

# Players' association endorses Canada Cup

LOS ANGELES (CP) — The collective agreement between the National Hockey League owners and players gained a greater life expectancy Monday when players opted not to press hard for changes in compensation rules regarding free agency.

"I don't expect anything substantial to come from our meeting with the owners on that issue and we will probably continue discussions at the annual meetings in June," said Alan Eagleson, executive director of the NHL Players' Association.

Player representatives from the 21 teams met in conjunction with the annual all-star game tonight. The Wales Conference faces the Campbell Conference before a sellout crowd at the Forum.

The players want abolition of equalization requirements on signings of players who switch teams as free agents.

Eagleson said approval by the players of regular-season over- and under-ages will probably come in the players' approval.

He also said all player representatives endorsed the

Canada Cup tournament next autumn. Canada, the United States, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Finland are to participate.

Meanwhile, goaltender Tony Esposito of Chicago Black Hawks was elected association president to replace his brother, Phil, who recently retired from New York Rangers.

**SCHULZ WINNS AWARD**

At the all-star dinner Monday night, Charles Schulz, 57, originator of the Peanuts strip, received the Lester Patrick Trophy for outstanding service to hockey in the United States. Snoopy and Woodstock, two of the popular strip's characters, often have been depicted with hockey skates and sticks.

Goalies Don Beaupre of Minnesota and Mario Lessard of the Kings are happy Marcel Dionne, young high-scoring Los Angeles line-mates Charlie Simmer and Dave Taylor are on their side.

Other winners include Mark Howe of Hartford Whalers, Ray Bourque of Boston Bruins, and Steve Larmer of Pittsburgh Penguins, Red Larson of



**TONY ESPOSITO** — new president of the NHL Players' Association.

Quebec Nordiques. **PLAYS LEFT SIDE**

Left wingers are Simmer, Steve Shutt and Bob Gainey of the Canadiens and Detroit's John Olerud.

On the right wing will be Taylor, Danny Gare of Buffalo, Pittsburgh's Rick Kehoe and Boston's Rick Middleton.

The Campbell Conference team has Mike Liut of St. Louis and Pete Peeters of Philadelphia in goal.

On defence are Bob Dailey and Ben Wilson of the Blues, Rob Ramage of Colorado Rockies, Denis Polvin of New York Islanders, Bob Murray of Chicago and Kevin McCarthy of Vancouver.

Centres are Gretzky, Kent Nilsson of Calgary and Bernie Federko of the Blues.

On left wing are Philadelphia's Bill Barber, Vancouver's Dave Williams, Morris Lukowich of Winnipeg and Bob Bourne of the Islanders while the right wingers are Mike Bossy of the Islanders, Mike Gartner of Washington, Paul Holmgren of the Flyers and Wayne Babych of the Blues.



**JOHN NEEDLE** ... shocked

## Bruins release Need

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — John Needell, who has been the scoring heart of New Westminster Bruins, has been cut by the Western Hockey League club.

"It breaks our heart to have to cut the sixth leading scorer in the Western Hockey League," Bruins general manager Tracy Pratt said Monday. "Our team will suffer without him but will benefit in the future when we develop a youngster for next year."

Pratt cited an off-ice attitude problem as the main reason for the cut.

Need had scored 36 goals and had 50 assists in 35 games since being acquired as an over-age 20-year-old junior from Seattle Breakers prior to the season.

"John Needle is a class hockey player and, with his ability to play, it's too bad he does not have the attitude of the ice to go along with his ability," Pratt said. "He's a 20-year-old hockey player and sometimes he can't get along with the younger players. He's outgrown his junior days."

Need said the decision to release him came as a shock and he claims he was not told why he was cut.

"I've been late to a couple of practices but other players have been late too, so after all, it's not more than me," Need said. "Two top players missed a whole practice because they were out all night. I never missed any practices."

Need said he finds it ironic that the Bruins released him just a week after he signed an NHL tryout form for next season with Calgary Flames, who own and operate the Bruins.

## PATRICK TROPHY Cartoonist honored for helping hockey

LOS ANGELES (CP) — The Lester Patrick Trophy is awarded annually "for outstanding service to hockey in the United States."

The winners include Jack Adams, Gordie Howe, Bobby Hull, Eddie Shore, Clarence Campbell, Weston Adams, Stan Mikita, Johnny Bucyk, Phil Esposito, Bobby Orr, the 1980 Olympic team and, now, Charles M. Schulz.

It may well be that Schulz was simply the front man Monday night in picking up the 1981 trophy for such Peanuts comic-strip characters as Snoopy, Woodstock and Charlie Brown, that quintessential hockey team whom Winnipeg Jets might be measured as a dynasty.

Schulz, 57-year-old native of Minneapolis, grew up playing hockey against the other youngsters in his neighborhood, magazines stuffed into his socks as shin guards.

"I was played against each other," he said. "If you weren't good enough to play for Central high school, you weren't a real team to play for in those days."

Schulz still plays a recreation brand of hockey at home in Santa Rosa, Calif., where he built a rink more than a dozen years ago.

**AS MUCH FUN**

"Our 40-year-olds league, with guys of the game three or four years, has some pretty good games, without body-checking or stars as in the neighborhood, 20-year-olds, the play is a little slower, but we have just as much fun."

Schulz's first-hand support has suffered since California moved to Cleveland, became the Barons and, eventually, were absorbed into the Minnesota North Stars. Despite the tortuous trip of his former favorite team to his native state, Schulz said he has not peep club or player today.

"I used to have six tickets to every Oakland Seals game. It was an hour-and-a-half drive to the games, but it was worth it. It was a sad situation when it all collapsed."

Bobby Hull used to receive frequent mention in Peanuts strips devoted to hockey, not

because he was Schulz's favorite player but because he was the cartoonist's son's favorite.

Schulz, who figured to be as big an attraction at the all-star banquet Monday night as any of the players, said the hockey strips have fallen to Snoopy and Woodstock "because they're better vehicles for the sport than anyone else."

"It's difficult to do a sports-related strip where there's a lot

## Canadian skier dominates tour

SEEFELD, Austria (CP) — Marie-Claude Asselin, 18, of Ste. Agathe, Que., won her third consecutive World Cup freestyle skiing combined title Monday.

Asselin, second in Sunday's aerials event, finished fifth in the ballet Monday and fourth last week in the moguls event in Silvretta Nova, Austria.

"I was skiing a lot better in practice but I had to play it safe," she said. "Stephane Sloan had a really good run and I had to be close to her if I wanted to win the combined."

Sloan, a native of Toronto, was fourth in Monday's ballet, won by Jan Bucher of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Bucher has won 15 of the last 16 World Cup ballet competitions.

**COTE FIFTH**

In men's ballet the best Canadian was Daniel Cote of Quebec City who finished fifth. The winner was West Germany's Herr-

mann Heitberger who upset Bob Howard of the U.S.

Howard, now skiing for France, has not lost the ballet event in the last two seasons.

"I'm very pleased with the fifth," said Cote. "Last year I was doing no better than finishing in the teens. I've changed my music and my program and it seems to be going much better."

The European half of the World Cup freestyle ski season ends this weekend in Oberjoch, West Germany.

Greg Athans of Kelowna, B.C., was 10th in ballet and is second to Frank Beddor of the U.S. in the combined standing. Athans is the defending World Cup combined champion.

"I didn't like the slope here much for ballet," he said. "It was very hard and too steep. I had a lot of trouble controlling my speed."

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