

Bulls try intimidation and Jets take advantage

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Birmingham Bulls, as expected, tried their intimidation tactics against Winnipeg Jets Friday night but it backfired when the Jets scored five power-play goals and once on a penalty shot for a 9-3 win in a World Hockey Association playoff opener.

"We thought likely that if we put out on top they'd try something like this," left wing Bobby Hull said of Birmingham's roughhouse antics. "I don't really think we were wanted to win the game. They just came out to try to intimidate us for the rest of the series."

In another series opener Friday, New England Whalers beat Edmonton Oilers 6-4 at Springfield, Mass. Both of the best-of-seven quarter-final series resume Sunday while the third series, Quebec Nordiques vs. Houston Oilers, gets under way Sunday.

Hull, Bobby Guindon and Anders Hedberg each scored two goals for the Jets who outshot the Bulls 4-12 in the first period, the Bulls came back in the second to make it 4-3 but were pulled away with five goals in the third period, capped by Hedberg's second goal on a penalty shot in the final minute.

GOAL PENALTIES
Birmingham's rough play cost them 13 minor penalties and one major Dave in the first period when he tripped a major in the first period when

BOBBY HULL
...lost hair

he tangled with Hull, knocking the left winger's hairpiece off. Hull was not penalized and retired briefly to the dressing room, returning with a helmet on.

While Hanson was in the penalty box, the Jets scored twice. Hull said the Jets did not get worried when the Bulls reduced the margin to 4-3 in the second period. "I believe we all felt we had the one goal advantage and we're a better skating and maybe better conditioned club and all we had to do was go out and skate."

Hedberg was awarded the penalty shot after Steve Durbin of the Bulls threw his stick at Hedberg to knock away the puck.

Joe Daley, Winnipeg's starting goaltender, was ejected in the second period when he hurled his stick in the direction of referee Bill Fights after arguing a goal by Birmingham's Dave Gorman at 18:00.

SCORED TWO
At Springfield, the Whalers also opened a 4-1 lead, only to have Edmonton rally to within 4-3 but New England held on to win with Mike Antonovich scoring two goals.

Whalers center Dave Kron scored a short-handed goal early in the first period and set up another short-handed effort by 40-year-old Gordie Howe in the second period.

Ron Clippert had a goal and an assist for the Oilers who have never got past the first round of the playoffs. In Houston, meanwhile, the Aeros were plotting how to stop Quebec's high scoring offense. The Oilers' series opens Sunday.

Tardif won the season scoring title with a record 134 points and poses the biggest problem for coach Bill Hunter. "We've got to put pressure on the other two guys on the line," Tardif said, referring to Red Goulet and Chris Bourque.

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CANUCKS HAWAII BLANKED BY VANCOUVER

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Vancouver Canadians marked their debut in the Pacific Coast League Friday with a 4-0 win over the Hawaii Islanders in Hawaii.

In other league openers Friday, Tucson Toros beat Albuquerque Dukes 10-6, Spokane Indians edged San Jose Minors 7-6 and Tacoma Rainiers blanked the Phoenix Giants 9-0.

Mike Norris, Brian Abraham and Steve McCarty combined for a three-hitter to help the Canadians blank Hawaii. Vancouver broke a scoreless tie in the seventh inning as Derrick Belcher singled home the first run. Vancouver added another run in the eighth on Larry Murray's triple and closed out the scoring with two in the ninth on a fielder's choice and an infield throwing error.

Norris was credited with the victory. In Albuquerque, Tucson's Toros exploded for six runs in the seventh and four more in the ninth to lead the Dukes 10-6.

Bob Welch pitched six strong innings before tiring in the seventh. Reliever Lance Rautman was hit hard in the inning as Tucson wiped out a 4-0 deficit for a 5-4 lead.

Spokane tied the score in the eighth, but the Toros exploded again in the ninth, rapping four runs off Dennis Lewalyn, who had relieved Rautman in the seventh. Spokane scored three runs in the ninth, including a two-run homer by Larry Phillips 6-5 with two out in the ninth, the Indians' Larry Phillips was safe when his pop-up was dropped by catcher Steve Kromm.

Spokane scored again in the ninth on a home run by Diggle singled before Jamie Kirk's long fly ball was caught by Archie Amerson, allowing two runs to score. San Jose led the home run race with a two-run homer by Charlie Beamon contributed two hits and two RBI.

