

SPORTS SLANTS

By Ray Shank

So what did you think of the NHL east division's all-star team selections?

Guess you didn't have much to cheer about if you're a Detroit or Toronto fan. The Leafs, who appear to get worse every time they play, and the Red Wings, who are making a determined bid to overtake Buffalo Sabres for that fourth playoff spot, didn't place a single player on the all-star squad.

Montreal fans like myself, however had reason to click their heels. Six of the twelve selected were Canadiens. You can't ask for better than that. And they were all deserving choices.

For starters, Ken Dryden was a near-unanimous choice for the first team goaltending position. Pity his brother Dave, of Buffalo, didn't get picked for the second team. Instead they chose New York's Gilles Villemure.

Actually, Dave Dryden, I felt deserved all-star recognition. At the half-way mark of the schedule, Dryden was only .10 behind Villemure, percentage-wise, he had two shutouts and Villemure had none and had seen more action than the Ranger goalie.

Besides, the Sabres, although they're a serious threat to make the playoffs this season, are not supposed to be as powerful a club as the Rangers (P.S. - Punch Imlach wouldn't believe that, since the Rangers have beaten the Sabres only once in four meetings this year).

The other Canadian picks were defencemen Guy Lapointe and Serge Savard, centre Jacques Lemaire, rightwinger Yvan Cournoyer and leftwinger Frank Mahovlich. All good choices.

Others named to the team were Bobby Orr (the only unanimous choice), Brad Park, Phil Esposito, Rene Robert and Richard Martin.

Others who probably should have made at least the second team were the third member of Buffalo's French Connection line, Gilbert Perreault, Rod
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