

Surprising Caps keep pre-season count clean

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
If exhibition play can be any indication, Washington Capitals may turn out to be the National Hockey League's 1978-79 season surprise.

The Capitals kept their record unbeaten with their third straight exhibition win, 4-2 over Hartford Wednesday night.

Montreal Canadiens also remained unbeaten with a 4-2 victory over Chicago Black Hawks, while New York Islanders edged Buffalo Sabres 2-1 and Toronto Maple Leafs played to a 2-2 draw with Minnesota North Stars.

Gordie Howe made his first start of the new hockey season for Hartford and said he experienced none of the dizzy spells that had hampered him at the end of last season in the debut World Hockey Association and during pre-season practice.

However, his presence couldn't offset a high-flying Washington squad.

Andre LeCroc gave Hartford a 1-0 lead with a little more than a minute played in the game when he stole an attempted clearing pass and skated in alone on goalie Wayne Stephenson.

Washington roared back with a four-goal barrage during a four-minute span in the second period. Rolf Edberg scored a short-handed goal a minute later. Errol Rausse gave the Capitals the lead and Greg Polis and Paul Muley added to the lead.

LaCroc scored his second goal of the night early in the third period.

Both Montreal and Chicago used their top-line players during their contest in Ottawa.

LAROCHE GETS TWO

Pierre Larouche scored twice for the Canadiens with single goals going to Guy Lefleur, Brian Engblom, Bob Gueney and Regan Houli.

Michael Larocque went all the way in goal for Montreal, giving up goals in the first and second periods to Tim Higgins and Doug Wilson.

The win was Montreal's third, with a tie, in four games. The loss was Chicago's first.

Toronto pulled goalie Jiri Cizek during the last minute of its game against Minnesota and the move paid off when Dan Maloney scored with 29 seconds left to give the Leafs their tie with the North Stars.

Darryl Sittler, Laurie Boschman, Jerry Butler and Paul Gardner scored the other Toronto goals.

Gary Sargent, Ron Zanussi, Paul Shurys, Mike Pfitzer and Alex Pirni replied for the North Stars.

Astoria had fought back twice from two-goal deficits.

The Leafs have a win and a loss to go with the tie. The North Stars now have tied three of their four games.

Books right winger Hector Martin scored on a slap shot just inside the blue line with 20:05 remaining to give New York Islanders their first win in three games.



ROLF POLIS ... for Caps
ROLF EDBERG ... one goal

York Islanders their win over Buffalo.

Mike Bossy, the leading goal scorer in the NHL last season with 69, scored from 15 feet out at 11:42 of the third period to pull the Islanders even at 1-1.

The Sabres, who dropped their third contest against one tie in four starts, scored 18 seconds into the game on a goal by Danny Gare.

It was the Islanders' first win in three starts.

Browns suffer from victory

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Cleveland coach Sam Rutigliano said Tuesday his undefeated Browns paid a dear price for their 28-7 National Football League victory over Dallas Cowboys.

Five Cleveland players were on the injured list after Monday night's game, with defensive end Lyle Alzado the most serious.

Alzado sprained his left knee early in the game, then re-injured it in a freak accident on the way to the dressing room at Municipal Stadium.

The coach said a security guard, holding back a crowd of enthusiastic fans trying to get near the players, fell off the roof of a dugout onto Alzado, who was knocked down on the dugout steps.

Alzado, who has been credited with bolstering the Browns' pass rush this year, was injured the first time the defensive unit was on the field, but came back to play most of the game with the knee taped.

Tuesday, the knee was placed in a cast. Rutigliano said he doesn't have any idea yet whether Alzado will be able to play in Houston on Sunday.

Greg Pruitt, the Browns' star running back, suffered a mild knee sprain and also was listed as a questionable starter.

Rutigliano voiced a note of caution for fans who might be getting Super Bowl fever after four wins in a row, saying that with 12 games to play it was too early to "put a crown on the Browns' head."

