

European teams composed of "amateurs" who were paid by the state to play hockey.

In 1972 the problem was resolved. Russia, which had a state-sponsored team agreed to play

against a Canadian team of picked professionals. The results, which are history, are recounted in some detail on page seven.

*"Hockey is a sport of the people—the lunch bucket crowd, guys who slug their guts out all week long and whose only enjoyment is a few beers and a hockey game."* DEREK SANDERSON

## The Rise of Bobby Orr... and Practically Everybody Else

[WITH SOME SAGE OBSERVATIONS FROM DEREK SANDERSON THE NONPAREIL]

Once, and it must have seemed forever, hockey players were modest men, modestly paid.

Then came Bobby Orr, Alan Eagleson, the World Hockey Association and Derek Sanderson.

Today a husky, hard-working Ontario farm boy can end up a millionaire. Bobby Orr, of the Boston Bruins, the Superstar of the Seventies, was the catalyst. Bobby may be the greatest hockey player who ever lived, despite his bad knee. Bruins General Manager Milt Schmidt has said simply: "Bobby is the greatest player I have ever seen in the past, the greatest player at present, and if anything greater than he should show up, I just hope the good Lord has me around to see him."

Harry Sinden, who coached Team Canada in its historic series with Russia, said, "To me Orr is the only player in the world who can mean the difference between winning and losing a game. He's the only player who can control the game and the tempo. He's the only player who can dominate . . . Orr is not only skillful, but dedicated and inspirational. No teammate wants to look bad in front of Bobby Orr."

Bobby, with the help of some friends, has also controlled the wages paid the players; at least, he has been the prime mover in making hockey players as well-rewarded as tax lawyers.

In 1960 Bobby, of Parry Sound, Ontario, was five feet two, one hundred and ten pounds and the star of the All-Ontario Bantam Tournament. At that point the Boston Bruins seemed to be natural losers who hadn't done anything right in years. They made up for it; they signed Bobby up for life and they did it cheap — Bobby's home got a new coat of stucco and his father got a second-hand car and a few hundred dollars. The Bruins spent the next few years trying to take their fans' minds off the games by announcing the imminent arrival of the miracle kid. This gave Bobby's father some food for thought and he arranged some negotiating support for his talented son. Alan Eagleson, a Toronto lawyer and an active Conservative politician, negotiated a two-year contract, the highest ever for a rookie, reportedly between \$50,000 and \$100,000, with Bobby getting an additional \$25,000 for signing. It was only the beginning. The Bruins became

