

# Canadian defends our No. 1 sport against the US

Editor's note:

The following letter was written to the editor of the New York Times, and is reprinted here with the author's permission. The author, Iris Jones, is a Canadian citizen living in the United States.

Dear Sir, and Messrs David Anderson and Hedrick Smith:

Your recent articles about the Canada-Russia hockey games have been right in line with the policy of your not allowing Canada to have anything of her own, whether it be readers of Canadian books or expertise in hockey. Also in line with your policies, I suppose you will print an answer to this without printing the original letter, so your readers will not hear both sides of the story. They will be allowed to go on believing that the troubles between Canada and

the United States just appeared full-blown from the head of John Connally, when in fact they have been going on with variable intensity for over two hundred years. Canadians seem to offend the United States just because they exist; an irritating reminder that the United States does not have direct jurisdiction over the whole northern North America, in spite of many subtle and not-so-subtle attempts to gain it. The recent increase of U.S. activities to settle this score and incorporate Canada once and for all has caused an upsurge of Canadian awareness that perhaps the U.S. had not counted on. And that Canadians should articulate their resentments and viable complaints is unforgivable.

Nevertheless, some things must be said, even if they fall on deaf ears. Whether the United States likes it or not, the simple fact is

that the game of ice hockey evolved and was established in Canada. Furthermore, the Stanley Cup was donated to Canada as an incentive to development of amateur hockey there. "I have for some time been thinking it would be a good thing if there were a challenge cup which could be held from year to year by the leading hockey club in Canada..." So went the letter from the man after whom the cup was named, March 18, 1892. The cup was first claimed in 1893. In those days, the players and officials were unpaid. Rink owners made any money there was to be made by taking in gate receipts.

These are the reasons why Canadians say that hockey is their game. And they are right, notwithstanding the concerted efforts of the United States to force Canadians into giving up every shred of their heritage and submerging themselves forever in the morass of continentalism, an "internationalism" that is defined and controlled by the United States, sports writers included.

Why should you begrudge us our game so much? We do not begrudge you your baseball.

Now let us see what happened

to this Canadian game. You are absolutely right about the heavy foot of capitalism on hockey. Seeking profits from the promotion and exploitation of a game which was highly popular in Canada and in some parts of the United States, the capitalists in the States formed a Federal Hockey League in 1902, and immediately started raiding the Canadian hockey clubs for good players. The inroads of that league, plus the greed of arena operators, had killed Canadian amateur big league by 1910, and had established the chattel status of the hockey players. By 1915, the Stanley Cup had been so far removed from its original realms of amateurism and Canadianism that the loss was fatal. One of the cup trustees took it upon himself to declare that the Stanley Cup represented the world championship. It would be nice to know the reason for this; but the likeliest one was that it was to accommodate two new U.S. franchises in the Pacific League; and indeed maybe the owners were joining mainly to get a crack at it. They were admitted because the Pacific League had been decimated by the First World War, which

the U.S. had not yet entered. They then proceeded to raid the old established eastern clubs for players. When the Victoria, B.C. team folded under wartime pressures, the franchise was bought by Spokane, Washington.

And so back to hockey today. What do we see. Control of the National Hockey League by U.S. franchises. A U.S. businessman who announces he is going to set up a real Stanley Cup playoff. A so-called World Hockey Association that is just more of the same at higher prices. A newspaper that prints lots of sympathy for baseball and basketball players who are fighting the "piece-of-furniture" treatment, but has little other than hard words for hockey chattels. Some of those baseball and basketball players are making a lot of money too, but somehow the paper doesn't complain so much about it. A referees' association that is genuinely worried about permitting and even promoting fighting on the ice in the U.S. (Avid Philadelphia hockey "fan" to me...) Were you there when that fight was on? (Eyes gleam, his face is alert for gory details.) Hostile and incentive fans

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All candidates must be registered students of UNB.

Nominations close at 12 Noon, Tuesday, October 17th., 1972.

Nominations are to be submitted to the Returning Officer, c/o SRC by mail or in person.

RETURNING OFFICER  
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UNSWICKAN

Scotl

By DAVID W

If it were not for the fact that Scotland would have been a tourist could we see the world's annual rainfall but it is distributed in a way that you can go to any day. If you should go to the weather then it is not of the cost. It is a fact. The Scots are very proud of their heritage and rabidly defend their borders. Centuries of border wars in the North of England were united in the 17th century the Anglo-Scottish border was degenerating into a state of anarchy. Hostile and incentive fans

FEED

at deliberately to anger, and of the else's blood. It is an error, though, and themselves. "act" with the pre-encouraging presence of an owner. "ers". The same quality encourages up playoff: is a request to each to say he will sign him the contract. Increasing number of coaches, trainers.

And last, but not least, the promotion of the competition. Bulletin, September

"Derek Sanderson and will make more than any other player in the world this season. In 1971 he helped win the Stanley Cup, and of hockey. . . say he isn't a star on the ice."

Derek Sanderson is a Canadian. He is a former foreign correspondent with the United States and the only one who has made money in the