Tardif praised —series even

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — "Marc Tardif is even better than I thought he was," New England Whalers coach Harry Neale admitted Sunday night. "He's the best in the league."

The Whalers used forward Danny Bolduc to shadow the World Hockey Association regular-season scoring leader, but Tardif scored anyway and helped Quebec Nordiques to a 3-2 victory that evened the WHA semi-final series at one victory apiece.

The third and fourth games of the best-of-seven series will be in Quebec Wednesday and Friday.

Tardif was used on two lines but managed to break away from Bolduc's grasp long enough in the first period to tie the score at 1-1.

"Bolduc did another superlative job and we couldn't have gotten any more from him," said Neale. "Tardif got a goal but so did Bolduc."

The two teams exchanged goals in the first period. Mike Rogers, who figured in both Whalers' goals, put New England out in front at 10:23. Goaltender Louis Levasseur directed a shot by Bob Fitchner to Rogers who barrelled down the left side and beat Quebec's Richard Brodeur with a low slap shot to his left.

Tardif evened the score less than two minutes later.

Quebec scored the only goal of the second period when right winger Real Cloutier snapped in a rebound of a Tardif shot from the point while the Whalers were killing off a penalty.

New England tied the game midway through the final period when Bolduc tipped in a Larry Pleau pass from just outside the crease.

Fitchner picked up a loose puck to the left of the Whalers' net and centred a pass to Steve Sutherland who lifted in the winning goal at 3:37 of the final period.

CENTS DROP THIRD GAME

MERRITT, B.C. (CP) — Roy Roedger scored the only goal of the third period Saturday to give Prince Albert Raiders a 4-3 victory over Merritt Centennials and a 2-1 lead in their best-of-seven Western Centennial Cup tier two junior hockey final.

Merritt led 3-1 after the first period and the teams were tied 3-3 after 40 minutes.

Larry Stankoven, Blake Stephens and Ken Stroud scored for Merritt by 7:46 of the first period. The Raiders then began to take control of the game, outshooting Merritt 16-7 in the second period.

Kelly McCrimmon led the Prince Albert attack with two goals, and singles were added by Roedger and Glen White.

Goalie Roy Shultz stopped 38 shots in the Prince Albert net, while Pat Murphy blocked 34 for the Centennials.

The Raiders were given five of eight minor penalties, and each team took four fighting majors. Merritt's Kelly Fermer was given a game misconduct for continuing a fight.

The fourth game will be played Monday in Prince Albert.

SOLID EFFORT

Canada thumps Americans 7-2

PRAGUE (CP) — The high hopes Team Canada generated by exhibition victories over Sweden and Czechoslovakia have been revived by the club's tidy, efficient play in a 7-2 win over the United States at the world hockey championship Sunday night.

Plagued by giveaways in their first game loss to Finland and even in their relatively easy win over East Germany, the Canadians came up with a solid effort against the Americans, a mixture of professionals and amateurs.

With Cleveland Barons centre Dennis Maruk scoring three goals, Colorado Rockies right winger Wilf Paiement two and Los Angeles centre Marcel Dionne and Pittsburgh right winger Jean Pronovost one each, the Canadians had a 7-0 lead before the Americans managed to beat goalkeeper Dan Bouchard of Atlanta Flames late in the third period.

Mike Fidler of Cleveland and Bill Chapman of Cincinnati Stingers scored goals at 16:42 and 17:12, just 30 seconds apart, to spoil Bouchard's bid for a shutout.

"This was a little more like the exhibition games we played against Sweden and Czechoslovakia," said Canada coach Harry Howell. "The defensive game was much stronger than in the first two games and until the last five minutes we played a strong, aggressive hockey game."

Howell said he thought the Canadians had learned their lesson and will be ready to play disciplined hockey when they get into the thick of the roundrobin competition against defending champion Czechoslovakia on Thursday night. But first they must deal with the winless West Germans tonight.

WILF PAIEMENT
. . . two goals

"Tonight, with a seven-goal lead and five minutes to go, I can understand a little bit of a letdown and I'm not upset about that at all," Howell said of Sunday's game.

"As far as giving the puck away, we were very strong in the first period. The only giveaways were in the offensive zone which is not good but at least they can't burn you as much as if they happened in the defensive zone. In the second period it was almost the same thing. Over-all, much better than in our first game against the Finns."

