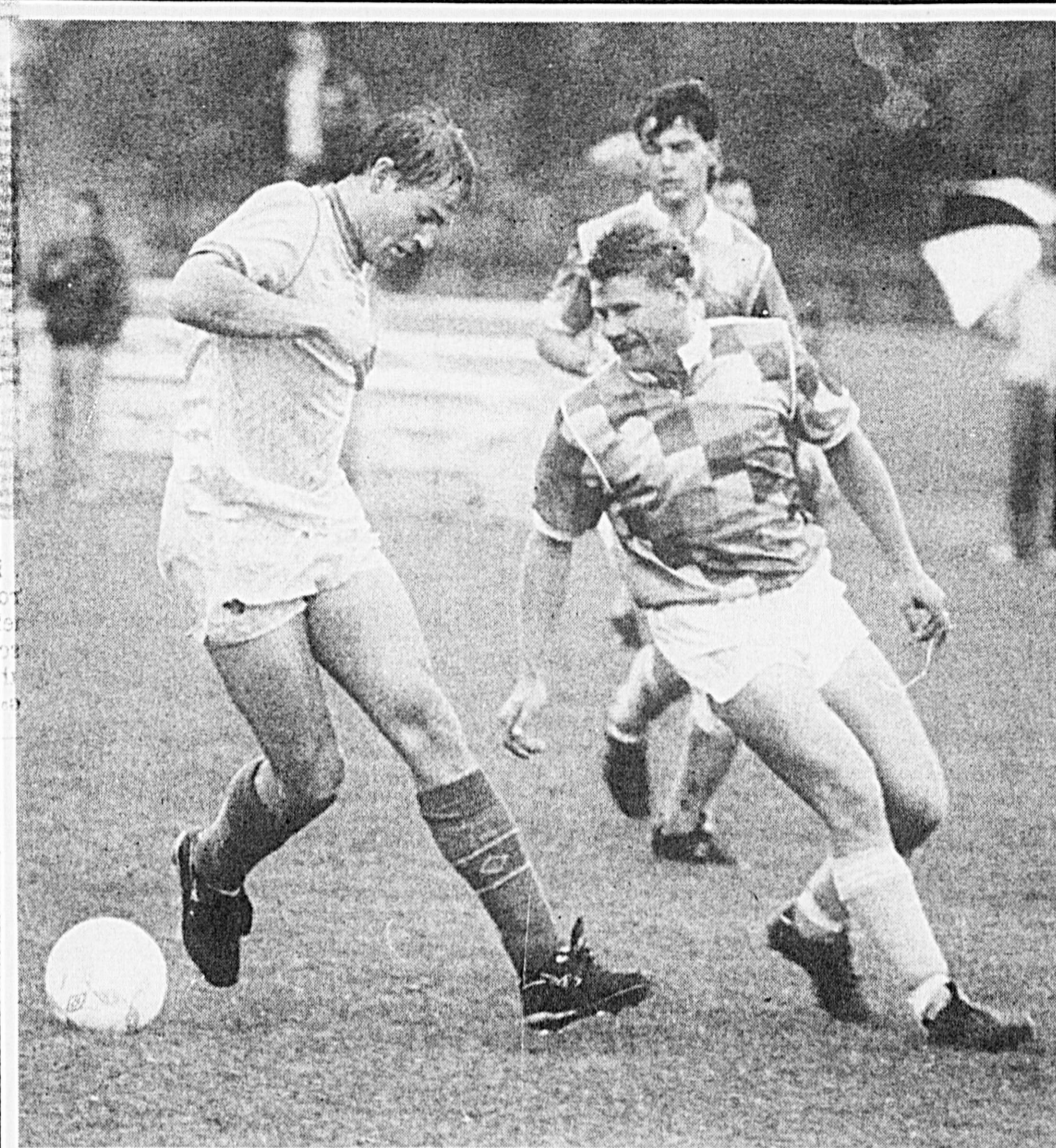


Sports

MARK ALLAN
Sports editor

Chelios inspires Habs to key win

VANCOUVER SIZZLES IN DRIZZLE



Citizen photo by Dave Milne

Vancouver's John Catliff (left) tries to elude Dave Andersen as Dennis Rukavina looks on.

