

Leach returning to his old form

By ED SIMON
The Canadian Press
 The glory days may be returning for Reggie Leach. When Philadelphia Flyers last appeared in the Stanley Cup final in 1976, the rangy right winger was their chief offensive weapon, topping all National Hockey League goal-scorers during the regular season and winning the Conn Smythe Trophy when he fired a record 19 goals in the playoffs.

Meanwhile, Leach's goal production dropped sharply and his coaches, suddenly becoming aware of his defensive shortcomings, began benching him in key situations.

But Leach and the Flyers turned the clock back at the Spectrum Thursday night as the 29-year-old sniper contributed two goals and an assist in Philadelphia's 5-2 victory over New York Rangers. That gave him seven goals in as many games and abruptly ended any criticism of his checking ability.

In other NHL games Thursday, goaltender Jim Rutherford registered his 18th career shutout as Detroit Red Wings downed Buffalo Sabres 4-0 and Pierre Larouche's four-goal performance powered Montreal Canadiens to an 8-5 decision over Pittsburgh Penguins.

Montreal and Philadelphia emerged as the over-all NHL leaders with identical 2-1-1 records.

Flyers 3 Rangers 2
 New York, fresh from a 10-2 romp over Edmonton Oilers at Madison Square Garden Wednesday, led 2-0 before Philadelphia began getting its act together with a pair of goals early in the second period.

The Flyers put the game away with two goals 11 seconds apart at the midway point of the third. Leach setting up rookie Brian Propp for the first and beating Rangers goalie John Davidson to a loose puck to score the second.

The victory gave Philadelphia a three-point lead over the Rangers in the

NHL WALES CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	P	A	P
Montreal	2	1	22	23	11	
Los Angeles	3	3	19	37	9	
Pittsburgh	2	4	1	31	33	7
Quebec	2	3	20	18		
Hartford	2	3	17	24	5	

NHL Adams Division

Boston	4	1	23	17	9
Albany	3	2	28	22	9
Buffalo	4	3	10	24	9
Toronto	3	3	22	21	8
Quebec	3	3	17	18	5

CAMPBELL CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	T	P	A	P
Philadelphia	2	3	25	27	11	
Islanders	2	3	10	24	8	
Washington	2	4	13	26	5	
Atlanta	2	3	25	25	4	

Imvite Division

Chicago	2	2	17	8	
Vancouver	2	2	25	23	
St. Louis	2	2	22	27	6
Edmonton	2	5	11	25	4
Winnipeg	2	5	11	25	4
Colorado	4	1	16	22	3

Sockeyes defeat Chilliwack
CHILLIWACK, B.C. (CP) — Richmond Sockeyes scored three second-period goals and went on to upset Chilliwack Colts 4-2 in the only British Columbia Junior Hockey League game played Thursday night.

The win moved Richmond into third place in the Coastal Division, one point ahead of Nanaimo Clippers and six behind Chilliwack.

Tonight, Kamloops Rockets visit North Vancouver 7:30 p.m. and Kelowna Buckaroos face the Centralites in Merritt.



REGGIE LEACH
 ... finds range

Swedes sign with Rangers

NEW YORK (AP) — Centre Ulf Nilsson and right winger Anders Hedberg, who helped New York Rangers to the Stanley Cup playoff final in their first years with the team last season, have signed three-year contracts with the National Hockey League club.

The Swedish-born players, who signed two-year contracts with New York in March, 1976, while playing for Winnipeg Jets of the now-defunct World Hockey Association, signed the new contracts during training camp before this season.

Canadians 8 Penguins 5
 Larouche, who alternates with Pierre Mondou as the centre for high-scoring Guy Lafleur and Steve Shutt, was the top marksman this time as Montreal needed a four-goal third period to subdue the stubborn Penguins who got two-goal performances from Grant Kladra and Gary McAdam.

Shutt scored his 26th career goal and had four assists while Lafleur scored twice as Pittsburgh goaltender Idoob Holland.

Martin involved in hotel fracas

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — Billy Martin, the feisty manager of New York Yankees, got into a fight in a hotel lobby Tuesday night and split open an Illinois man's lip, sending him to hospital.

A police report said Joseph W. Cooper, 62, of Lincolnshire was released from hospital after his cut was stitched up.

But Martin said Thursday the police account of the incident was wrong. He said the man was intoxicated and injured himself when he tripped and fell in the hotel lobby.

Martin, 51, has been told by the Yankees that he must be on his best behavior if he wants to keep his job. The fight occurred in a Bloomington hotel.

A report by Alan L. Myers of the hotel security staff said it took 15 to 20 stitches to close Cooper's lip.

Police said Cooper refused to file charges. It was not known what precipitated the incident.

WALTON IN CAST
SAN DIEGO (AP) — San Diego Clippers of the National Basketball Association were looking for a new centre Thursday after putting Bill Walton on the five-game injured list. Specialists who examined Walton on Wednesday urged him to stay off his sore left foot for at least a month.

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