The win gave Canada a 2-1 record and fourth place behind Sweden, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union, all 3-0. The Russians, bidding to win the title for the first time in three years, maintained their winning record with a 6-3 victory over the pesky Finns but once again did not look impressive.

Team Canada's morale got a boost because it handled the Americans much more easily than the Russians who had struggled to beat them 9-5 after ending the second period tied 4-4.

TWO INJURED

The Canadians played without centres Guy Charron of Washington Capitals and Tom Lysiak of Atlanta Flames.

Charron has a bruised knee and will probably sit out the next game and be able to play against Czechoslovakia on Thursday, said Howell. Lysiak definitely will not play until Thursday. "We're not taking any chances with his badly-bruised ankle but we also think he'll be able to play on Thursday."

Finnish referee Raimo Sepponen, evidently aware of the North American style of tough play in the corners, let both teams get away with a few things. He gave each team six minors but also assessed Dennis Kearns of Vancouver Canucks a misconduct for spearing Fidler.

The American, in an attempt at retaliating, inadvertently slashed Bouchard on the elbow with his stick. The Canadian goalkeeper was able to continue after lying on the ice in pain for about a minute.

Fist fights are almost unheard of in European hockey but Atlanta defenceman Pat Ribble and Glen Patrick of Hershey Bears almost came to blows in the third period before team-mates intervened to separate them.

Canada handled the American power play effectively and was rarely in danger of giving up a goal on the four occasions it played shorthanded. Maruk's second and third goals were scored with the U.S. playing short.

The Canadians outshot the Americans 46-37 and the U.S. had a 13-11 edge in the second period but U.S. goalkeeper Peter LoPresti had by far the greatest number of difficult shots.

Bruins whitewash Bighorns

BILLINGS, Mont. (CP) — New Westminster Bruins scored three unanswered goals in the third period Sunday night to defea' Billings Bighorns 3-1 and win the best-of-seven Western Canada Hockey League championship in four games.

The win brought the Bruins their fourth consecutive WCHL title. They now advance to represent the league in the Memorial Cup final in Sudbury, Ont., next week.

The Bruins were held scoreless until Jim Dobson came through with a goal at the 5:38 mark in the final period on a scramble close to the net to tie the game 1-1. One minute later, Randy Irving notched the game winner, teaming up with John Obrodnick on a two-on-one break.

Jean Paul Kelly sealed the win with 22 seconds remaining in the game.

Dell Hoffman scored the lone Bighorn goal.

The Bighorns, who outshot the Bruins 27-26, took six minor penalties and one major, while New Westminster was assessed eight minors, one major and a misconduct.

New Westminster had won Saturday's third game 6-3.

Manitoba bowlers victorious

THUNDER BAY (CP) — Manitoba won the Canadian Youth Bowling Council championship on the weekend with five gold medals—three in individual five-pin competition and two in team play.

David Johnson of Winnipeg won the bantam boys' event with a tie-breaker victory over Chris Wooton of Greenwood, N.S. after both had finished the regular round-robin competition with 14-8 records.

Casey Van Moorlehem of Winnipeg took the junior boys' contest with a tie-breaker over Barry McNamara of Chelmsford, Ont., also after a 14-6 record in regular play.

Tracy Melnyk won the junior girls' title with an 18-2 record.

Manitoba entries from Winnipeg also took the team titles for bantam boys with a 14-4 record and for junior boys with a 15-3 record.

A total of 278 bowlers, all chosen in provincial or regional competition, participated in the championship.

Last year, Manitoba and Alberta finished tied in the overall standings with four gold medals each.

Other individual winners this year were:

Bantam girls: Christine Parker of Moose Jaw, Sask., 14-8, over Lisa Theodore of Toronto in a tie-breaker.

Senior boys: Randy Squires of Burnaby, B.C., 15-4-1; and

Senior girls: Kim Wilson, Prince George, B.C., 15-5.

Other team winners were:

Bantam girls: Cranbrook, B.C., 13-5;

Junior girls: Markham, Ont., 12-6, in a tie-breaker over North Bay, Ont.;

Senior boys: Thunder Bay 12-6, and

Senior girls: Coquitlam, B.C., 16-2.

