Gateway Sports

Bob Anderson
...one man's opinion

CHARLOTTETOWN — The 1970 Canadian Intercollegiate Hockey Championships could be described as a fair to moderate success.

For the winning teams, that is.

As far as the Golden Bears were concerned, it was strictly a disaster. Nothing went right from the moment they landed at the airport here until they left—a day earlier than planned, at that.

In a single elimination tournament such as was the format here, one loss does it. The Bears were thrashed by the Toronto Blues 6-0 in their opening game Thursday, and while it would be the natural thing to make excuses, they were simply beaten by a better club.

As for the 11-3 thrashing by the neophyte York Yeomen the following evening, it wasn't really that shocking. It's darn tough to get up for a game which you know deep down inside doesn't mean a thing, except for the "consolation" title.

York, on the other hand, had something to prove as this was their first trip to the national finals, and they had an impression to make.

Coach Brian McDonald was understandably upset after it was all over, not only with the play of his own club, but also with the set-up that greeted the other four teams.

The Dungeon

The tournament was set for the Charlottetown Forum, a dungeon of a place that was erected back in the pre-Confederation days. However, it wasn't so much the condition of the building or of the lighting that really caught the ire of all coaches involved as the state of the ice.

As one member of the visiting press put it, "trying to play hockey on that ice is like trying to play shuffleboard on a piece of cement." It was that bad.

It was obvious that proper care hadn't been taken of the surface at all. Between period scraping was done by four or five kids who ran along the ice with their shovels picking up only half of what should have been. Then, water was dumped on liberally with clumps of snow still visible.

The result was a bumpy surface which made any kind of a skating and passing game impossible. Clubs were forced to shoot the puck down into the attacking end and chase after it.

Most noticeably affected by the conditions were Loyola of Montreal Warriors. Unbeaten in league play this season, the Warriors had relied mainly on the skating game for their success. With the ice the way it was, they were forced to change their pattern and lost two straight, to tie with the Bears for the worst performance of the three days of competition.

Not even the mercenaries helped

It's really too bad because the hosts of the affair, the Maritime Intercollegiate Hockey League, put on a darn good show otherwise.

Accommodation for the five clubs was more than satisfactory, press facilities were adequate, and the ticket promoters did a good job. With the exception of the Alberta-York clash, where only a handful of fans turned up, attendance averaged around the 1,600 mark in the 2,500 seat Forum.

One thing that the Bears did have in their favor was fan support, even if it was bought for a price. Athletic Director Ed Zemrau had made prior arrangements to enlist the services of a 35-piece local high school band and 15 cheerleaders and to obtain a giant banner urging the Bruins on to greater things.

However, not even psychology could pull it out for the Bears.

Edge St. Mary's 3-2

Toronto national champs—again

By Bob Anderson
Gateway Sports Editor
St. Mary's 2, Toronto 3

CHARLOTTETOWN — It was your classic confrontation.

In the one corner from Halifax were St. Mary's Huskies, a gritty, determined band of hockey players who had captured the imagination and hearts of hundreds of people during the Canadian Intercollegiate Hockey Championships here last weekend.

In the other corner from Toronto were Toronto Varsity Blues, the perennial Ontario - Quebec Athletic Association representatives and defending Canadian champions — the perfect example of a hockey machine if there is such a thing.

By rights, the machine should have walked all over the mortal Huskies. But it didn't happen quite that way.

The Blue Machine won, all right, but it took a last-minute goal by five-year veteran Paul Laurent with only 14 seconds left on the clock to give the Blues a 3-2 win and their fourth Canadian title in the eight years that the event has been staged. Over 3,000 took in the contest.

Coach Bob Boucher's Huskies, who lost out in last season's consolation round to the Golden Bears, made it to the finale by knocking off York Yeomen 4-1 and trouncing highly-rated Loyola Warriors 4-0 in preliminary rounds, while Toronto trounced Alberta 6-0.

Terrible ice

The Haligonians were about the only club to really come up with a solution to the horrid ice conditions that greeted the five clubs at the ancient Charlottetown Forum. Bumpy, chippy ice forced the teams to shoot the puck into the opponent's zone rather than carry it and the Huskies, with steady, if not sensational, talent up front, were effectively able to forecheck opponents before they could get untracked.

The formula was successful for the Sled-dogs in the York and Loyola encounters, but proved effective against the Blues only in spots. The Torontonians have a smooth skating, accurate passing and hustling outfit and obviously were the better club.

But the Huskies never gave up. After trailing 2-0 after two periods (they had two goals called back), the Maritime Intercollegiate Athletic Association torch-holders struck for two third period markers to knot the count at 2-2.

Brian O'Byrne, a tournament all-star, stepped out of the penalty box in time to receive a clearing pass from John Murray and deposit the disc behind Blue netminder Grant Cole, while Gerry Cameron rapped home a goalmouth pass from Ron Hindson at 15:52.

The Blues then sprung to the attack, possibly taken aback by such affrontery by the upstart Huskies. The last five minutes were hectic to say the very least, and only the outstanding work of Chuck Goddard kept the score tied.

Winning goal

Finally, however, the dam burst. Laurent, playing in his fourth Canadian final, got the faceoff in the St. Mary's end, slid the puck to winger Bob McGuinn who promptly relayed it to Laurent at the left side of the net. A quick deke—the only mistake by Goddard in the entire game — and the puck was in the lower left hand corner. The goal came at 19:46.

Terry Peterman scored the other Toronto markers, one in each of the first two periods.

Despite the fact that they had just won the national championship, the Blues' dressing room was remarkably quiet. Coach Tom Watt had nothing but praise for the Huskies, and admitted that it had been too close for comfort for his club.