Right-hander Jim Beattie scattered five hits in the seventh before tiring. The final inning was a combined effort by the New York Yankees at the end of spring training, struck out three and walked just one. The Giants failed to get a baserunner as far as second base until the ninth inning.

Jerry Naron, Tommy Cruz and Dennis Irwin each drove in two runs for Tacoma.

Sabres - Rangers in decisive game

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Buffalo Sabres' season-ending playoff quarter-finals the last night of the season, must tonight reach that round this year.

The Sabres are home tonight against New York Rangers in the decisive game of their best-of-three preliminary round series.

The Sabres, losers to the Islanders in their last Stanley Cup challenge, lost to the Rangers 4-3 in the second round, must win tonight to reach the quarter-finals.

The Sabres, favored over the Islanders at the outset of the series, has shown a season-long tendency to let down against the lesser teams.

The Sabres won their season series against such powerful teams as Montreal, Boston and Philadelphia. But they lost twice to the lowly Washington Capitals and once to the Washington Capitals. They also were tied four times by

Philadelphia Flyers gouting Colorado Rockies, Toronto Maple Leafs beating Los Angeles Kings and Detroit Red Wings eliminating Atlanta Flames.

The quarter-final matchups are not yet determined, the only thing certain is that the best of seven round opens Monday at the home rink of Montreal Canadiens.

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Pittsburgh Penguins. Left winger Craig Ramsay said the team gets lazy against the league's lesser clubs.

"We play a couple of good games in a row, then we expect everybody to just let down and let us beat them," he said.

"There have been a lot of times when the Sabres finished second in the NHL's Adams Division while the Rangers made the playoffs as a wild card team after placing last in the Patrick Division

Red Wings not worried about facing Canadiens

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DETROIT (AP) — It may be a measure of Detroit Red Wings' new-found confidence that coach Bob Kromm doesn't quake at the prospect of meeting mighty Montreal in the quarter-finals of the National Hockey League playoffs.

"I'm not worrying about Montreal until I get there," said Kromm, whose Cinderella team ended its regular season Sunday with a 4-0 blitz of the defending champions.

The Wings who eliminated Atlanta 5-3 in their first game, snuffed out the Flames' Stanley Cup hopes Thursday as Bill Locheed scored with 1:34 left to give Detroit a 3-2 victory.

"That was a great game—and so exciting," said Jimmy Rutherford, of the Norris Division.

Rangers in another preliminary round game tonight.

Either way, Detroit's first two games, Monday and Wednesday, will be played away from Philadelphia. But they will be played at home Friday and the following Sunday—will be played at home.

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Canucks facing huge damage suit

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
VANCOUVER (CP) — Mike Robitaille, a former player with Vancouver Canucks, Friday filed a writ in British Columbia Supreme Court claiming damages of at least \$50,000 against the National Hockey League.

Robitaille's lawyer, John Rolton, said in a statement that in a professional hockey player, Robitaille was checked by Dennis Wehrhahn of Pittsburgh Penguins and he suffered damage to the base of his spine.

Robitaille is claiming \$50,000 as damages for breach of contract, general and special damages for injuries received and other awards that the court may deem fit.

The action also alleges that the accumulation of injuries culminated in an injury Jan. 1977, which ended his career as a professional hockey player.

Robitaille is claiming \$50,000 as damages for breach of contract, general and special damages for injuries received and other awards that the court may deem fit.

Robitaille, 30, now living in East Amherst, N.Y., alleges in the action "that throughout the 1975-76 season, the defendant was negligent in failing to ensure his safety fitness and health."

He argues that the club failed to provide adequate medical assistance, ignored his complaints of injury and pressured him into playing despite injuries.

Wayne Gross hit a solo home run to the right field bleachers in the seventh inning for Oakland. Gross's breaking homer came off lower Chris Knapp and made a winner of Dave Heaverlo, who took over 24 saves in his first game.

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Kimberley records easy win

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
KIMBERLEY, B.C. (CP) — Kimberley Dynamiars blanked Drumheller Miners Friday to take a 1-0 lead in their best-of-five Western Canada Allan Cup hockey semi-final series.

Glen Walton and Jim Cruise got two goals each for Kimberley, while singles came from Ken Ireland, Allan Fleck, Barry Cummins and Len Hicks.

