

Esposito on rampage against ex-team-mates

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
PHIL ESPOSITO still has a warm spot in his heart for Boston Bruins. He just has a funny way of showing it.

The 37-year-old centre, whose 472 career goals are second only to Gordie Howe's 786 in the history of the National Hockey League, got 483 of those over 8½ seasons with the Bruins.

But he turned on his former team-mates Thursday night, scoring four goals to pace New York Rangers to a 7-1 victory over the Bruins at Boston Garden.

"Sure, I have feelings for the Bruins," he said. "You don't spend that much of your life in a place without having feelings for them. The 'B' will always be in my mind and I'm a New York Ranger and I'm proud to be a New York Ranger."

And the Rangers, as a result of Esposito's outburst, are only two points behind the Bruins in the race for the third best overall record in the NHL.

Montreal Canadiens and New York Islanders are tied for the top spot with six points — thanks to the Islanders' 6-2 triumph over Toronto Maple Leafs behind Bryan Trottier's three goals.

Elsewhere, Philadelphia Flyers edged Atlanta Flames 5-4, while Buffalo Sabres downed Vancouver Canucks 4-2.

FIFTH FIVE
It was Esposito's fifth four-goal game of his career and stretched his own NHL record

Rockets take lead in series

MERRITT, B.C. (CP) — Kamloops got a spectacular rewinning performance from Brian Henderson Thursday night as the surprising Rockets got past Merritt Centennials 3-1 in British Columbia Junior Hockey playoff action.

The win gave the Rockets a commanding 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven semifinal that can wrap up with a win in the sixth game Saturday night in Kamloops.

Henderson blocked 38 shots before 1,000 fans while Robb Polman of the Centennials handled 23 shots.

Don Sroka, Al Graves and Jay Kozak were the marksmen for Kamloops which led 1-0 after the first period and 3-1 after 40 minutes. Gary Sirkin scored for the Centennials, runaway leaders in the Interior Division this season.

to 31 three-goal-or-more games. He scored twice to give the Rangers a 2-0 first-period lead and Walt Tkaczuk and Mike McKewen scored 19 seconds apart early in the second period to make it 4-1.

Esposito got his third and fourth goals in the third period. At Uniondale, N.Y., Trottier's outburst gave him a "scoring" points total of 113 — 43 goals and 70 assists — four more than Montreal's Guy Lafleur.

Dennis Polvin added a pair of short-handed goals, including an empty-net score with 14 seconds left in the game. Rick MacLeish scored one goal and assisted on another in a 49-second span of the third period for Philadelphia. MacLeish's goal came at 7:06 of the period came on a power play when he deflected a shot by Phil Barber between

Four teams in the running

VANCOUVER (CP) — Three Vancouver area teams advanced Thursday to the final four of the British Columbia boys' AA high school basketball championships.

Burnaby South, Richmond and Gladstone teams, along with Vancouver Island champion Parkland of Sidney, knocked off their opponent to qualify for the semi-finals.

Burnaby South, the Lower Mainland champion, defeated Delta 74-59. Richmond upset West Vancouver, favored earlier to capture the title, 60-14 and Gladstone of Vancouver downed Magee also of Vancouver 66-54.

Parkland ousted the Memorial Educational Institute of Abbotsford 69-46.

In their win, Burnaby South managed to contain the scoring threat of Alan Kristman, a 6' 5" Delta guard by holding him to 12 points. In Delta's first game Wednesday, Kristman had scored 32 points.

Burnaby South was led by Brian Craig with 24 points. Gary Airt Tall led the way with 34 points in Richmond's win over West Vancouver.

Doug Vieg of West Vancouver picked up 28 points. Gladstone was paced with 44 points from Tony Marchese in its win over Magee. Magee's top scorer was Bill Nicol with 19 points.

Greg Walker, a 6' 8" centre, scored 25 points for Parkland in its win. Ken Klassen was high man for the Memorial Educational Institute with 20 points.

Atlanta goalie Ivan Bouchard's legs. It gave Philadelphia a 3-1 lead and the game-winner came at 7:57 of the period when MacLeish swiped the puck from Bouchard and passed in front to Paul Holmgren, who scored.