Soccer exhibition treat despite soggy weather

by BILL SEYMOUR
Sports reporter

A cold rain fell on the soft turf at Rotary Stadium Wednesday, but shivering spectators were treated to a sizzling performance of soccer when the Vancouver 86ers met Labatt's Pastry Chef in an exhibition match.

The defending Canadian Soccer League champions had their chance for a repeat 7-0 win spoiled by Prince George's Graham West, who turned a flicked pass from teammate Sam Tojaga into a goal with just three minutes left in the game.

It was the first and only goal for the home team after two years of trying. West, a 10-year veteran with Labatt's Pastry Chef, said he was just happy the team scored in the 7-1 loss to Vancouver.

"On a goal like that I'll take it," said West, who was named his team's most valuable player.

The 86ers dominated the entire game. Despite the loss of leading goal scorer John Catliff to an ankle injury early on, Vancouver controlled the ball.

Rod Ramsay provided many of the closest opportunities for Labatt's Pastry Chef. Recently returned from Vancouver, Ramsay was among the many North Cariboo Senior Soccer League recruits called to bolster the local squad.

His closest opportunity, in front of over 700 fans, came midway through the second half, when a strong shot passed Vancouver netminder Rob Merkl but bounced off the goal post. It was his fourth kick to hit the bars.

"I kind of thought it was going to go in," said Ramsay, a BCR groundman. "I should have chipped it, but I missed it."

Catliff opened scoring for the 86ers with two quick goals in the opening minutes. Doug Muirhead made it 3-0 for the visitors as the sodden players trailed into the change rooms at the half.

With Catliff resting his ankle on the bench, 86ers' Ivor Evans took up the slack with a goal against

Prince George's Glenn Foerster. Evans, named the 86ers MVP for the game, added his second of the night, following goals by John Paul Kinesivic and Robbie Aujla.

Evans, a three-year veteran with Vancouver from Labasa Fiji, said he was impressed with the competition.

"I think Prince George could come up if they train harder," said Evans, 23. "If they played regularly they could be better."

Catliff echoed Evans' assessment, saying the long winters make it tougher to be game-sharp in May. "I think you'll find the skills are there," said Catliff, 24. "The stuntedness comes with just having such a truncated season."

Player coach Glen Thompson said his Labatt's Pastry Chef squad along with additions from the NCSL achieved their objective for the match. West's goal made the effort worth it, he said.

"We played not bad," said Thompson. "We got good representation from the rest of the league. It gave the kids a chance to see the skills and talents of the Vancouver 86ers."

Those talents worked both sides of the field as Labatt's Pastry Chef recruited Vancouver coach Bob Lenarduzzi and brother Sam to play against the 86ers. Following the match Lenarduzzi said most of the players brought up for the trip were from his club's reserve squad as the rest of the team were still playing soccer in the Major Indoor Soccer League playoffs.

"We had a lot of young guys playing because of the time of the year, but I was pleased with that," said Lenarduzzi.

The Vancouver coach, making his third exhibition game trip to Prince George, said he enjoyed the game and the local competition.

"I was pleased they were able to score," said Lenarduzzi. "It was deserving. It was fortunate Graham scored it because he worked hard for it."

CALGARY (CP) — Chris Chelios continues to prove he is one of the best players in hockey.

The Canadiens defenceman showed that both on and off the ice Wednesday night, providing inspiration in the dressing room and then scoring the winning goal as Montreal skated to a 4-2 win over the Calgary Flames.



CHELIOS

The win evened the best-of-seven Stanley Cup final 1-1 each with the next two games in Montreal on Friday and Sunday.

"I didn't want everybody to get frustrated," Chelios, a leading candidate for the Norris Trophy as the NHL's best defenceman, said of his words between the second and third periods. "It was like a 0-0 game going into the third... we needed some voice in here just to get our heads up."

After managing just four shots in the second period and allowing the Flames to erase a 2-0 lead, the Canadiens came back strong in the third. Chelios scored in the eighth minute to break a 2-2 tie and then set up Russ Courtnall for the clincher about 90 seconds later.