Wayne Morin got the Alberta team's lone goal. Brian Reynolds made 41 saves for Drumheller while Wayne Hall blocked 38 shots for Kimberley.

Playoff action continues tonight. Kimberley and Drumheller are travelling to Nanaimo to play the Clippers. On Sunday, Nanaimo visits Bellingham and Pentiction meets the Chiefs in Kamloops.

CENTS BLAST CALGARY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
MERRITT, B.C. (CP) — Merritt Centennials are the best of seven Centennial Cup semi-final series with the Calgary Canucks at two games apiece Friday with a 12-0 victory.

Pat Murphy blocked 23 shots on his way to recording the shutout. Merritt's Clint Malarchuk combined to make 41 stops in the Canucks' goal.

Merritt scored three unanswered goals in the first three minutes, two of them by Blake Stephens, who never looked away from the net. He held period leads of 4-0 and 7-0. Ed Beers, Pat Labbitt, and Tom Flockhart also scored with singles coming from Rick Metcalfe and Johnson, Dale Ames, and Gary Sirkka.

Merritt took 14 of the 20 minor penalties and each team was assessed four fighting majors.

The series between the British Columbia trio and the Alberta representatives continues here tonight.

Young Spaniard tears up course

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
CARLSBAD, Calif. (AP) — Gary Player was shaking his head "amazing," he said "Fantastic, remarkable, tremendous" when he congratulated his opponent for Severiano Ballesteros of Spain, who is handling the tough, four-tiered American pros with the same ease he has dominated European golf the last two years.

"He's the closest thing to Arnold Palmer I've ever seen since he retired," said Player. "He has a tremendous amount of charisma."

"I'm as strong I played with him yesterday and he spent a lot of time in the rough. He literally tore the roots out of the ground, actually tore the roots out."

The weak-buckling Ballesteros, an accomplished jobster despite having just turned 21, wasn't expected to do much rough Friday, but used his exceptional strength to haul his 125-gram iron under-par 69 in the second round of the \$275,000 tournament.

He highlighted his no-bogey effort with a P.F. iron second shot that traveled 208 yards and set up an eagle three on the 527-yard 12th hole at the La Jolla Country Club course.

Orioles hand Brewers first loss of season

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Just when it looked like Baltimore might never win a game and Milwaukee might never lose one, the Orioles came up with a victory, and the Brewers with a loss.

Leading the Jays past Detroit in Toronto's season home opener. He drilled a two-run single in Toronto's six-run sixth inning. Peter an error by Tigers second baseman Lou Whitaker put the Blue Jays in the lead.

Ron LeFlore and Jason Thompson slugged first-inning homers for Detroit.

Red Sox 5 Rangers 4
Jim Rice's 388-foot single scored Butch Hobson with Boston's winning run in the bottom of the 10th inning.

Hobson opened the inning with a single and advanced on a sacrifice and infield out before Rice, whose eighth-inning single had tied the game, came through with the winning hit.

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Veets take 3-0 lead in BCJHL semi-finals

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
PENTICTON, B.C. (CP) — Pentiction Veets took a commanding 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven British Columbia Junior Hockey League semi-final series with a 3-2 victory over Kamloops Chiefs Friday night before about 800 fans.

Dave Smith, Kevin Maxwell, Andy Turner and Ross Fitzpatrick each scored twice for Pentiction, while Darcy Listhaeghe had one goal. Terry Olson was credited with six assists in the win.

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Pat's face elimination after overtime defeat

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Elin Flin Bombers, Billings Bighorns and New Westminster Bruins won games Friday night in their central and western divisions of the Western Canada Hockey League to take their respective best-of-seven games series.

Elin Flin defeated Regina Pats 4-3 in Regina. Billings took Medicine Hat Tigers 10-9 in an away game. The New Westminster doubled Cougars 8-4 at Victoria.

Elin Flin leads the Eastern division—series 3-0. Billings the central division 3-1 and New Westminster the western division continues in all three divisions tonight.

Kay Markham scored at 4:41 of sudden death overtime to give Flin their win over Regina.

Jordan Douglas scored three goals for Bombers, including one at 3:38 of the game. Pats held the advantage at 3:33. Pats tied a man advantage at the time.

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