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Hockey Pointers.

By TOM HOWARD (In "Top-Notch" Magazine.)

Hockey has three fundamentals—ability to skate, speed on the ice, and the knack of handling a stick—and without these any one trying to play the game is hopelessly lost.

Of course, ability to skate is the main thing, for without that nobody could play hockey. But ability to skate does not presuppose an intricate knowledge of the art of skating. All it requires is a certain degree of balance and an ability to change one's direction in a flash. Speed is another essential, for, although a player may be a fair skater and have an excellent knowledge of the game, he is worthless when pitted against an opponent who can skate away from him at will.

As for the knack of handling a stick and directing a puck, that is something which only long experience in the heat of conflict can give a man. Practice helps, but it is when in opposition to players who are trying as desperately to get the puck away from you as you are trying to keep them from getting it. Clever stick work is the hand mark of the finished hockey player.

My first word of advice to one who thinks of playing hockey is to learn how to skate for speed and then how to handle a stick. After practice alone the player will find that his hockey education is just beginning, for the sport, although requiring its devotees to be expert in the three basic principles I have outlined, demands also strict adherence to team play. The individual is not robbed of the initiative, but he must be quick to grasp new situations and to complement the play of his teammates at any and all times. On the other hand, he must expect the same co-operation from his own players.

II.

The greatest difficulty that the new player will encounter once he gets on a team is the off-side rule. There is no rule like it in any other sport. In as few words as I can explain it, its import is: Keep behind the puck. No player can receive the puck who is nearer his opponent's goal than the puck itself. The rule is not, as so many people believe, to prevent diagonal passes up the ice. As a matter of fact, such passes are permissible provided that the player who takes the puck is nearer his own goal than the puck at the instant of its being passed. It is this off-side rule which has caused most of the difficulty with hockey in this country. The American player rarely realizes that it is the most important thing about the game.

Just let the off-side rule be strictly enforced in American hockey, and the players will be amazed to find how little they really know about it. Why, I have seen dozens of games,

your forward line down the ice in a veritable wall with the puck passing constantly across from one player to the other. This is scientific hockey, for it is designed to split the defense and keep it guessing. On the other hand, you can have the kind of hockey that places full dependence on the individual, and relies on one man to get the puck down the ice to within striking distance when either he or some one who has followed through will take a shot.

IV.

In hockey a player never has actual control of the puck. He doesn't pick it up and carry it as the football player does the football. He must carry it down the ice by guiding it with his stick, and the stick that may take place are innumerable. This, then, is the chief obstacle against pre-arranged plays. From the face-off at the beginning of the play one team doesn't have undisputed possession; it must take its chance, and the puck may go to any one of the half dozen men playing behind the one who is facing off, or it may go to the opposing team. Therefore you can never count on getting an attack under way, because you never know that you are going to get it or how or where you are going to get it.

In football it is simple to sit down two weeks before a game and plot out your plays, both offensive and defensive. They say you can do the same thing in baseball, although I doubt it. In hockey it is absolutely impossible. Therefore, when the American begins to play hockey he should think of the game in terms of hockey and not in terms of football, or any other sport.

My advice to those just beginning to play is to disregard the rule about substitutes. I think it would be a good thing for the game in this country if general substitution were permitted; that it would not only make it less severe as a physical test on players not used to so vigorous a sport, but it would also make it possible for more persons to play the game. As it is now, I know many number of young men who have practiced faithfully year in and year out, and have never had the opportunity of playing in a game because the coach was afraid that his team would not play up to expectations, and, being unable to substitute his good player for the second-string man being tried out, would be forced to lose the game. The rule against substitutes could well be changed.

I wouldn't change the method of scoring. The goal-keeper, although he may seem to be so, is not at a tremendous disadvantage. He makes relatively few bonafide stops. Most of the stops he is credited with making are stops because the puck has hit him, not because he has endeavored to stop it. You will find the attack and the defense well balanced in the average game.

V.

One of the most interesting developments in hockey has been the change from seven-man teams to six-man combinations in professional hockey in some Canadian leagues. The amateur teams have retained the seven-man rule.

Six-man hockey is not nearly as fast as the game to which we have become accustomed; although it offers the individual player a better opportunity to make spectacular plays on a small or moderate-sized rink, it leads to a slow game that proves uninteresting.

The average player would rather play six-man hockey because it is not so hard on the individual. It does not toll for the endurance necessary to play when there are seven men on the ice, and does not begin to be the test of playing ability that the standard game is.

When a player goes into a game there are a lot of things he should discover just as soon as he can, for the reason that they may mean victory or defeat later on. For one thing, he should find out the weakest defensive side of the player he is most directly concerned with, and he should try to learn the weakest sides of the point and cover-point, the two bulwarks of the defense. Every player has a weak side, and if you learn soon enough which one it is you have learned something that will be of immense value to your team.

