

Montreal Canadiens creating another hockey legend

By Bill Le Grand

As hockey fans enjoy another playoff for the Stanley Cup in 1986, we're reminded of the richness of Stanley Cup history, from 1893 to now.

Montreal clubs have dominated as champions over the years. In 1893, the Montreal AAA (Amateur Athletic Association), also known as the Winged Wheelers, won their first three Stanley Cups, without any competition.

When Jim Norris, a former player on the Wheelers, bought the Detroit Falcons in 1933, he designed the Wing logo and colour from the AAA for his new franchise. Thus, the Detroit Red Wings are strongly influenced in appearance by Montreal.

Another Montreal group, the Victorias, captured four Stanley Cups before the turn of the century, twice facing challenges from Winnipeg Victorias. The Montreal Shamrocks, representing the city's Irish community, were a power house in 1899 and 1900, when they won consecutive championships.

Long before the Canadiens became the spirit of Stanley Cup legends, Montreal proudly supported two francophone franchises—the Nationals and the Montaguards. The fabulous Nationals were national la-

crosse champions, but never won a Stanley Cup.

From 1906 to 1910, the Montreal Wanderers were world champions. Known as "The Little Men Of Iron," the Wanderers, or Red Bands, most resembled Les Canadiens of the present age.

Winning four cups in five years, the Wanderers seemed to own a patent on the silverware of Lord Stanley. One year, a Northern Ontario challenger—the Kenora Thistles—won the Stanley Cup from the Wanderers, equivalent to Terrace Bay challenging and beating the Edmonton Oilers of today.

One Wanderer player once took the old mug home to his family store, where it was filled with bubblegum for a year.

The Canadiens made their appearance in 1909-1910. From the beginning, The Flying Frenchmen were the most exciting hockey franchise in history. The Vezina Trophy reminds us of Georges Vezina, who quarterbacked the oldtime Habs to Cups in 1916 and 1924. In their early years, the Canadiens and Wanderers were powerful rivals.

Toronto's interest in professional shinney can be attributed to these Montreal clubs. In 1912, an exhibition game was played in Hogtown, as a match of goodwill to introduce folks to Montreal hockey.

Played before Christmas, the Wanderers and Canadiens re-enacted the Battle of Quebec in a bloody series of mini-wars that had Toronto's "boys in blue" restoring order.

The Toronto newspapers called the professional game barbaric, claiming the Queen City was too civilized for hockey mayhem. The following season, Toronto had two franchises in the league.

In 1924-1925, the Montreal Maroons became the city's newest franchise in the NHL. These Maroons possessed the speed and skill of contemporary clubs like the Islanders and Sabres, and the round house sophistication of teams like the Big Bad Bruins (1968-79) and the Broad Street Bullies of

Philadelphia (1973-77).

For 14 seasons, the city of Montreal had bitter divisions between the Maroons and the Canadiens.

The Big Red Machine of the Maroons had fellows like Nels "Ole Poison" Steward and Red Sutton. Ole Poison was a Phil Esposito type, who would station himself before a Canadiens goalie for a loose puck. When opponents came close, Nels would chew tobacco mixed with spit and let loose a shot an enemy's eye.

It was effective, as Ole Poison held the scoring championship until the early 1950s, when the Rocket passed him in total goals.

Once, before the Canadiens and Maroons could face off at the Forum, no puck could be found. Red,

looked at his enemy, Battleship Leduc, growled: "The hell with the puck! Let's fight Albert!"

In their heyday, the Maroons won two Stanley Cups (1926, 1935). During this same period, the Canadiens epitomized skill and endurance. The legend, Howie Morenz, playing with Aurel Joliet and Johnny "Black Cat" Gagnon, brought out the fans to see the magnificent Canadiens play teams from New York, St. Louis, Detroit, Ottawa, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Boston.

During the 40s and 50s, the Flying Frenchmen established a spirit of elan that has never been equalled.

Maurice Richard was the heart of this club that won eight cups (1943-1960). By the 60s and 70s, the Canad-

iens had become the most popular franchise in the world. My personal favourite Canadiens club was the crew who surprised the experts in 1970-71 by defeating the favoured Bruins and Blackhawks.

Jean Beliveau and Henri Richard from the 1950s were still with the Habs, and a tall, untested rookie, Ken Dryden, played the most dramatic goaltending feats in history. Larry Robinson became known by fans in this series.

Over the years, Montreal clubs have established the standards for hockey. Looking over Stanley Cup history, we can see their awesome presence—Montreal Canadiens: 22 Stanley Cups; Toronto Maple Leafs, Arenas, and St. Pats: 13;

Ottawa Silver Seven and Senators: 9; Detroit Red Wings: 7; Boston Bruins: 5; New York Islanders, Montreal Wanderers and Victorias: 4; Montreal AAA: 3; and Montreal Maroons and Shamrocks: 2 each.

In the 92 years of the existence of the Stanley Cup, Montreal Clubs have captured Lord Stanley's mug 37 times. It's unlikely that any city will match Canada's metropolis with the number of championships by Montreal clubs.

As Mats Naslund, Mario Tremblay, Larry Robinson, Patrick Roy, Bob Gainey, and the Flying Frenchmen continue in the playoffs for 1986, remember, you're watching a city creating yet another legend!

Teachers meet

From Gail Conrad

Over 80 women elementary school teachers met in Marathon Public School on Saturday, May 3. The teachers are members of women teachers' associations from Kenora in the west, to Manitowadge in the east and Pickle Lake in the north.

They are local associations which belong, provincially, to the Federation of Women Teachers' Association of Ontario -- the third largest professional teacher organization in Canada. The Lake Superior Women Teachers' Association hosted the assembly and the women teachers of Marathon Public School staff convened the event.

The meeting was presided over by regional director, Norma Wynn of the Lakehead WTA, who was assisted by director Pam Hunt of the Geraldton WTA. Local president Holly Smith welcomed delegates and visitors and thanked the organizing committee, with special mention going to Hostess Secretary Ruth Mitchell.

Provincial President of

the FWTAD, Jeanne Milovanovic brought greetings to the assembly through a videotaped presentation in which she urged members to "hold the torch high and continue to seek to move mountains" as women teachers.

The agenda included Committee Reports—Public Relations, Status and Superannuation, a discussion of resolutions to the 1986 Annual Meeting (August, 1986) and consideration of the proposed budget for the upcoming year.

A luncheon was held at the Travellers' Inn where Pat Richardson, Chairman; and Margaret Twomey, Director of the Lake Superior Board of Education; Ted Lake, Principal of Marathon Public School; Don Davey, President of the Lake Superior District OPSTF; and Keith Robertson, Marathon town Councillor were invited guests.

The 1987 Spring Assembly will be hosted by the Fort Frances-Rainy River WTA in Fort Frances.

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