

by David 'Chip' Henry

chips off...

Chip checks out hockey pros-why not compulsory helmets?

On a cold night in Boston, December 12, 1933, Toronto Maple Leafs' eight-year veteran, Ace Bailey was upended by Boston defenceman Edie Shore and thrown head-first to the ice.

Bailey was carried off the ice unconscious and taken to the hospital where, suffering from a severe skull fracture, he remained close to death for almost two weeks.

Ace Bailey survived, but he never played professional hockey again.

He was released from the hospital on January 17, 1934, and later coached the University of Toronto hockey squad for 12 successful seasons.

Thirty-four years after Bailey's release from hospital, Bill Masterton, a rookie with the Minnesota North Stars, is dead.

Like Ace Bailey, Masterton was knocked to the ice by a check and carried to the hospital unconscious. Like Bailey, Masterton was wearing no protection on his head.

So today, as 34 years ago, a furor has arisen over the use of protective helmets in the professional ranks.

Should players have the choice of wearing helmets or not? What reasons do the pros have for using helmets?

A spokesman for the Leaf organization told this writer that Punch Imlach's own policy remains: Let the players make their own decisions.

Allan Eagleson, lawyer for the pros, agrees. But he 'hopes that all players will soon be wearing them'.

Why do professional hockey players refrain from using helmets? Eagleson offered some answers. He agreed that the players' vanity sometimes causes them to refuse. Some players who formerly wore helmets have stopped because they were called gutless, he said.

This reason is, in my opinion, a very poor excuse. These players would possibly gain something by a crack on the head.

Former NHL referee Dalton MacArthur has some strong opinions on the matter.

He feels there is no reason why all hockey players should not wear helmets. He points out it is a requirement in almost all contact sports that participants wear protection on the head.

But he also feels that players won't wear helmets unless they are ordered to do so by the management. To those like Wren Blair, who say the entertainment value of hockey would diminish if the players' faces were covered, MacArthur says that professional football (which draws more spectators in the U.S. than any other pro sport) has not suffered by covering the players' faces with metal bars and netting.

Oddly enough, it was Ace Bailey himself who surprised this writer with his ideas on the problem.

Bailey pointed out the disadvantages of helmets. He feels the helmet often hurts the players' vision when the sweat caused by the helmet drips into his eyes.

Still very much in contact with pro hockey's players and officials, Bailey says no helmet has yet been developed which provides maximum mobility. He says this is why Red Kelly gave up wearing his helmet last year.

Finally, Bailey feels that even if a 'perfect' helmet were devised, its use by professional players should be optional, since all the players 'can take care of themselves'.

This writer, however, disagrees.

The NHL should immediately start developing a helmet that provides maximum vision and mobility.

When this is accomplished, the use of the helmets must be made mandatory.

Little or nothing will be lost in the way of entertainment value if a good helmet is used.

If it is far wiser to use helmets and prevent further serious accidents, than to please the few fans who would be offended by their use.



Helmeted Rebels easily over-ran the tiring Windsor Broncos, playing strong defence to win 10-1.

Rebels shame Windsor, McBryde scores three

by Dave Carson

The York hockey team picked up an easy two points in the standings by crushing the University of Windsor 16-1 at Doublerink, Friday January 12.

Doug McBryde slipped the puck past the Windsor goalie at 2:37 of the first period to open the scoring.

Windsor came back strong as York was drawn into two stupid penalties.

Bob Modray and Kent Pollard killed off the penalties in superb fashion.

Micaliff scored the only Bronco goal of the game after a picturesque deke through the defence and one final shift past Frank Childe.

The second period was dominated by the Rebels, who scored six goals and protected their goaltender very efficiently.

The York defence was solid throughout the game and had an easy time moving the puck out of their own end. Rick Brown, despite a couple of offensive lapses, played his best game of the season.

The Rebels ended the second period with a 7-1 lead on goals by Doug McBryde, Don Chapman, Mike Beliveau, Bruce Easson, Kent Pollard, and Barry White.

Jim Dickinson scored

York's eighth goal at 1:50 of the final period on a nice pass play from Don Young and Don Chapman.

After Rick Brown's play to keep the puck behind the Broncos' blueline, McBryde connected for his third goal at 18:02 on a quick pass from the face-off at the right of the Windsor net.

Coach Bill Purcell obviously had his team fired up for this game. Goalie Frank Childe and his defence proved outstanding whenever they were tested.

Doug McBryde outclassed everyone on the ice as he picked up the hat trick and 2 assists.

Newcomer Barry White played a rugged game on right wing, scoring one goal and assisting on another.

Mike Beliveau, a graduate student and new addition to the Rebels this year, has been invaluable. His experience adds stability to the York team.

Nobody played well for Windsor - even the coach could not resist goofing up, knocking over a pile of sticks behind the bench at least once per period.

The high-flying Rebels should not be in an excellent psychological mood to give Waterloo Lutheran a close battle for second place.

York-Windsor Score Sheet**FIRST PERIOD**

2:37 York
12:48 Windsor

McBryde from White and Beliveau
Micaliff from Dunn and DeUriese

SECOND PERIOD

1:35 York
4:06 York
7:47 York
10:53 York
16:28 York
16:12 York

McBryde unassisted
Chapman from Young and Dickinson
Beliveau from McBryde and Pollard
Easson from Modray
Pollard unassisted
White from McBryde

THIRD PERIOD

1:50 York
8:40 York
18:02 York

Dickinson from Young and Chapman
McBryde from Grace and Pollard
Chapman from Young

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