Every man on the team, especially the wings, should be schooled in getting the puck on the rebound from a stop by the goal keeper, for usually the goal keeper has been so drawn out of position by the previous shot that he is off his balance and totally unprepared to meet another assault.

VI.

Many teams make the mistake of playing too conservative a defensive game. Thereby they lose chance after chance to score themselves. Point and cover-point should never make the mistake of both going for the man with the puck. It is done sometimes, but the team that makes a practice of such a play is doomed to defeat. They should at all times play a close defensive game, unless it be a close game, and their team is behind, when it is often desirable to bring them right up behind the forwards and thereby reinforce the attack. Often the tying and winning goals can be made by such a shift of

Wife's Advice Prove Lucky For Him, He Says.

Gets Rid of Six Year's Trouble in Short Order by Taking Tanlac.

"I never thought there was a medicine in the world that could do any one the good Tanlac has me," said A. J. Cornier, who resides at 44 Dorchester Street, Sydney, Nova Scotia, recently. Continuing, he said:

"For the past six years I have suffered a great deal with my stomach. I had a very poor appetite and would have to force down everything I ate, and as soon as I did it would sour, gas would build up and my heart would palpitate terribly, and I would have great difficulty in breathing. I would have such dizzy spells it would be all I could do to keep from falling, and they would leave me feeling weak and exhausted. I was extremely nervous and could get but little sleep, and every morning I would get up with a terrible headache and was very seldom able to eat the least bit of breakfast and when I did it would only be a very small piece of toast, and even this would cause me intense misery. I felt tired and worn out all the time and actually should have been in bed instead of trying to work, and if I had given way to my feelings there is where I would have been, for I was not really able to be up and about.

"I had tried every sort of medicine I could hear of, but none of them did me any good. Then one day, my wife suggested I try Tanlac, and while I had about lost faith in all kinds of medicines I took her advice, and I have thanked her ever since for mentioning it to me. Well, sir, to my surprise, I began to improve almost immediately after I started taking it, and now, while I have only taken five bottles, I can truthfully say I am a well man. I have a good appetite and can eat anything I want and everything agrees with me perfectly. I never have those dizzy spells any more and my nerves are so improved I can sleep like a log and get up in the morning feeling fine, and can always eat a hearty breakfast, for I never feel nauseated now. Tanlac has put me on my feet again, and I think it is my duty to tell others about it so if they are troubled as I was they can have the benefit of my experience."

Tanlac is sold in St. John's by J. M. Connors, under the personal direction of a special Tanlac representative, in Harbor Street, by Thomas Walsely & Sons; in Placentia by James Murphy & Son; and in Topsail, by J. K. Bursell-advt.

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VENETIAN—50 inches wide.

Black, Navy, Brown, Saxe,
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TO CORRESPONDENTS

Correspondents are requested to accompany contributions with their names, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. In future no correspondence will be considered unless this rule is adhered to.

MINARD'S LIMENT CURES DIPHTHERIA.



Maternity Home Campaign.

Company Gives \$2,500—Per- Cable from Lord Northcliffe.

Yesterday afternoon Mrs. M. S. achieved the highest gift of single team worker, captain or chairman, in the Maternity Campaign. Several days ago the close of the campaign she telegraphed to Mr. W. Scott, General Manager of the Anglo-Nfld. Dev. Co., St. John's, requesting the company's contribution. Yesterday afternoon following telegram was received:

Replying to your telegram, Board of Directors desires me to subscribe of two thousand dollars for Maternity Hospital. Please advise the proper parties. The day Mr. M. G. Winter, Chairman of the Campaign, also received the following personal cable from Lord Northcliffe:

Replying your cable Anglo-Nfld. Development Company has been instructed make liberal donation of \$2,500. Wish you every success.

Telegrams of thanks will immediately be forwarded to Lord Northcliffe and Mr. Scott, for the Board of Directors, for their generous contribution which is still another indication of the splendid sympathetic and interested of the Company in movements to promote the best interests of the people of the Dominion.

Mrs. Sullivan was a member of the 12, this large gift goes to increase the score of that team, of Miss Furlong was the Chair-making the total for the team the whole campaign over \$4,000. Bringing it into third highest Division "D," of which Mrs. G. Winter was Chairman, putting Winter's Division far in the lead of other divisions, with a total of over \$14,000. It also widens the margin by which the Women's Division was ahead of the Men's Division for the whole campaign. In addition to the above amount, following sums were reported at quarters during the day: Mr. & Mrs. K. Co., New York (through their agent, John B. Orr) . . . \$25.00
S. Kirk Soap Co., Chicago (through their agent, John B. Orr) . . . 50.00
Sawyer & Son, Boston, Mass., (through their agent, Mr. John B. Orr) . . . 100.00

NOTICE

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