

# Bad week in hockey



It was a bad week in the hockey world.

Just when everyone was starting to forget about violence in hockey and get ready for some good playoff hockey, the bubble burst. Unfortunately, this was one of the most violent weeks in Canadian hockey history.

It all started in Quebec when Calgary's resident thug Rick Jodzio went after Les Nordiques' scoring star Marc Tardif. The rest is history. Jodzio is suspended and facing criminal charges while Tardif is in the hospital.

Closer to home, in North Vancouver, Nor-Wes Caps and Spruce Grove Mets had a real dandy on Wednesday night.

A brawl that started in the first period took more than two hours and 20 policemen, to stop. When the dust had cleared, Mets' Coach Doug Messier and five of his players were suspended, along with three members of the Caps.

Numerous fans left the arena, in disgust, while the ugly incident was taking place. It is evident some people want to see a good hockey game, not a bloodbath on ice.

Then Thursday in Toronto, three members of the Philadelphia Flyers were involved in a ridiculous incident with police and fans, and now face various criminal charges.

## IGNORES WARNINGS

Despite warning of criminal charges by politicians across Canada, hockey players do not appear to be taking heed. As far as hockey donnybrooks go, the 1975-76 season will no doubt go down in history as one of the worst ever.

B.C. Attorney-General Garde Gardom suggested this week that any player, in hockey or lacrosse, involved in a fight, be immediately ejected from the game. It may seem like a good suggestion at first glance, but players would probably resort to spearing and butt-ending to take out their frustrations on each other.

There is definitely some action needed, both at the professional and junior level. But, Gardom's plan is not the right one. Suspensions, heavy fines, and if necessary, criminal charges, should do the job. Let us hope so.

Getting back to the Quebec-Calgary brawl, anyone unlucky enough to see the highlights on television, caught a quick glimpse of Vernon's contribution to the Nordiques, Tom Serviss.

Serviss was administering a well-placed knee to a Calgary player's upper body. He enjoyed a good season in Quebec, and I'm sure he won't look back on the brawl as one of the year's highlights.

## NOT POPULAR

The WHA and NHL won't win any popularity polls in Sweden, but not because of violence.

Sweden's national team has been so badly depleted by North America's two pro leagues it is of national concern in the Scandinavian country.

Sweden, once one of the most powerful hockey countries, had to struggle this year to stay in the 'A' section of the world tournament.

Top players including Ulf Nilsson, Anders Hedberg, Lars-Erik Sjoberg, Borje Salming, Inge Hammarstrom, Thommie Bergman, Thommie and Chris Abrahamsson, are all playing professionally on this side of the Pacific.

I wonder if Canada would act as graciously as Sweden if a European pro league started and recruited Bobby Orr, Bobby Hull, Bernie Parent, and a dozen other stars.

*The*

# SPORTS

DON KENDALL — Sports Editor

PHONE 545-0671

*Page*

# Mets blank Caps to capture series

**NORTH VANCOUVER (CP)** — Left-winger Tony Lecuyer scored two goals to lead Spruce Grove Mets past Nor-Wes Caps 5-0 Thursday and a 4-1 win of their best-of-seven Centennial Cup junior hockey quarter-final.

Lecuyer gave the Alberta champs, who won the cup last year, a 1-0 lead with a short-handed goal in the first period.

Other Spruce Grove scorers were Kim Spencer, Mike Broadfoot and Vince Magnan, who set up three other goals.

Bob Iwabuchi recorded the shutout. No shots-on-goal figures were available from game officials.

Referee Larry Hok called a tight game, handing out 11 penalties to the losers and nine to Spruce Grove. All were minors.

In Wednesday's fourth game, won 12-2 by the Mets, play was suspended nearly two hours in the first period by a benchclearing brawl that spread to the stands.

Police were called but the

fighting had subsided by the time they arrived.

As a result of the fracas, suspensions were given to Spruce Grove coach Doug Messier and three of his players. Three Nor-Wes Caps were also suspended.

The suspensions handed Spruce Grove will continue into the semi-finals against the winner of the Prince Albert-Selkirk series.

Messier still has two games to serve as does Grant Morrin. Mike Panteluk and Jeff Elkow will miss the first game of that series.

Spruce Grove trainer Buck Buckanski handled the team Thursday.

## Bruins dump Cougars 4-1

**VICTORIA (CP)** — New Westminster Bruins scored two quick goals to open the third period and went on to defeat Victoria Cougars 4-1 Friday night and take a 4-0 lead in their Western Canada Hockey League eight-point semi-final series.

The third game will be played here tonight.

# League hunting