



Capital performance

Times photo by GORM LARSEN

When Doug Patey was drafted in the fifth round of the NHL draft his chances of making the Washington Capitals appeared slim. But the 20-year-old Mississauga native combined work and determination to make it.

By RON HEALEY
The chances of a fifth-round draft choice making the National Hockey League in his first year are slim, but Mississauga's Doug Patey has beaten the odds with hard work and determination.
Patey, who turned 20 on Dec. 20, was in town Saturday with the Washington Capitals for their encounter with the Toronto Maple Leafs. It was his first exposure on Maple Leaf Gardens ice since his Major Junior A appearances a year ago with the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds.

The young right winger was naturally excited to be home and playing in front of friends and family for the first time as a pro. "It's a big thrill to play at the Gardens and also be on national TV with all my friends and family watching," he said. "My parents have been to Detroit to see me play and have also come down to Washington once. Also, they make the games in Buffalo and of course here in Toronto."

The 5'11", 180-pound youngster played all his minor hockey in Mississauga before going to the Greyhounds for his last two years of Junior hockey. He started in Port Credit, played with the Reps, then had a year with the Dixie Beehive Juvenile team and one year with the Bees.

He played on the same line with fellow Mississaugan Mike Kaszycki for two years with the Soo. Kaszycki was taken in the second round of

the draft by the New York Islanders and is now in the minor leagues with Fort Worth after setting a Major Junior A scoring record with 170 points last year.

Patey, who scored 45 goals and had 65 assists for the Greyhounds last season, had mixed feelings about the draft. He says, like any other player, he would have liked to have been drafted higher, but that he was pleased that Washington was the team that picked him.

Being picked on the lower round actually worked to Patey's advantage. "It actually gave me more incentive to prove I could make it in the NHL," he said. "I went to training camp in good shape, determined to make the team, to prove I belonged. Actually, they already had me marked for Dayton. I didn't let this get me down. In fact, it got me up, made me try that much harder."

Patey went to the Caps camp without a contract, but impressed the management enough to earn a regular spot on the team. Shortly after the opening game in October, agent Alan Eagleson negotiated a three-year contract for him. "The key was the good training camp," Patey said. "Three weeks is enough time to impress people and evidently my hard work paid off."

"I don't consider myself a tough player," Patey said. "I don't go around and bash heads in, although I'll mix it up if I have to. My game is skating and backchecking." As for goals, Patey has none, except "to give 110 per cent and to become a solid two-way player and to never stop learning."

Doug is the second Patey to make it to the NHL, with brother Larry now in his

fourth pro year and third in the league with the St. Louis Blues. "Larry taught me a great deal," he says. "I don't think I would have made the NHL without his help. We keep in touch all the time. We're a very close family."

The Patey brothers faced each other on the ice for the first time Sunday when St. Louis visited Washington. "We never played against each other because of the age difference, but we did play some summer hockey together," Patey said.

The adjustment to the NHL and Washington has been a major one. "It's a big jump," he said. "I went to camp determined to make the club, but in the back of my mind I figured I might be in the minors a few years. In Junior hockey, you have a few superstars. Here, everyone's good. And the play is much faster. There's much more emphasis on positional play. If you leave your man, somehow the puck gets to him and, bingo, it's in the net. If you let down, there's always someone there to replace you."

Patey lives in a condominium in Upper Marlboro, about one half mile from the Capital Centre, the Caps' home in Landover, Maryland. "I don't have a lot of spare time," he says. "Most of my time is spent on hockey although I have gotten in some golf." One of the plush golf courses nearby has given each of the players a free membership, worth \$1500 annually. This is indicative of the support the team is getting.

Patey is convinced Washington will be a big hockey town. "Last week we had 17,800 for Philly and 13,800 for the Rangers," he said. "We've been averaging about 10-11,000. It's like an educational program right now. The fans aren't as

knowledgeable as some other places, but they appreciate it when you hustle."

So does coach Tommy McVie. The Caps' 2-1 win over the Blues Sunday brought their victory total to 11, the same number they won all last season. The improvement has come with the addition of only two new players.

"I've learned a lot from our coach," Patey says. "We're a young team, but he doesn't put a lot of pressure on the young guys. His theory is just skate, skate, skate, hustle, hustle, hustle. He knows we don't have a lot of talent, so we try to make up for it by working harder. If we hustle, we can get a stride ahead of some more talented players who aren't working as hard."

Patey is disappointed in his three goal output this season. "I'm happy I'm still with the club although I'm having trouble putting the puck in the net. I'll just have to keep working and hope it will come."

If proper attitude is any barometer, it will.

Wet dozen make Games

Twelve Mississauga swimmers have qualified for the Ontario Winter Games synchronized swimming championships. But it won't mean a trip to North Bay for any of them.