WHA TOP TEN

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

World Hockey Association playoff scoring leaders after Sunday's game

	G	A	P.
Antonovich, NE	6	6	12
Gaudreault, Que	8	3	11
Tardif, Que	5	5	10
Kea, NE	3	7	10
Baxter, Que	3	7	10
Hedberg, Winn	6	3	9
Hull, Winn	6	3	9
Grimson, Winn	4	4	8
P. Bordeleau, Que	4	4	8
Sidorkiewicz, Winn	0	8	8
Nilsson, Winn	0	8	8
L. Bernier, Que	1	7	8

Badger wins five at Edmonton meet

EDMONTON (CP) — Transplanted Australian Steve Badger defeated Peter Szmidt of Pointe Claire, Que., in the 400-metre freestyle event of the Alberta Invitational Swim Championships which concluded Sunday.

Jeanne Meunier, a 13-year-old swimmer for Edmonton Olympians, took on 15-year-old Olympic veteran Robin Corsiglia, also of Pointe Claire, for first time in the 200-metre breaststroke and was beaten by less than a hard.

The 21-year-old Badger, who also swims for the Olympians, won five events and was second in two others to cap the top male award over 18-year-old Szmidt.

On the last turn, Badger was almost a full body length behind Szmidt but came on strong in the final stretch to set an Alberta record time of 4:06.28.

Meunier did not have the experience to catch Corsiglia who was ranked second in the 100-metre breastroke last year.

Corsiglia won the 100-metre event with a 1:17.47 time, more than a second better than Meunier who still managed to set an Alberta age group mark.

Wendy Hogg of Southside, the oldest woman on the Canadian national team at 21, won her specialties, the 100- and 200-metre backstroke and three freestyle events, the 50, 100 and 200. But she couldn't defeat Becky Smith of the Olympians for the over-all point championship.

The 11-year-old Smith not only won the 100 and 200 butterfly and 200 and 400 individual medley events but she was second in two others.

Kathy Pearson of Saskatoon Klnsmen Goldfins won the girls' 10-and-under trophy for most points with Peter Graboski of Calgary Foothills the top boy. Cheryl Flegel of Foothills and Darren Birkett of Calgary Cascade were the best 11-and 12-year-old competitors.

Foothills swimmers took the Dr. Dan Smith team trophy with 398½ points with Cascade second. Edmonton Southside edged Olympians for third. Pointe Claire with six swimmers—Corsiglia, Szmidt, Robbie Geller, Jennifer Boullanne, Marsha Tufts and Lois Daigneault—was sixth with 194 points.

Bostock will donate salary to charities

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Lyman Bostock has apparently decided to hold true to his vow of earlier this month and not accept an April pay cheque because of his poor start in the current American League baseball season.

Bostock, who signed with California Angels as a free agent during the off-season after hitting .336 last year with Minnesota Twins, picked up only two hits in his first 39 at bats this season.

Angels owner Gene Autry said he doesn't want Bostock's money, so the 27-year-old outfielder indicated he would donate it to various charities.

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Maple Leafs advance to semis, against Habs

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Toronto Maple Leafs know they haven't the scoring power to match Montreal Canadiens so they plan to stick with the hardhitting defensive style that helped them beat New York Islanders.

"If we got into a shootout, I don't think we would win out because they've got too many shooters," said Leafs' defenceman Ian Turnbull. "It's up to our checkers to stop their shooters with the body or any way they can."

But goalie Glenn (Chico) Resch, victim of Lanny McDonald's winning goal in overtime that gave Toronto a 2-1 win in Saturday's deciding game of the best-of-seven quarter-final, said he doesn't think the hitting game will work against Montreal.

"I don't care what anybody says, they can play it any way you want to play it," said Resch. "It said a checking team can nullify good hockey unless the opponent is as powerful as Montreal. "And maybe that's why I respect Montreal so much because they can overcome that and you see good hockey."

Resch was upset that the Leafs' rough brand of hockey, termed violent by some critics, had prevailed over the Islanders' style of skating and scoring.

LANNY McDONALD
. . . gets winner

IAN TURNBULL
. . . top scorer

DISLIKES WORD

Islanders general manager Bill Torrey declined to call the series violent. "I don't like the word violence," said Torrey. "Violence belongs in the streets."

Toronto coach Roger Neilson also shrugged off the violence label. To hold the Islanders to a goal a game for the last four games meant that every player "had to be checking, to give everything he had, and that's the way it worked out," said Neilson.

Turnbull's defensive play and his sudden forays deep into Islander territory were a major part of Toronto's success in winning the series four games to three. Turnbull now is the leading scorer in the playoffs with 12 points.

