

Jim Coleman

Southam News Services columnist

MONTREAL — The euphoric mood in which Canadian hockey men were basking Thursday morning was enhanced by their perusal of the Canada Cup Tournament statistics which were compiled by Ron Andrews of the National Hockey League. The figures, compiled by the erudite and painstaking Mr. Andrews, revealed that the Canadians were champions in every statistical department: They outscored every other team in the tournament and, defensively, they yielded fewer goals than and of their rivals; they outshot their opponents in every single game and (Surprise! Surprise!) they were assessed fewer penalty-minutes per game than any other team.

Although there were the customary minor beefs from the Soviets concerning the "brutality" of the North Americans, the penalty statistics suggest that Canadian professionals no longer can be regarded as the bully-boys of international hockey.

Team Canada was charged with a total of only 30 minor penalties in a total of seven games—or, an average of only slightly more than four minor penalties per game. Guy Lafleur was assessed a 10-minute misconduct penalty when he addressed a few quaint remarks to referee Gordy Lee in the third period of the Canada-Sweden game in Toronto 10 days ago. Up until that moment, Lafleur was unaware that referee Lee, an American, understands French.

This was a very well disciplined Canadian team. Despite the intense patriotic emotion which was generated by the roaring crowds at every game, the members of Team Canada kept their cool. The "unnecessary" penalties which they provoked in their entire seven games, could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Pros well-prepared

Never before have we seen a group of Canadian professionals who were so well prepared for an international series. Those pioneering professionals of Team Canada '72 played with their raw emotions showing and, it was sheer determination which enabled them to beat the Soviets in the deciding eighth game.

Team Canada '74 was well prepared physically and emotionally for their eight-game series with the Soviets, but, Team Canada '74 simply wasn't equipped with nearly as many top talented players as were Team Canada '72 and Team Canada '76.

But, this time, The Boys in The Boardroom put everything together, perfectly. Although the coaching staff and, even the trainers, have received their due in the news media, it's about time that some recognition was accorded Sam Pollock and his two boardroom assistants, Toe Blake and Keith Allen.

I'm not sure who designed the pre-tournament physical conditioning program for Team Canada '76 but, the players certainly came to camp in first-class shape. And, there was only one tournament game (the 0-to-1 loss to the Czechs on Sept. 9) in which the Canadians appeared to be the slightest bit wearier than their opponents in the third period.

Team Canada outshot their opponents in the third period of every game, apart from that loss to Czechoslovakia. The Soviets are widely heralded for their speed and stamina but the Canadian outshot THEM 15-to-8 in the final period of last Saturday's match.

Most importantly, North American hockey men now have demonstrated that they "aren't too proud to learn from the Russians."

When the Soviets first sent teams to North America, the hidebound Hockey Establishment on this continent sniffed disparagingly at Russian training and coaching techniques. Some NHL men were only amused when they saw the Russian teams with two coaches on the bench—one coach making the line changes and the other busily scribbling information in a notebook.

We improved system

Now, at long last, the NHL coaches have not only adopted the Soviet system but, they have improved on it, notably.

Team Canada '76 had FOUR coaches—two behind the bench and two more "spotting" from seats high above the ice surface.

It was one of those "spotters"—Coach Don Cherry of the Boston Bruins—who detected the minor flaw in netminder Vladimir Zdurilla's technique on Wednesday night. It was Cherry who told the Canadian wingmen to draw Zdurilla out of his net with a fake shot and, then, to swing wide to get a clear shot at the net which the goalie just had vacated. Zdurilla went for the "fake" at 11:33 of overtime Wednesday night and Darryl Sittler scored into an empty net.

The Soviets made much of the fact that they were relying on "new, young players" in this tournament and, they left five of their internationally-famed veterans at home.

But, do you realize that this was a VERY YOUNG Canadian team which won the tournament?

There were 13 players on the Team Canada roster who were only 25 years of age—or younger!

Saturday show first for PGARA

The last big weekend of racing at the PGARA Speedway features a first.

The Prince George Auto Racing Association is running its first ever Saturday afternoon show.

As part of the two-day claimer championship, the Saturday show will have qualifying at 1 p.m. and racing at 2.

PGARA officials decided because of early evening darkness to try a Saturday afternoon show.

The Sunday program also has 1 p.m. Qualifying and 2 p.m. racing, as between 35 and 40 drivers are expected to challenge for \$1,700 in prize money.

If the Saturday show is rained out there will be a doubleheader Sunday.

Several cars have been confirmed from Terrace and other

visitors are expected from Quesnel, Williams Lake and possibly the Kamloops-Okanagan area.

Unlike past years, this season's claimer championship will feature two complete shows, with trophy dashes, heats and main events both days.