Blues outshot Huskies 41-33 and took four of eight minor penalties.

Dream teamers

CHARLOTTETOWN — Coach Bob Boucher of St. Mary's Huskies was right when he said that his club had the strongest defence in Canadian college hockey this season.

At least the all-star committee agreed with him in picking the annual dream team following this year's CIAU Championships.

Defenceman Brian O'Byrne and John Murray and sensational goaltender Chuck Goddard were the Huskies selected along with three Toronto Blues — centre Brian St. John and wings Nick Holmes and Terry Peterman.

Trounced 6-0 by Blues

Bears make early exit

By Bob Anderson
Bears 0, Toronto 6

CHARLOTTETOWN — You couldn't help but get the feeling that the 1970 Canadian Intercollegiate Hockey Championships were going to be somewhat of an anti-climax as far as the Golden Bears were concerned.

Brian McDonald's Bruins had come on strong in the Western Canada Intercollegiate Hockey League playoffs to knock off Manitoba Bisons and Calgary Dinosaurs in straight games, but the strain of winning must have been too much to handle.

The Albertans were trounced 6-0 by the Toronto Blues, defending Canadian Champions, here Thursday night and found themselves out of contention as far as winning the affair was concerned.

"I really felt that the whole thing was anti-climatic for us," said a distraught McDonald in a quiet dressing room after the contest. "We played our best games of the season last week in Calgary and had nothing left for tonight."

Whatever the reason, the Bears were just simply no match for the high-flying Blues who were playing in their fifth consecutive Canadian final. The Torontonians were in command from the word go and never allowed the Albertans to get untracked.

Toronto's biggest asset, like the Bears, is skating. And, although the ice surface at the Charlottetown Forum was nothing short of lousy, the Blues were able to capitalize on bouncing pucks much better than were the Bears.

The Blues jumped ahead at the 2:52 mark of the opening period when Dave McDowell's soft shot from the blueline bounced off the backboards and trickled in off Bear goalie Bob Wolfe's left skate.

The fluke marker seemed to deflate the Bears, and if it didn't, a clean goal by Brian St. John 90 seconds later, did.

The Blues continued the onslaught with a pair of goals in each of the last periods to win going away.

Len Burman, Paul Laurent, a five-year man for Tom Watt's outfit, Terry Peterman and Nick Holmes were the other Toronto goal-getters before 2,000 onlookers, while Grant Cole wielded the whitewash brush.
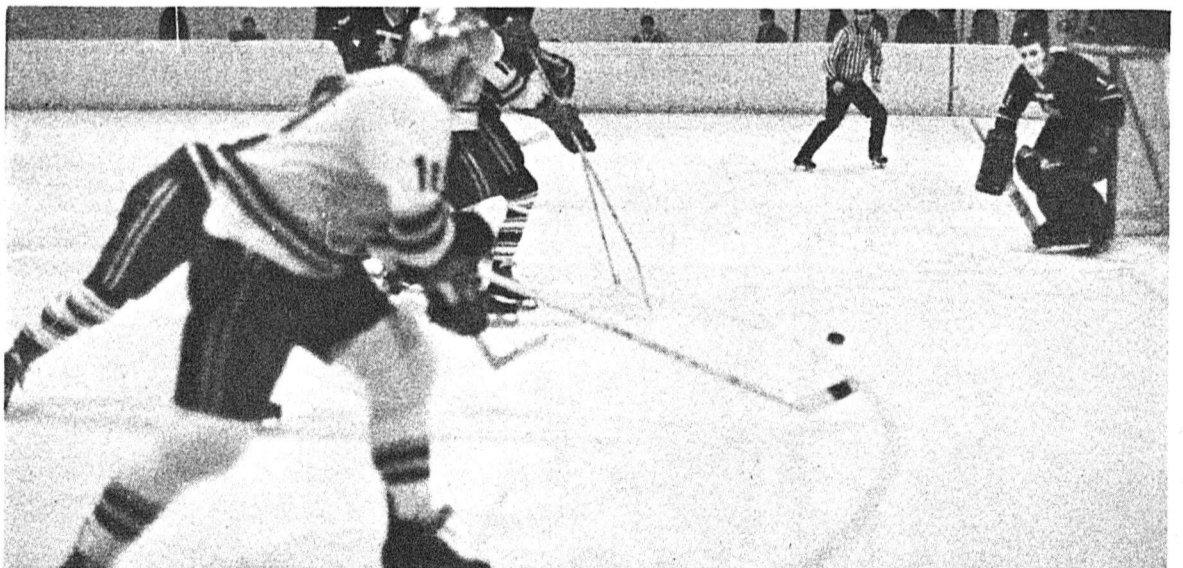
Bears had chances

The Bears had their chances to put the puck in the net, but poor shooting, bouncing pucks and three or four good stops by Cole kept them off the score sheet.

Jack Gibson had about six good chances and Tom Devaney, three, but luck just wasn't with them.

Wolfe and Cole each faced 31 drives, while the Blues made a clean sweep of the four minor penalties.

Gerry Hornby and Gerry Braunberger both left the game before it was over with injured legs after taking hard checks into the boards. As well, Mel Baird didn't play because of the flu.

In Thursday's other contest, St. Mary's Huskies from Halifax knocked off York University Yeomen 4-1 on the strength of goals by Carl Boswick, Gerry Cameron, Ron Hindson and Ed Hebert.

—Jack McAndrew photo
BEARS' BILL CLARKE (10) DUMPS PUCK TOWARD TORONTO NET
. . . but Harvey Poon (19) is too well covered