

Flames to burn road to the Cup

by Randal Smathers
Smythe Division

Calgary vs. Vancouver—How good are the Flames? Let me put it this way: I'm a B.C. boy, and I'm still picking the Cowtowners to win it big over the Canucks. Calgary will also cruise to the Cup, causing Edmonton's second Great Depression since August 9. Calgary in five, six, five, and six.

Los Angeles vs. Edmonton—The last time the Kings won a playoff series was in 1982, when they beat Edmonton. Tough way to end the Eighties for the Oilers. Kings won't have it in the second round against the Flames though. L.A. in six, and you-know-who is in on three game-winners.

Norris Division

Detroit vs. Chicago—Haha-hahaha!!! Look at those pathetic Blackhawks! What a lousy team! They don't even deserve to be in the playoffs! (Believe me folks, it is a relief to be able to practise these lines on somebody else, instead of hearing them about the Leafs.) Detroit in three and a half.



St. Louis vs. Minnesota—Minnesota is hot since getting Mike Gartner and Larry Murphy, but Gartner and Murphy are from traditional post season stiff Washington, so how much good are they? St. Louis will check and check and collect the Norris

cheque from Detroit in seven, but first they'll win four of five from the North Stars.

Adams Division

Montreal vs. Hartford—Les and the Habs will stomp Hartford with one jackhammer thrust to the groin after another. Four. Then seven over the Bruins. They'll get a little cocky against Washington and miss the finals, though.

Boston vs. Buffalo—A series that might seem dull at first, but there'll be plenty of great hitting, and the Bruins should pot a few interesting goals, and there'll be some scraps, and damn, but isn't that what playoff hockey is supposed to be all about? Boston in seven.

Patrick Division

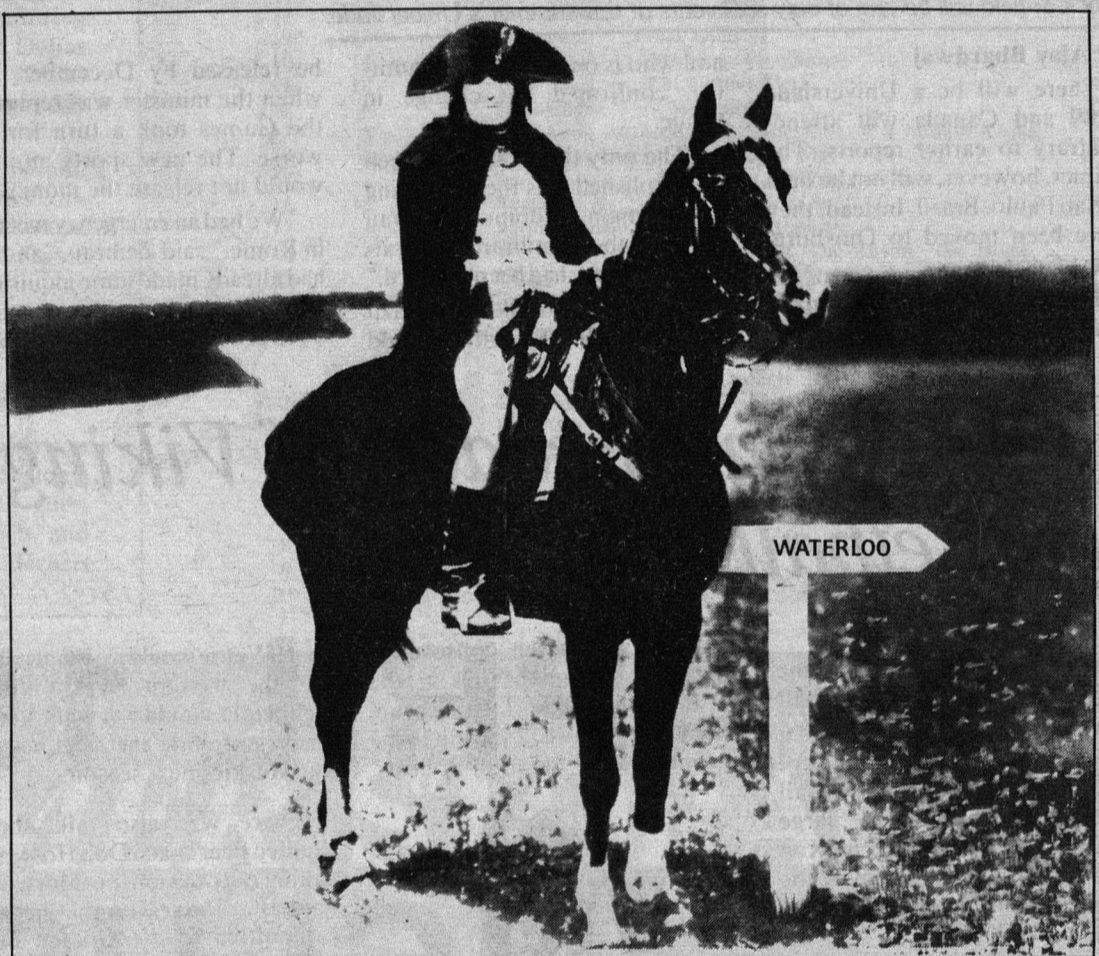
Washington vs. Philadelphia—Philly is always tough, especially against the Capitals, and this year they'll be the same—but lose. Caps should finally make it out of the Patrick, beating Philly in seven and the Penguins in six. Then they'll shock Montreal in five.

New York vs. Pittsburgh—Phil phinally ph—ed up. The Rangers will fight, a lot, and that'll give Mario skating room on the powerplay. Four straight, and there'll only be one guy to blame. Say goodbye to Broadway. Espo.

More NHL predictions on Thursday

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