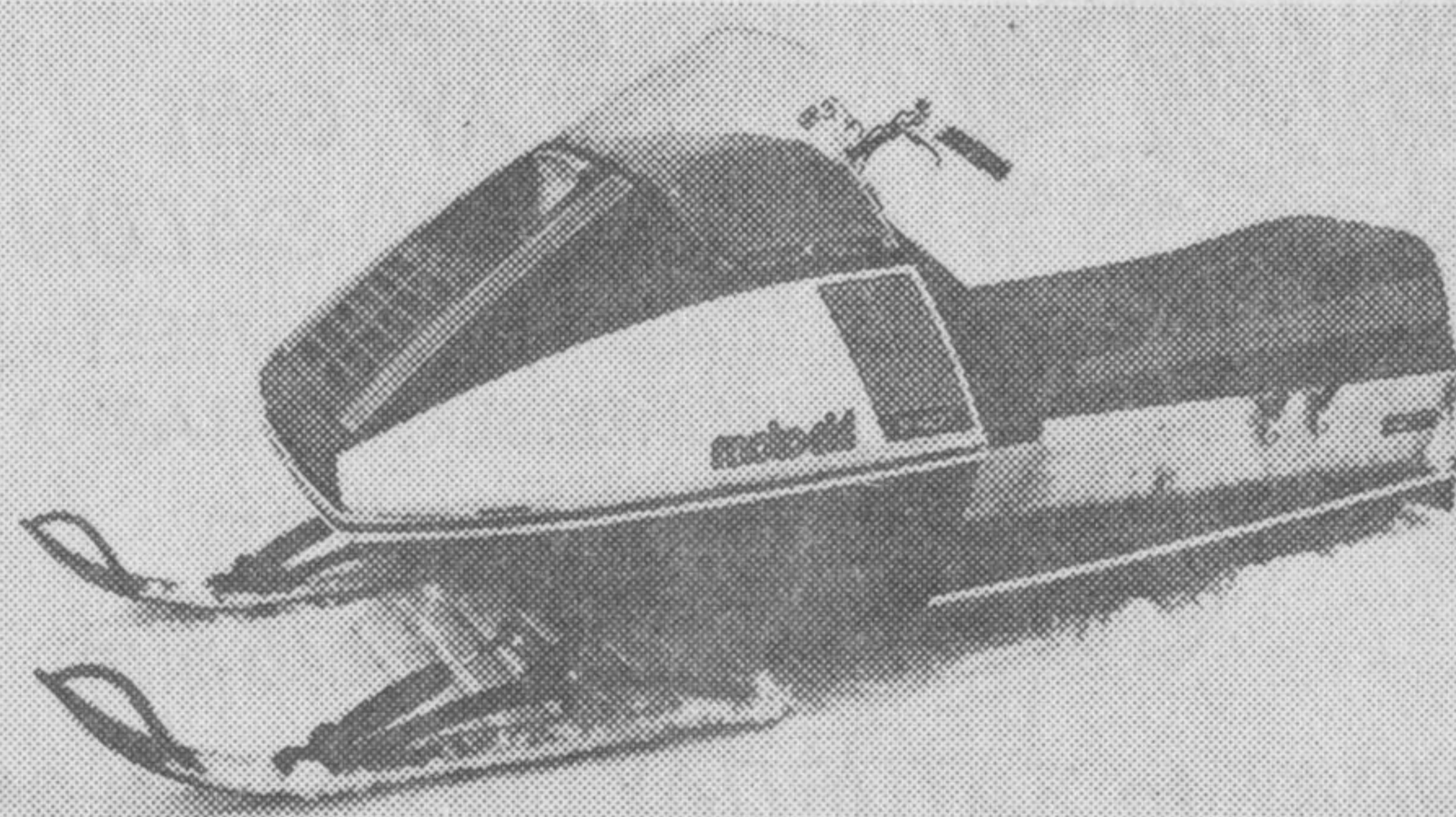
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