Because North Bay, host of the 1977 Ontario Winter Games, does not have a competitive pool, the swimming events are being held outside North Bay. The synchronized swimming events, for example, will be held at McMaster University in late February, the week after the rest of the games.

Mississauga's eight-member team led the local contingent by winning the team competition with 60.333 points. The team is composed of Janis Boltman, Diane Leith, Andrea Gebbes, Barb Adams, Luarel Moore, Tracy Stewart, Rhonda Graham and Elizabeth Brown.

Wendy Barber qualified for the Games by placing third in the solo event with 49.333 points. Two swimmers from Kawartha placed ahead of her.

Barber and Sandy Crawford also qualified by placing second in the duets with 58.000 points, three behind a Kawartha duo.

Boltman and Leith were third with 54.666 points while Robbie Blay and Chris Weber of Mississauga were fourth with 53.666 points. Both teams qualified.

Mississauga swimmers also took fifth, sixth and seventh places. Mississauga Synchronized Swim Club members will represent the Central Eastern Region at the Winter Games.

Mississauga, Kawartha, Brampton and Oshawa-Whitby competed at the Central Eastern Region trials at Brampton.

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Next suspension may be Barrett's

By PAUL WILLIAMS
Tom Barrett, the astute coach and general manager of the Streetsville Derbys, has drawn the attention of the Ontario Hockey Association (OHA). It's not the kind of attention Barrett wants or needs.

If Barrett draws the attention of the OHA once more he could be in danger of being suspended.

The Derbys won two games last week to move four points ahead of the second-place Burlington Cougars. The Cougars have two games in hand, though, and are still threatening.

But the biggest threat to the Derbys' pennant hopes doesn't come from Burlington or even Oakville, where the Blades have moved to within five points of Streetsville with seven games in hand. The biggest threat comes from within.

Three Derbys were suspended by the OHA following Sunday's 7-3 victory over the Brampton Logans, giving the Derbys seven players serving suspensions. And that's what has drawn the OHA's attention to Barrett.

"We're aware of the situation with Streetsville," says OHA secretary-manager David Branch. "We'll be looking at the game report from Sunday's game on Thursday or Friday and if the situation merits it, disciplinary action may be taken."

Possible disciplinary action by the OHA could mean a suspension for Barrett. "We'll look at the team in regards to the coach's control over his team," said Branch.

Barrett is concerned about the possibility of OHA action against himself and the team. "But I'm more concerned that these donnybrooks are happening more frequently," says Barrett. "Everybody seems to have something to prove. We're not a gentle team on the ice and rightly or wrongly the Derbys don't turn the other cheek when something happens."

Erindale replaces Quebec in college football league

By JOHN STEWART
Erindale College and Sheridan College will be charter members of the Ontario Small Colleges Football League this year.

The two schools, along with Seneca College of Toronto and Royal Military College (RMC) Kingston, will make up the league.

The conference will have two community college representatives (Sheridan and Seneca) one college of the University of Toronto (Erindale) and one member of the Ontario Universities Athletic Association (RMC).

Competitive opportunity for each school was the main motivation for the formation according to Dr. Bob Ryckman of Erindale. The school's athletic director says Erindale will withdraw from the University of Toronto inter-faculty grouping in 1977 in favor of the small colleges circuit.

Erindale replaces the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières in the league the other three schools played in

this year — which had the cumbersome title of the Ontario-Quebec College University Football League.

Representatives of the four schools in the new circuit will meet at Erindale on Jan. 24 to arrange scheduling, draft a constitution and define rules.

To his knowledge, the Small Colleges League is the first of its kind combining the three different forms of education institutions says Dr. Ryckman.

Erindale College has been trying for some years to gain playing privileges in the OUA because of its unique location. Players are so far from the downtown campus that it is almost impossible for them to go to school in Mississauga and practice and play for varsity teams of the downtown University.

Last year was Erindale's first season of inter-faculty football. After a 4-2 regular season record, the Warriors advanced to the finals before losing to Scarborough College.

The formation of the new league creates a strong natural rivalry between Erindale and Sheridan, which has one campus located in the city. Many Mississaugans attend the Sheridan campus here, the one in Oakville or one in Brampton.

Dr. Ryckman is concerned that, with only one year of football experience, the Warriors may face quite a challenge this season. Sheridan has won the Eastern Canadian community college championship for three consecutive years.

"We're going to have to improve 50 per cent to be barely competitive," he predicts. "We'll have about half of our starters back from this year."

The coaching question is also up in the air. Dr. Ryckman handled the duties this year with Mike Lavelle assisting.

"If it works out, it could be a good rivalry," says Dr. Ryckman. "It's going to be an interesting one year trial. If it looks like we have a future, it could last longer."

The 227 minutes of penalties called Sunday did not come close to the 309 minutes of penalties in the Streetsville-Burlington contest a week ago in which seven Derbys were ejected. Nor does the number of suspensions Sunday compare with the Dec. 17 battle with Oakville when Barrett, two trainers and four players were ejected from the game.