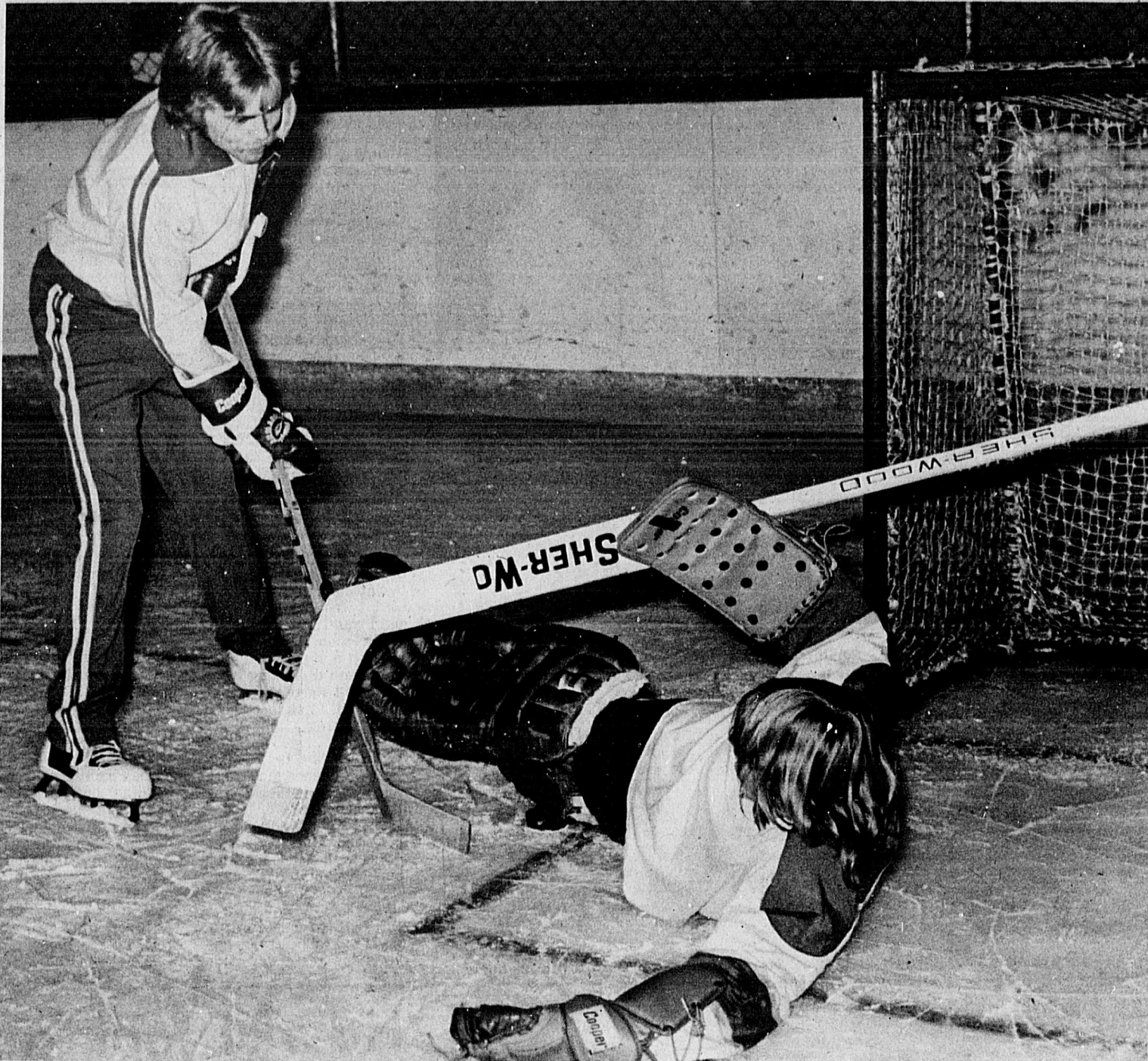
The main events pay \$100 to win, plus drivers will be competing for two-day weekend points throughout the two shows.

There will be no claiming allowed of the \$299 cars Saturday, but autos may be claimed after the final show.

These are the final dates on the PGARA Speedway 1976 schedule, except for an open competition date Oct. 3 which hasn't been confirmed.

LOCAL MINOR HOCKEY READY TO HIT ICE

Top B.C. hockey group meeting here



Dave Andrews, standing, works with Mark Brierley at a goalie clinic Thursday. The clinic was held in conjunction with the B.C. Amateur Hockey Association annual meeting.

The B.C. Amateur Hockey Association will vote on a new constitution tonight, as it's annual meeting begins.