"There was no way Chris Chelios was going to lose this game," said Pat Burns, the much-relieved Montreal coach. "He was one of the guys up in the dressing room and was one of the first guys on the ice showing the leadership."

Since joining the Canadiens in 1983, life in Montreal has often been difficult for Chelios. The 27-year-old native of Chicago has been the target of media attacks, fan criticism and rumors about his off-ice lifestyle. This year, as he developed into one of the game's best players, there have been charges by opponents he is a cheap-shot artist.

"Chelios took a lot of heat in Montreal for many things, but I think he's proved above all, beyond any questionable doubt, that he's a professional and he loves playing for the Montreal Canadiens," said Burns.

"If he doesn't win the Norris Trophy there's something wrong. He plays 30, 40 minutes a game. He might not get all the respect because if you give Chelios a shot he'll give you one back — and there's nothing wrong with that."

After nailing Brian Propp with an elbow in Game 1 of the Wales Conference final, Chelios was attacked by the Flyers throughout the series. The mugging was capped with the disgraceful assault by Philadelphia goaltender Ron Hextall.

The Flames have picked up the tactic but, as they learned Wednesday, Chelios doesn't turn the other cheek.

He traded shots with the Flames, drawing three penalties in the game. And he unleashed the third-period shot that hurt the most.

He took a nifty behind-the-back pass at centre ice from Brian Skrudland and beat Calgary netminder Mike Vernon with a 40-foot slapshot.

"He just blew it by me," said Vernon.

It was Chelios's fourth playoff goal, and combined with the two assists he also earned he has 16 points in 17 games.

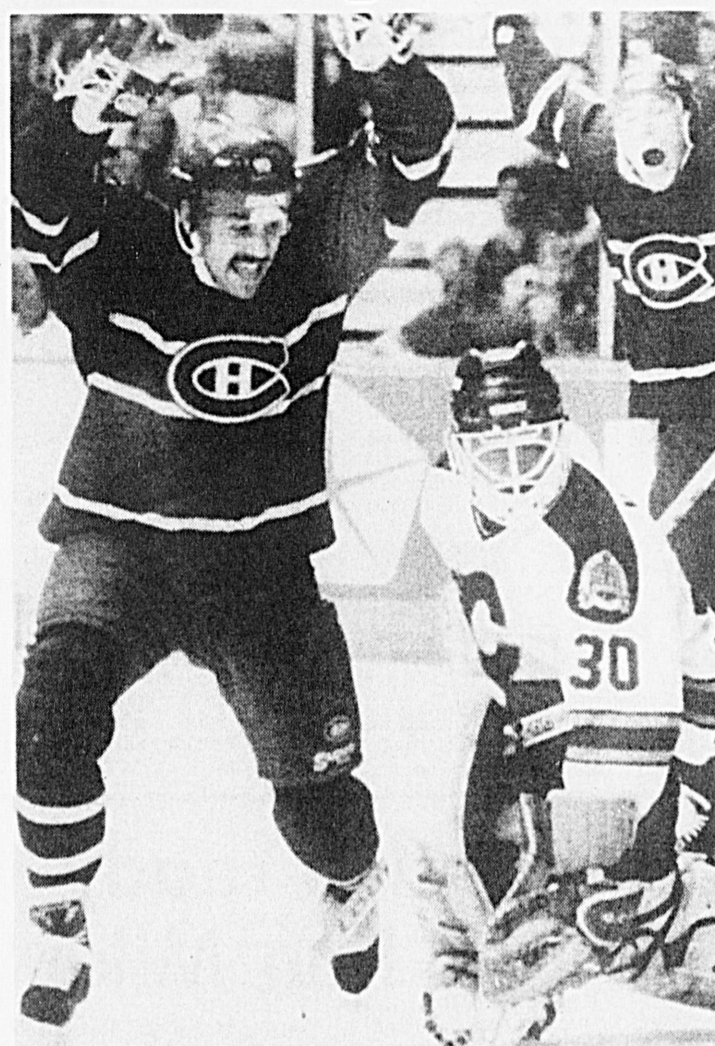
Goals by Larry Robinson and Bobby Smith gave Montreal a 2-0 lead two minutes into the second period. But then the Flames, aided by three straight foolish Montreal penalties, came on strong.