Then there was Mike Palmateer, cocky as ever, who had a red-hot streak in the Leafs' goal, allowing less than two goals a game.

Turnbull got the tying goal Saturday night and set up Lanny McDonald with the winner at 4:13 of overtime.

"We're a well-disciplined team and with a couple of days off we'll be ready to go into Montreal," Turnbull said. "I think psychologically we're sky high."

The Leafs meet the Canadiens for the first time in the playoffs since 1967, when Toronto won its last Stanley Cup, beating Montreal in the sixth game on Jim Pappin's goal.

DEAL MADE DIFFERENCE

This season, Neilson said the Leafs turned around after owner Harold Ballard got left winger Dan Maloney for Errol Thompson plus draft choices in a deal with Detroit Red Wings.

"No question about it," Neilson said of the Maloney trade making the difference. "He's a team leader as well as a big strong guy. Everybody in the league respects him."

Torrey, in discussing some of the controversy over Toronto's rough play, said the series was intense. The Islanders played three overtime games on their own ice before finally going down.

"There were some cheap shots at times that we don't need.

"But it was an intense series and the Leafs were fired up. They were the underdogs. They had to fight like cats and dogs to get where they did.

"Their intensity was great and they had a great young goalkeeper who was red hot and made the difference. To me that was the series."

Toronto captain Darryl Sittler predicted that Palmateer "will keep us in against the Canadiens if he continues to play so well.

"He's so cocky and when he's hot you're not going to beat him."

NHL TOP TEN

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

National Hockey League playoff scoring leaders after game Saturday:

	G	A	P
Turnbull, Tor	4	8	12
MacLeish, Pha	6	5	11
Lafleur, Mtl	4	7	11
O'Reilly, Bos	4	6	10
McNab, Bos	5	3	8
Sittler, Tor	3	5	8
Nedomansky, Det	3	5	8
Lafleur, Mtl	2	6	8
Robinson, Mtl	1	7	8
Shutt, Mtl	4	3	7
Park, Bos	3	4	7

Player-coach scores winner

KIMBERLEY, B.C. (CP) — Playing coach Fred Speck scored with less than six minutes to play, stemming a comeback bid by the Kimberley Dynamiters, to give the Brantford Alexanders a 5-3 win in the third game of the Allan Cup senior hockey championship.

The win by the Ontario club cut Kimberley's lead to 2-1 in the best-of-seven series with the fourth game scheduled for Tuesday night. The Dynamiters had won 4-2 Saturday to take a two-game lead in the series.

Speck's second goal of the night, with an assist to Marc Gaudreault, came at 14:23 of the third period, just more than a minute after Brantford's Darwin Mott had cut the score to 4-3. Gaudreault had given Brantford a 4-2 lead just past the halfway mark in the period.

Kimberley opened the scoring on a goal by Aurel Beaudin, but Jeff Hughes came back to tie the score at 1-1 at the end of the first period. Ken Ireland put the Dynamiters ahead in the second, but goals by Larry Mavety and Speck gave the Alexanders a 3-2 lead after 40 minutes.

Bob Sneddon in the Brantford net and Kimberley's Wayne Bell each faced 36 shots in a cleanly-played game that saw the Dynamiters take two of three minors.

It was the first loss after nine straight playoff wins for the Kimberley club which won the last game of its Western International Hockey League final against Spokane Flyers, then swept three-game series against Brandon and Drumheller before winning the first two games against Brantford.

In Saturday's game, it was Kimberley that snuffed out a third-period rally by Brantford.

Len Hicks scored into the empty net with 17 seconds to go to clinch the win after Dave Walter's goal early in the period had cut the Dynamiters' lead to 3-2.

Allan Fleck, Brian Macklin and Beaudin scored for Kimberley while Speck scored the other Brantford marker.

Snead remains a legend

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Sam Snead's side-saddle birdie putts on the final three holes carried him and partner Gardner Dickinson to a legendary finish Sunday as they captured the $400,000 Legends of Golf tournament by a single shot.

Snead admitted, "It looked as if we were in the bag," after Australian Peter Thomson had holed a 12-foot birdie putt on the 580-yard 18th hole of the par-70 Onion Creek golf course.

"If I miss my putt then school is out," said Snead, who poked in a 10-footer to keep his team just one shot behind.

Snead then birdied the 17th hole with a nine-footer and canned a three-footer on 18 for the come-from-behind victory.

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