Saturday, delegates will discuss new rule proposals. Some amendments proposed include a change in the provincial playoff set-up for minor hockey and alternating sites between north and south for junior B provincial championships.

The northern champion has always travelled south. A banquet and dance will be held Saturday night, with guest speakers being former National Hockey League great Fred (Cyclone) Taylor and Dr. Leo Margolais.

Both are honorary BCAHA presidents.

The association will elect a new executive Sunday, however, it is expected president Frank Spring of Cranbrook will run again.

In local news the Prince George Minor Hockey Association has appointed coaches for rep teams for the 1976-77 season.

Dave Bellamy will head the juveniles, which are looking for a league to play in.

Bill Allercott will coach the midget kings, Darrell Peterson the bantams, Ted McCarthy and Art Walker the 13-year-old reps, Mike Church the pee wee kings and Dennis Christensen will head the 11-year-old club.

The 15-year-old coach will be appointed later.

The association has registered more than 1,000 boys, but will accept late registrants in some age divisions.

Those wanting to register are asked to contact Ruth Frid at 563-7007.

Two referee clinics are scheduled in Prince George during the next week.

The first clinic begins Monday and continues until Thursday.

For more information phone Bev Christensen at 962-7377 or Fred Koll at 563-2205.

IN DETAIL, THE STANDINGS AND SCORES

National League			
East	W	L	Pct. GBL
Philadelphia	88	57	.607
Pittsburgh	84	61	.579

GALS GOLF TEE TIMES

There will be a Scotch foursome featured in the women's evening golf Monday.

4 — K. Hassard, P. Sweet, C. Cooper, L. Bryant; 4:07 — E. Arnold, L. Hedges, S. Baker, J. Hutton; 4:14 — G. Munro, A. Miller, A. Campbell, B. Harris; 4:21 — L. Kincaid, O. McDonald, J. Sawka, D. Peto.

4:28 — D. Ferguson, S. Wood, N. Delisle, A. Limes; 4:35 — A. Millette, M. Seens, H. Worobey, S. Thompson; 4:42 — D. Joy, J. Tourner, B. Folli, W. Lindsay; 4:49 — R. Rikley, M. Wettlaufer, S. Florell, M. Anderson.

4:56 — M. Greves, M. Niehaus, J. Gregory, F. Heighington; 5:03 — J. Short, J. Clarke, P. Boychuk, Y. Phillips; 5:10 — B. Lines, L. Grant, M. Sidsworth, G. Rumschke; 5:17 — M. Proverbs, P. Waring, D. Pitman, G. Burbee.

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National League			
West	W	L	Pct. GBL
New York	77	69	.527
Chicago	67	80	.456
St. Louis	65	79	.451
Montreal	49	94	.343

National League			
West	W	L	Pct. GBL
Cincinnati	95	53	.642
Los Angeles	82	64	.562
Houston	73	76	.490
San Francisco	68	81	.456
San Diego	67	81	.453
Atlanta	64	84	.432

National League			
East	W	L	Pct. GBL
New York	89	55	.618

National League			
West	W	L	Pct. GBL
Baltimore	80	65	.552
Cleveland	73	72	.503
Boston	70	76	.479
Detroit	67	78	.462
Milwaukee	63	82	.434

National League			
West	W	L	Pct. GBL
Kansas City	84	63	.571
Oakland	79	67	.541
Minnesota	75	74	.503
California	68	80	.459
Texas	66	80	.452
Chicago	63	85	.426

National League			
East	W	L	Pct. GBL
Texas	5	5	.500
Chicago	4	4	.500
Boston	4	4	.500
New York	4	4	.500
Milwaukee	3	3	.500
California	2	2	.500
Oakland	0	0	.000

Football kicking off

The kick-off of the Prince George Minor Football Association season and the PGARA claimer championship head a light weekend of sports activity in Prince George.

Rotary Stadium, Connaught, Spruceland and John McInnis schools are sites of football games Sunday.

The league will have 17 flag-ball teams, six pee wee, six junior bantam, two bantam and two juvenile tackle clubs in action.

Games will be played all day at the four fields.

The Prince George Motocycle Club will hold the fifth in a six-meet moto-cross series Sunday at the BCR industrial site.

Practice goes at 10 a.m. with racing at noon.

The Prince George Golf and Curling Club junior boy's club championship will be played Saturday and Sunday.

Gord Barnes will be back to defend his title in the 36-hole tournament.

Two games will be played Sunday in the North Cariboo Soccer Association, however, with the second withdrawal of Quesnel, the schedule has not been set.

Games will be played at 1 and 3 p.m.

The B.C. Amateur Hockey Association will meet at the Inn of the North all weekend and the Peace Cariboo Junior Hockey League will have a general managers' meeting at the Goldcap Inn Sunday.

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