They dominated the final 17 minutes of the middle period, getting goals from Joe Nieuwendyk and Joel Otto, but failing to cash in on numerous scoring opportunities.

"As a coach you look at the chances you miss and hope they don't come back to haunt you," said Calgary coach Terry Crisp.

"We had the chances to put the chokehold on them and didn't."

The Flames visit Montreal at 4:30 p.m. Friday on CKPG (channel 2, cable 3) and CBC French (channel 4, cable 5).



Mike McPhee (left) and Brian Skrudland of Montreal celebrate Montreal's first goal over fallen Flame goaltender Mike Vernon.

Teams get physical as grudges mount

CALGARY (CP) — The Montreal Canadiens didn't like what they read in the papers, so they went out Wednesday and did something about it.

That something was an elbow here, a crunching bodycheck there, as the Canadiens defeated the Calgary Flames 4-2 in the second game of the NHL Stanley Cup final.

The best-of-seven series is tied 1-1 heading back to Montreal.

"We wanted to play a more physical game," said Craig Ludwig, the hulking 215-pound Canadian defenceman.

"We read a couple things they said where they had a hard time against Chicago (in the Campbell Conference final) getting hit all the time and how the first game against us was a lot easier for them."

Calgary opened the series with a 3-2 win Sunday.

Montreal's Guy Carbonneau said a quote from Calgary defenceman Al MacInnis was especially infuriating.

"He said it was good to play against Montreal, it was a fun, easy game to play," said Carbonneau. "That got us mad a little bit. Every chance we got tonight we hit him."

The game did have its ugly moments. Referee Denis Morel called eight elbowing, four unsportsmanlike conduct and two cross-checking penalties among the 23 infractions he dished out.

Bob Gainey said the Canadiens weren't happy about being muscled off the puck in Game 1.

"We felt after the first game we

had to be on the puck more," he said. "We had to win the battle for the puck. That means getting more involved."

Two players who got really involved were Calgary's Doug Gilmour and Carbonneau.

Carbonneau accused Gilmour of deliberately trying to injure him when the two collided after an off-side call in the first period.

"He tried to take my knee out with his knee," Carbonneau said. "He might not like me but he really tried to injure me. I told him it's a long series and I will get my chance."

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Johnson's doctor set to sing

TORONTO (CP) — Ben Johnson's personal physician has arrived in Canada and is ready to testify before a federal inquiry — possibly next week, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Dr. Jamie Astaphan and lawyer David Sookram met for several hours Wednesday with counsel representing the federal commission investigating the Johnson scandal.

"I won a lot of money — enough to go on holiday," joked Sookram. "But unfortunately I can't take the holiday now. The lawyers were betting (Astaphan wouldn't show). At one time we were getting odds of 65 to 30."

The inquiry is in recess and is scheduled to resume next Wednesday. Its lawyers weren't returning calls Wednesday and commission lawyer Kirby Chown declined comment after meeting Sookram and his client.

Astaphan has remained at his St. Kitts home since Johnson failed a drug test and was stripped of an Olympic gold medal in Seoul last fall. He met with commission counsel on the Caribbean island last month.

In a brief photo session, the tanned and burly doctor said he arrived in Canada last week. He



Jamie Astaphan (left) and his lawyer talk strategy in Toronto.

declined to answer any other questions.

The subject of numerous allegations of professional misconduct, he said in a recent interview that he's looking forward to testifying.

"He's travelled over 5,000 miles to get here," Sookram said. "He didn't come here to play with himself."

Astaphan's appearance before the federal inquiry has been anticipated even more than Johnson's.

Testimony indicates the doctor, under investigation by the Ontario College of Physicians and Sur-

geons, holds the key to more than just the mystery of why Johnson failed his urine test after his 100-metre race.

He's also believed to have intimate knowledge of widespread drug use among the world's top athletes. He has said he's still treating many of them at his clinic on St. Kitts.

He treated Johnson and many of his teammates on the Canadian track squad, as well as the 1986 Mr. Universe, bodybuilder Steve Brisbois of Timmins, Ont.

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