



Bob Anderson ... one man's opinion

CHARLOTTETOWN—The prelude to the 1970 Canadian Intercollegiate Hockey Championships started off on an auspicious note yesterday for Brian McDonald and his Golden Bear hockey troops.

After a 12-hour travel ordeal which began in the wee small hours yesterday, including a four-hour lay-over in Montreal, the Bears arrived in this Maritime centre to begin the conquest of the title which they last won two years ago in Montreal.

Certainly the trip was not without its incidents.

First of all, Journal reporter Terry Jones got on board the Air Canada aircraft with just minutes to spare and promptly announced to all and sundry that he had just come from the church and his wedding ceremony.

That's right. Fortunately T.J. and his new bride had arrived at an earlier understanding and after a brief four-hour honeymoon he was winging his way east.

Athletic Director Ed Zemrau offered Mrs. Jones a free trip here but she decided against it, allowing as how she had only had about seven minutes' notice and didn't want to be caught for five days with only her wedding gown for company.

Manager John Blackwell had his misfortunes, too, as he deplaned in Montreal only to find that the airline had forgotten to put his luggage aboard when the plane left Edmonton.

Fortunately, the suitcase should be here before too long.

Veteran defenceman Mel Baird came down with a serious case of the flu and could hardly walk off the plane. It's not known if the tiny Baird will be ready to go for tonight's game against Toronto Blues, although if "Doctor" Mike Ballash has any say in the matter, the ex-Waterloo puckster will play.

On a more cheerful note, McDonald's crew could just prove to be the surprise of the three-day tournament which is set up on a single elimination basis.

Toronto, defending Canadian champs by virtue of their triumph in Edmonton last season, has lost a number of key veterans, while the other favorite, Loyola of Montreal, might find their self-confidence too much to overcome.

The arena where the championships are slated to be run off is the ancient Charlottetown Forum, a building which looks as though it may have been constructed away back in the days of Sir John A. MacDonald.

The seating capacity is listed as 2,600, a large enough number of pews considering that the host city does not have a team in the affair, but the ice condition leaves something to be desired. (Varsity Arena icemaker—are you listening?)

None of the coaches of the five participating clubs is making any predictions as to the outcome of the series. As Coach Bill Purcell of York Yeomen, representing the Ontario Intercollegiate Athletic Association put it, "there are the five best college teams in the country here after the title, and any one of them could take it. It's that close."

Seeing as how this writer has had fair to moderate success in the prognosticating wars so far this season, it's now time to sit down and try and forecast the eventual outcome of the whole thing.

The Golden Bears will finish on top. McDonald's men have a lot going for them in the way of momentum by virtue of their two impressive victories over Calgary Dinosaurs last weekend. In addition, ten or 11 of the Golden Bears are in their last year with the club and want to go out knowing that they're number one.

The stiffest competition will come, as aforementioned, from the Blues and Loyola Warriors.

St. Mary's Huskies and York will finish somewhere in between and could turn out to be the spoilers.

It may have been an auspicious beginning, but there will be an even better ending to the whole matter.

Puck Bruins face Blues tonight

Mel Baird laid low with flu

By **BOB ANDERSON**

CHARLOTTETOWN — In the year 1864, one Sir John A. MacDonald arrived in this stately city near the Atlantic with the hopes of bringing four land areas under one roof to be known as the Dominion of Canada.

Today, nearly 106 years later, another McDonald arrives on the scene here only with a slightly different purpose in mind.

The latest member of the McDonald clan is one Brian H, coach of the puck Golden Bears, and his aim is to bring the 1970 Canadian Intercollegiate Hockey Championship to the campus of the University of Alberta.

The Bruins are making their third consecutive appearance in the national final and last won the event back in 1968 with Clare Drake at the helm. The Bears also captured dominion honors in 1964, again with Drake in the coaching box.

But to do the trick here in 1970, the Bears have a long tough row to hoe.

Toronto Blues are the first would-be victims in tonight's opening game for the Bruins and to get by Coach Tom Watt's outfit, every Bear play-

er will have to give maximum effort.

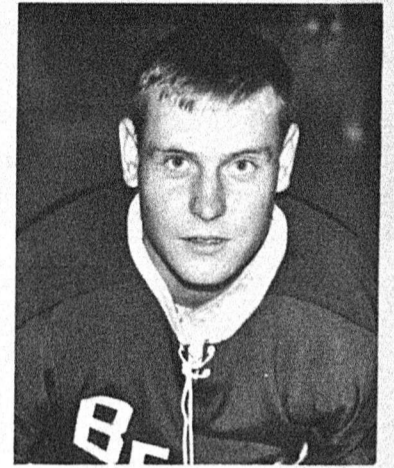
Blues are defending Canadian champions, a title they won last year in Edmonton, and have the distinction of never having lost to the Bears in national play. Blues edged the Albertans 3-2 in last year's affair.

One thing among many clouded issues is certain—none of the five teams involved will find the series a cakewalk.

In addition to Toronto and the Bears, representing the Ontario-Quebec Athletic Association and the Western Canada Intercollegiate Athletic Association respectively, are Loyola of Montreal Warriors (Ottawa-St. Lawrence AA), St. Mary's Huskies (Maritime Intercollegiate AA), and York University Yeomen (Ontario Intercollegiate AA).

Many observers here feel that Coach Bob Purcell's Yeomen, in their very first national final and only five years in existence could turn out to be the tournament's dark horses.

Yeomen were 10-0 in league play, had only two losses against them all season and tied the powerful Blues 4-4. Purcell has a big hockey club, with the average weight of the play-



DALE HALTERMAN
... probable starter

ers something like 185 pounds. And that's big by hockey standards.

Loyola, too, is a team that has to be reckoned with. Coach Dave Draper finds himself in the same position as McDonald, as he has ten members who are in their final year of college play. Veterans usually turn out to be the key in a short series such as the vogue here.

Huskies are reputed to be a much improved outfit that garnered a fourth place finish in last season's finals. They were 15-1-2 in league play and defeated highly-rated St. Francis Xavier X-Men 6-5 in the final game of the MIAA playoffs.

Blues managed to finish first in the western division of the OQAA and defeated second place finishers Waterloo 7-3 in that league's final. Although veterans Steve Montieth, Ward Passi and Gord Cunningham are gone, Toronto still has Paul Laurent, who has played in the Dominion finals in each of his five seasons, John Wright who was the all-star centre in last season's event, and star defencemen Dave Field and Terry Parsons.

St. Mary's and York clash in the other opening round contest, while Loyola has the bye. Warriors meet the winner of the Huskies-Yeomen battle, while the victor in the Blues-Bears skirmish gets a bye in to the championship final to be staged Saturday evening.

McDonald hasn't announced who will start in goal against the Blues, although it will likely be Dale Halterman. Dave Couves, a centre brought up from the Junior Bearcats midway through the season to replace the suspended Al Cameron, will not be in action as under Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union rules, a player who has sat out the previous season because of academic reasons is ineligible the following year for national competition. George Repka will suit up in Couves' place.

Saturday's final game will be carried by CBC Radio at 3 p.m. Edmonton time.

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