Barrett maintains Sunday's riot began when Mike Prestidge was cross-checked to the ice by a Brampton player. "He (the Brampton player) began using his stick on Prestidge when he was down," Barrett says. "Blair went over to help Prestidge and was thrown out of the game for being the third man in. But would it have been right for Blair to stay out of it and watch his teammate getting beaten?"

Barrett wasn't behind the bench Sunday nor were the Derbys the only villains on the ice as Brampton contributed its fair share of rough-house tactics. However the Derbys are gradually getting a brawlers reputation in the league.

The suspensions are a definite weakening factor and it was only because Brampton is such a weak hockey club that the Derbys escaped with a victory.

The Derbys were missing four key veterans — Gord Stanfield, Jim Gibson, Randy Strong and Venner — from the lineup. Sunday's rhuubar added Brodie, Briteau and Blair to the suspended lists.

The Derbys must retain its position on top of the rankings because a trip to North Bay for the Ontario Winter Games in February coincides with

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Woodlands Ram Egbert St. Kitts (5) tries to block an Oakwood Baron shot in last week's York University High School Basketball Tournament. Andy Lawrence (11) looks on. Rams won their first game but were beaten by Oakwood. Story on page A-14.

Barrett power

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Could the Ventures be the Derbys of 1977?

Satchel Paige, the old philosophizing major league pitcher, was once asked to give advice on how to stay on top. "Don't look behind you," ol' Satch advised, "you might see who's gaining on ya."

The Streetsville Derbys could take that advice. They could also forget the one that says lightning can't strike twice.

The Derbys are currently in first place in the Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League, four points ahead of the Burlington Cougars. The Cougars have two games in hand. Five points behind are the Oakville Blades, who have seven games in hand.

Clearly the Derbys have more than one team gaining on them and would be well advised to take Satchel's advice.

But to truly understand the instability of the Derbys' position let's

turn back the clock about a year. It's late in the 1975-76 season and the Burlington Mohawks are in first place. The Oakville Blades are pushing them, but just enough to keep



Chris Zelkovich

the Mohawks interested: They finish the season in first place, seven points ahead of the Blades.

But further down the pack the Derbys have just completed a late-season charge that has put them into fourth place. What happens next is one of

those things that generally happens only in Junior B hockey.

The Derbys, who lost more games than they won during the season, beat the Mohawks in the first round of the playoffs. They then go on to win the league championship.

Let's turn the clock ahead to 1977. The Derbys are in first place and although they are clinging to a rather precarious lead, should finish first. It would be an injustice if they didn't.

Further down the pack is a team that could just be the Streetsville Derbys of this season — the Dixie Ventures.

The Ventures are currently the hottest team in the league, having lost only four of its last 16 games. The Ventures have moved from the lower depths of the league standings to fourth place.

Now, let's push that clock ahead a

month. The Derbys have managed to stay on top despite having half their players suspended and the Ventures have placed fourth.

By edict of the Central Ontario league offices, the first-place team meets the fourth-place team in a best-of-seven series. That means the Derbys would play the Ventures. And that's why the Ventures could become the Derbys of 1977.

The Ventures are only in their third season of play and haven't established themselves as anything more than a mediocre group of players. Officially, the Ventures are the farm team of the Dixie Beehives.

Unofficially, though, they're the farm team for the Derbys. In the past, those who felt they were too good for the Ventures moved themselves to the Derbys. Jim Boyington, Gord Stanfield, Dave Quennell, Jim Baker,

Steve Dixon, Bill Brodie are part of a long list of former Ventures who wound up with the Derbys.

Incidentally, those not good enough for the Ventures wind up with the Beehives.

Now, if you don't think there's any animosity between the Ventures and their rich cousins in Streetsville then you probably also think that the Montagues and Capulets engaged in wife-swapping.

The Ventures would like nothing more than to prove that they're in the same league with the Derbys. They would give anything to be the team that dethrones them as league champions.

Logically, the Ventures should not be able to beat the Derbys in a seven-game series. They don't have the balance, depth and talent that the Derbys possess. But the Derbys

shouldn't have been able to beat Burlington last year, either.

Logic and Junior B hockey are basically strangers.

And the Ventures, should they meet the Derbys, will have an added plus this season. The Derbys have qualified for the Ontario Winter Games and will be fighting with five other teams Feb. 12-13 for the Winter Games championship.

The Central Ontario season ends Feb. 10 and the playoffs will probably start Feb. 15 in Streetsville.

The Ventures would be fresh, in the pink of health with almost a week's rest. The Derbys, on the other hand, would be trying to recover from a tough weekend series.

The combination could be enough to cause a remake of the Derbys' Cinderella story of 1976, this time starring the Dixie Ventures.