LOOK BACK FIVE YEARS

SEPTEMBER, 1974
Estimote moved into a first place tie with the Bombers in Vernon Minor Football League's junior division, when they edged the Bombers 15-14.

Both clubs now have identical records of three wins, two losses, and a tie.

SEPTEMBER, 1974
Vernon Senior Secondary School's 'B' soccer team came up with an impressive 5-0 victory over Lumby in the opening game of the high school soccer season.

Gregg shakes up Argo ship

TORONTO (CP) — Head coach Forrest Gregg vowed on Monday to shake up his Toronto Argonauts' defence before the team meets Hamilton TigerCats in a Canadian Football League game here Saturday.

The actions Tuesday of the former National Football League line man who is in his first year as Argos' coach proved he was not minding words.

He traded veteran defensive end Wayne Smith to Saskatchewan Roughriders of the Western Conference for future considerations. He then cut veteran import defensive back Jim Marshall, rookie import running back Eddie Payton and Canadian wide receiver Vye Atkinson.

Running back Terry Metcalf was placed on the 30-day or four-game injury list while the Argos took three other imports or the injured sheet and added two Canadians.

Activated were defensive back Mike Williams, running back Mike McArthur and wide receiver Al Chester, all imports. Defensive back Steve Ackroyd, a graduate of University of Western Ontario who was cut by Hamilton earlier this year, and defensive end Gary Anterson, a graduate of Concordia University in Montreal and Winnipeg Blue Bombers' sixth round draft choice in 1976, were signed.

LOST FOUR STRAIGHT
The Argonauts, third in the Eastern Conference, trail second-place Ottawa Rough Riders by three points and lead the Ticats by four. The Argos have lost four consecutive games and their record dropped to 4-8.

Metcalf, who has scored five touchdowns this season, suffered a sprained ankle in last Saturday's 34-20 loss to British Columbia Lions. Formerly with St. Louis Cardinals of the National Football League, he is third in rushing in the EFC and second in receiving.

Marsh's expressed disappointment at being cut. "I can't understand it," he said. "It seems to me that Forrest has contradicted himself."

"At the beginning of the season, he said there would be no major changes for the sake of changes. But then he suddenly does this. I think Wayne and I are scapegoats in this case."

There's Hope for Maurice

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Maurice Hope, Britain's WBC world light middleweight champion, who fights out of Washington, D.C. But Hope swung into action in the fifth round and then had the American down for a count of nine in the seventh before referee Raymond Baldry stopped the fight.

Hope, Britain's first immigrant world champion, won the title from Italian Rocky Mattoli in San Remo last March. He now has won 28 of his 33 professional fights in a seven-year career.

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BCJHL debut ends in win for Sockeyes

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
Richmond Sockeyes made their debut in the British Columbia Junior Hockey League a success with a 4-3 victory over Merritt Centennials.

That score was a popular one as Kelowna Buckaroos downed the Knights 6-2 before 200 fans in Penitenc.

In Richmond, 650 fans saw Jim Thern start the rally with his second goal of the night early in the third period and Terry Hamlin netched the winner with less than three minutes remaining.

Bob Wallace got the other Richmond goal while Mark Blondin, Richard Norbert and

Rolle Lundquist scored for the Centennials.

In Penitenc, Bruce Cullen's goal at 5:15 of the third period proved to be the winner for the Buckaroos.

The teams evenly divided four goals scored during the game in the first period and then played a scoreless middle period.

Tom Pfeffer, Brent Shaw and Ken Picoelli also tallied for Kelowna while Dave Smith, Greg Egan and Lance Johnson counted for the Knights.

Goalender Ron Loustel stopped 29 shots for Kelowna while Bruno Carmine made 23 saves for Penitenc.

Chilliwack Bruins visit Nanaimo Clippers tonight.

able to play in Houston on Sunday.

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