

Speaking on Sports

with RICHARD VIVONE

MONTREAL—As dusk settled on one horizon of the Centennial College Hockey Tournament, war clouds were looming on the other. Before the sun can rise again, it is within reason to believe the war clouds will spit their fire and foul oaths and obliterate the tournament and along with it college sport in Canada.

The Centennial Tournament is the pet project of Ed Enos, athletic director of Loyola College of Montreal. Enos, in one of his visions of grandeur, made this his personal centennial contribution.

To have anything done in Montreal, David Molson, president of the Canadien Arena Company, has to put his personal stamp of approval on it. This he did when Enos confronted him with the idea.

It is one month later. J. David Molson is in his lush, plush lounge adjacent to the Forum clinic. He sits in a chair that gives you a sweet sensation that you may never quit sinking.

Now he is talking. When he talks, everybody listens. "Want a coffee?, smoke?, sandwich?, beer..." said the golden haired host.

"Nah, just tell me what you think about the hockey you've seen in this tournament," I said with a dry mouth.

"I don't want to sound overly critical," he explained, "but the hockey in this tournament hasn't been overly impressive."

Quality of hockey criticized

"The teams are not in good condition. This is partly the fault of the coaches. The teams don't play good positional hockey and tend toward one man efforts."

Okay. How do you correct this?

"McGill has taken a new stand on athletic scholarships," he pointed out. "I firmly believe that education and athletics can go hand in hand. If you give these awards on the basis of need, there is no reason why scholarships should be excluded from university life."

Well, what about the Molson scholarships doled out in the west. Do they do anything for the athlete?

"Naturally, I've heard about them but I really don't know enough about them to give a valid comment."

And the big man in the Canadien organization expounded some of his other views but gave the distinct impression that he was 'for' scholarships and even hinted that there should be better coaching in the universities.

Coach Tom Watt of the Blues, a good natured person always and especially happy about the victory, turned his thoughts the other way when questioned about the idea of aid for the athlete.

"I'm against athletic scholarships 100 per cent. All we try to do is provide an opportunity for students to participate in athletics. They should not be given remuneration for this."

"If the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union decides in favour of them, then Toronto will pull out. Probably the Ontario-Quebec Athletic Association will too. We just can't justify scholarships."

Scholarships no answer

"I might sound a little smug in saying this because we have so much talent to choose from. I know that schools like Laurentian (Sudbury) have been having trouble keeping boys because the American schools come across and dangle nice money in front of the players and they leave."

"But that doesn't justify them. If, on a very remote chance that they are acceptable, then they must be based strictly on financial need and academics must play a large part in the awarding of them. But even if smaller places get them, we don't want them at Toronto."

So, Toronto doesn't want them. Some do. If the CIAU says they are legal and they will back them, then the college set up in Canada could go down the drain. In hockey, Toronto has the best club in Canada and possibly in the North American continent. A national championship without their participation would not be a full one.

They will fight. Who will win? Possibly no one. But one thing is certain. You never have two losers.

The Blues again

Alberta falls to side as U of T takes tournament

MONTREAL — Three hockey teams marched to the firing line to take shots at the University of Toronto Blues and when it was over and done and the smoke had cleared, the Blues were the only group left on the scene.

The Toronto shooters won the first Centennial College Hockey tournament by winning three times. They walloped St. Dunstan's University of Charlottetown 13-1, the University of Alberta 8-5 and, in the final round, stepped over Sir George Williams University 8-4.

"We're just a good intercollegiate team, period!" said Blues' coach Tom Watt. He should have said 'great' because, with this victory and possession of the J. David Molson Trophy, the Blues celebrated their fourth tournament championship in two years.

The second day opened with the Bear-Blues rematch. The Blues bombed Alberta 8-1 in the Canadian final at Sudbury last March.

The Blues came out like fire-eating, goal-crazed dragons and before the Bears came to their senses, Toronto had a commanding 4-0 lead. Actually, the goals were scored in the first six minutes of the game and the Bears got their first shot on the opposing goal at the nine minute mark.

This is how the Blues got them. At 2:00, Murray Stroud won the draw in the Alberta zone and Gord Cunningham whipped it into the net.

Thirty seconds later, Cunningham took Stroud's pass and broke into the clear for another tally. At 3:10, Ward Passi made it 3-0.

The Blues took time out for a brief interlude before Steve Monteith hit at 6:30.

It appeared that the loss in Sudbury last March would be a close one compared to what this game promised. But success tends to go to one's head and the Blues relaxed.

That was a bad mistake because it gave Alberta a chance to assemble the troops. Gordon Jones fired the first Bear goal at 12:10 as the Albertans gained momentum. But Toronto came back with Steve Monteith at the reins at 14:15.

It was at this time that the rally began as the Bears whacked home four unanswered goals in the next 24 minutes.

Jones with his second at 16:30 and Brian Harper at 19:22 made the count 5-3 at the conclusion of the first period.

Dale Rippel and Jack Nicholl, two Bear veterans who arrived early that morning, were making their presence known as the Torontonians were blocked from every angle.

Early in the second period Harper hit the post after intercepting a pass from the Blue defence. Pete Speyer was hot on his tail but the Bear winger got off a good shot.

At 16:39, LeBlanc scored his third tournament goal and two minutes later Del Billings capped the uprising with the tying tally.

"I thought we had them after the second period," said Bear boss Clare Drake. "As long as we hit them, they didn't skate and we carried the game. But we stopped."

Watt was worried at that stage of the game. "I thought they had us for a while. If they could have kept Harper out there a little longer, they could have won. God, he was tired."

Then the Monteith brothers went to work again. They cracked the tough Bear defence at 7:31 of the last period as Hank beat Wolfe. Twenty seconds later Steve popped one in and he struck again at 11:09. And that was the hockey game.

Terry Harper of the Montreal Canadiens was an interested observer of this game. "Toronto has some pretty fast players. Alberta

can keep up for a while but then Toronto seems to break away. Speed is their game and they play it well."

Sir George Williams beat McGill 4-2 to qualify for the final. Toronto opened fast against the Sir George team. Steve Monteith with two and Hank Monteith and Paul Laurent with singles opened up another 4-0 first period lead.

In the last five minutes of the period, the Blues completely dominated the play. Brian Chapman, Sir George goaler, was sensational

in holding the score within bounds.

The Georgians scored all of their goals in the second period but Toronto also scored twice for a comfortable 6-4 lead. They added two more in the last twenty minutes for the final result—8-4.

Watt was asked to compare the Alberta and Sir George clubs after the game. He said this: "They're both tough. Alberta has an edge in ability but Sir George was more spirited. Sir George are hard workers, and they got good goaltending."

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