

SPORTS SLANTS

- By Ray Shank

Yes, it's that time of year again, folks .. a time when Swami Shank looks back at his pre-season hockey predictions and tries to make excuses about how and why things went wrong.

Must say, however, that my predictions this year, while far from being perfect, outsmarted many of the so-called experts.

Of the eight teams who wound up in the Stanley Cup playoffs, I had picked six. Los Angeles Kings didn't make it in the west and Toronto Maple Leafs missed out in the east. While the Leafs were never in the running, the Kings weren't eliminated until the final weekend of regular play.

Buffalo Sabres, who did make it (they nosed out Detroit on the final night of the sked with a 3-1 win over St. Louis), were my dark-horse choice to nose out Toronto, so I don't consider my not picking them a real boo-boo.

I picked Montreal to finish first and they did, in flying colours, setting a new record for least defeats (just 10). I had the Rangers down for second, but they floundered in the clutch (like they usually do) and wound up in third, five points behind Boston Bruins.

The 'experts' had picked either New York or Boston to finish first and most of them picked Montreal for third. And none of them picked Buffalo to make the playoffs.

In the west, I had Minnesota first, Chicago second, Los Angeles third and Philadelphia fourth.

I had good reason for picking the North Stars over the Black Hawks. The Stars hadn't lost a single player to the raiding WHA and, most important, the Hawks had lost their key player -- Bobby Hull.

Surprisingly, the Minnesotans didn't play quite up to par and another Hull (Dennis), had his greatest season ever and his linemates Jim Pappin and Pit Martin, also played brilliant hockey to lead the team to a first place finish.

NOTICE

TERRACE BAY LADIES' CURLING CLUB
ANNUAL MEETING

CURLING CLUB LOUNGE

TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH - 7:30 P.M.

ALL CURLING CLUB MEMBERS
ARE URGED TO ATTEND!

The rough 'n' tough Flyers from Philadelphia also surprised by finishing second. Their knock 'em down, eat 'em up-style play and the scoring heroics of Bobby Clarke and Rick MacLeish (the latter became the eighth 50-goal scorer in NHL history) proved to be the Flyers' success story.

As you read this, a couple of teams might already be eliminated in Stanley Cup play. But since you folks know that I write this column more than a week before publication, you'll forgive me if I make predictions and they're wrong.

The only series I see going the minimum four games is the Montreal-Buffalo set. And even in that one, it's quite likely the Sabres will win one game.

The other series? Well, knowing how the Rangers always flounder in the clutch (they've proved it already), I pick the Bruins in six games in that series.

Minnesota and Philadelphia will probably go the seven-game limit, while Chicago will be hard-pressed to oust St. Louis in six games.

Ooops, almost forgot to pick a winner in the Minnesota-Phillie series. I look for the North Stars to pull an upset and beat the Flyers in a brawling type of series.

The semi-finals? Montreal over Minnesota in six games and Boston over Chicago in six. The finals: Montreal over Boston in a classic seven-game series

continued page 8

PUBLIC MEETING

The Terrace Bay Planning Committee and Council are in the process of revising existing zoning requirements affecting the use of land in the Township of Terrace Bay.

A Public Meeting will be held on MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1973, at 7:30 P.M. in the large meeting room in the Recreation Centre for the purpose of reviewing the general content of the By-law prior to its passing.

Those persons who feel:

- (a) that basic changes may affect them.
- (b) are adverse to any part of the proposed new zoning by-law.
- (c) would like to bring in some further point they feel may not have been considered

are asked to attend this meeting.

The Council of The Township of Terrace Bay
The Terrace Bay Planning Committee