Newly-acquired Ivan Boldirev scored three goals for Atlanta while Blake Dunlop had a pair for the Flyers.

The selling scored Buffalo's winning goal early in the third period and set up an insurance goal for the Sabres. The Sabres extended their unbeaten streak to six games and stretched Vancouver's losing string to seven.

Scoring twice a 2-1 tie just 23 seconds into the final period when he cut across to convert a pass from Lacroix, who was behind the Vancouver net. It is an NHL record for the 37th goal of the season for the Canucks.

In consolation play Thursday, Nanaimo crushed Mission 82-50. Duchsene Park of Prince George won 72-57 over Mount Douglas of Victoria. KLO of Kelowna defeated Mount Baker of Cranbrook, 61-42 and Caledonia of Terrace edged Penitentiary 49-43.

Denat guns down Broncos

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Brent Denat plans to study business administration this fall on a United States collegiate hockey scholarship, and he was strictly "boss" in his first Western Hockey League game Thursday night.

Denat scored two goals and two assists and added two assists to lead the Cougars to a 7-3 win over visiting Lethbridge Broncos.

In the other game, the Big-Rones scored four goals in the second period to beat Regina Pats 5-1 in Billings, Mont.

Denat, an 18-year-old Victoria native, played with Nanaimo Clippers of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League this season because being on a WHL roster would block his plans to play next season with Michigan Tech of the Western College Hockey Association. Nanaimo finished his season earlier this week, and Denat is allowed to join the Cougars.



PHIL ESPOSITO ... four goals

MORE SPORTS ON PG. 8

U.S. DISAPPOINTING

Soviet skater wins

VIENNA (CP) — It was the Soviet Union's turn to celebrate at the world figure skating championships Thursday, while the Americans took a back seat and more and more Canadians wore long faces.

The Americans, who just got over cheering for the pairs victory of Tai Babilonia and Randy Gardner on Wednesday, saw Charles Tickner of Littleton, Colo., not only lose his men's title but finish out of the medals.

Victor Kovalov of the Soviet Union finished fourth in Thursday night's free-skating final, but his margin after the first half of competition — 11.50 points and short program was enough to keep him in front for the gold medal.

Robin Cousins of Britain won the free skating and a couple of notches.

moved up from fourth spot to take the silver medal, with Jan Hoffman of East Germany, the 1974 title winner, finishing third and Tickner fourth.

Canadian mens champion Brian Pockar of Calgary fell twice during his free-skating final, but still managed to pull up one place to 13th, while Vern Taylor of Toronto moved up to 18th from 17th spot after the figures and short program.

But both Canadians were down from their 1978 finish at the world championships in Ottawa. There, Pockar was 10th in his second world appearance, while Taylor finished 12th in his first showing.

White neither had expected to reach the medals table year, both at least hoped to move up from a couple of notches.

Elsewhere Thursday, Lorna Wighton of Toronto and John Dowling of Oakville, Ont., remained sixth in the dance competition after the required compulsory and the set pattern dance.

Jane Morrissey of Ottawa, in her first world championship, was 17th after the women's compulsory figures.

Defending champion Anett Potzsch of East Germany had the lead after the women's compulsory, followed by Dagmar Larz of West Germany and 1977 champion Linda Fratianne.

Natalia L'uchuk and Gennad Karponov, the defending champions from the Soviet Union, continued to hold their lead in the dance competition over Kristalina Repceva and Andras Sallay of Hungary.

Canada's second dance entry, Patricia Fletcher and Michael de la Penitente of Toronto, remained in 18th place going into tonight's free skating final.

The men's final provided an exciting finish with first Tickner, then Hoffman and Cousins skating flawless performances. But Cousins impressed the judges most and slipped into second place from fourth, pushing Hoffman and Tickner down one place each.

Taylor and Pockar skated earlier, neither of them up to their potential. Pockar was visibly upset over the errors in his program. He fell twice while attempting triple jumps.

"I guess everyone is entitled to one bad night and this was mine," said Pockar. "I don't think of it as a setback," added Pockar.



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