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Bruins, Rangers rank as favorites in NHL playoffs

By HAL BOCK
Associated Press Sports Writer

Boston's awesome scoring machine spearheaded by fan-fastic Phil Esposito, and the defense-minded New York Rangers, winners of their first Vezina Trophy in 31 years, rank as the favorites today as eight National Hockey League teams ready themselves for the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Esposito climaxed his sensational scoring season with three more goals Sunday, increasing his season's total to an unbelievable 76 goals and 76 assists for 152 points, as the Bruins blitzed their first round playoff opponents, the Montreal Canadiens, 7-2.

The Rangers nailed down their first Vezina Trophy since 1930-40—the last year they won the Stanley Cup—with Ed Giacomin's eighth shutout of the season, a 6-0 job against Detroit. New York's 17 goals against was the fewest allowed by any team this season.

Elsewhere on Sunday's final day of the regular schedule, Toronto tripped Chicago 3-2, St. Louis and Pittsburgh tied 1-1, Buffalo tied Philadelphia 3-3 and Los Angeles defeated Vancouver 4-2.

In Saturday's games, Montreal trimmed New York 7-2, Philadelphia edged Minnesota 3-2, Boston rapped Toronto 8-3, Chicago downed Detroit 4-1, St. Louis edged Pittsburgh 4-3 and Los Angeles defeated California 6-4.

The playoffs begin Wednesday with Toronto at New York and Montreal at Boston in East Division matchups and Philadelphia at Chicago and Minnesota at St. Louis in the West. The best-of-7 series continue Thursday and then switch sites for games Saturday and Sunday.

The Bruins, who won their first Stanley Cup in 29 years last season, broke 16 NHL team records and 21 individual marks in marching to the East Division championship this season. Included among their records was a team total of 399 goals—98 more than any team had ever totaled before.

Esposito, who had nine goals in his last five games, was one of five Bruins to go over 30 goals for the season. Boston had 10 players with more than 20 goals—a standard that once signified the equivalent of a .300 batting average for a hockey player.

Sunday's three goals gave Esposito seven hat tricks for the season—three more than any player had managed in a single season before. Derek Sanderson added two short-handed goals for the Bruins against the Canadiens, increasing Boston's record for scoring while penalized to 25 goals.

The Rangers, meanwhile, continued to accentuate the defense with Giacomin kicking out 33 Detroit shots to nail down the Vezina Trophy.

New York established team records in almost every category including most victories, most points, most goals as well as the best defense record in the league. But they finished a fat 12 points behind Boston in the NHL standings, even though their record was the second best in the league.

Bob Nevin and Bruce MacGregor scored two goals apiece in the wrapup victory over Detroit while Brad Park and Rod Gilbert notched the others. Gilbert's goal was his 30th, a personal career high.

Toronto used second-period goals by Jim Dorey and Guy Trotter to whip Chicago's West Division champions, The Black Hawks, who captured the West crown by 20 points over St. Louis, finished seven goals behind New York in the Vezina Trophy race.

The victory was Toronto's third this season over Chicago and made the Leafs the only team in the league to capture the season's series from the Black Hawks.

Chris Bordeleau's third-period goal gave St. Louis its tie with Pittsburgh, in a game which saw Blues' defenseman Bob Plager and Pittsburgh goalie Al Smith ejected after a first-period brawl.

Philadelphia, which had malled down third place in the West by whipping Minnesota Saturday, got two goals in less than 2 1/2 minutes by Andre Lacroix in the third period Sunday to the Buffalo.

Gil Perreault of the Sabres increased his rookie record with his 39th goal of the year for Buffalo, which finished fifth in the East Division.

Los Angeles finished fifth in the West, beating Vancouver in the final game. Juha Widing, Bob Pulford, Ralph Backstrom and Ed Joyal connected for the Kings while Rosaire Paiement and Danny Johnson hit for the expansion Canucks.

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Scoreboard

Basketball

NBA PLAYOFFS
SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Eastern Conference Semifinals
Philadelphia 98, Baltimore 54.
Only game scheduled.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Milwaukee 126, San Francisco 84. Milwaukee wins best-of-7 series 4-1.
Chicago 119, Los Angeles 99. Best-of-7 series tied 3-2.
Baltimore 128, Philadelphia 120. Baltimore wins best-of-7 series 4-3.

TODAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled.

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Los Angeles.
Eastern Conference Finals
Baltimore at New York, 1st game in best-of-7 series.

ABA PLAYOFFS
SATURDAY'S RESULTS
West Division Semifinals
Indiana 104, Memphis 104. Indiana leads best-of-7 series 2-0.
Utah 137, Texas 107.

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
East Division Semifinals
Kentucky 120, Floridians 110. Kentucky leads best-of-7 series 2-0.
West Division Semifinals
Utah 113, Texas 110. Utah leads best-of-7 series 3-0.

TODAY'S GAMES
Indiana at Memphis.
TUESDAY'S GAMES
East Division Semifinals
Virginia vs. New York at Hofstra University.
Kentucky vs. Floridians at Dade Jr. College.
West Division Semifinals
Utah at Dallas.

Hockey

NHL
FINAL STANDINGS
EAST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	37	14	7	111	399	207
New York	49	18	11	109	257	177
Montreal	42	23	13	97	291	216
Toronto	37	33	8	84	248	211
Buffalo	24	39	15	63	217	291
Vancouver	24	46	8	56	219	291
Detroit	22	45	11	55	209	308

WEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	49	20	9	107	277	184
St. Louis	34	25	19	87	223	208
Philadelphia	28	23	17	73	207	225
Minnesota	28	34	16	72	191	223
Los Angeles	25	40	13	63	237	200
Pittsburgh	21	37	20	62	221	240
California	20	53	5	45	199	320

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Boston 7, Montreal 2.
New York 6, Detroit 0.
Toronto 3, Chicago 2.
Los Angeles 4, Vancouver 2.
Buffalo 3, Philadelphia 3, tie.
St. Louis 1, Pittsburgh 1, tie.
Only games scheduled.

Padres scuttle Milwaukee 3-1

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) — The Milwaukee Brewers wrapped up their spring training campaign with the best record on the Cactus League circuit Sunday, albeit with a setback.

The San Diego Padres walked through a half dozen Brewer pitchers to a 3-1 decision as Milwaukee broke camp with a 10-9 record.

Two walks and a single cost Lew Krausse a run in the opening inning, San Diego got a run in the eighth off Ken Sanders on two errors and a balk, and Ivan Murrell's triple and on Slocum's single produced a ninth-inning run off Larry Bearnarth.

Mike Hegar's home run in the eighth saved Milwaukee's pitching crew from a shutout.

The Brewers open their American League schedule Tuesday in Minneapolis.

Fights

NORTH ADAMS, Mass. — Al Romano, 146½, North Adams, Mass., outpointed Jesus Alcio, 147, Holyoke, Mass., 10.

WOODLAND HILLS, Calif. — Mike Nixon, 157½, Glendale, Calif., outpointed Johnny Doyon, 159½, Venezuela, 10.

BUENOS AIRES — Nicolois Lucha, 140, Argentina, outpointed Domingo Barrera Corpus, 137, Spain, 15.

LAKE GENEVA, Wis. — Ernie Yarrli, Chicago, stopped Johnny Hodgins, Miami, heavyweights, 1.

LAKE GENEVA, Wis. — George Foreman, Haywood, Calif., knocked out Stamford Harris, 235, Jamaica, 2.

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Fenske Oil Service
Chatfield Implement</p> <p>ST. CHARLES
O & J Motors
Rohrer Chevrolet</p> <p>UTICA
Utica Oil</p> <p>ELBA
Paul's DX</p> <p>ALTURA
Nelson Garage</p> <p>ROLLINGSTONE
Rollingstone Co-op</p> | <p>EITZEN
MC Service</p> <p>NEW HARTFORD
New Hartford Garage</p> <p>HOUSTON
Johnson Chevrolet
Tracy Motors</p> <p>CALEDONIA
Klinski Implement
Rice & Roverude
Caledonia Implement</p> <p>SPRING GROVE
Anderson & Oakes
Gill's Mobil</p> <p>HARMONY
Harmony Motor Service
HiWay Skelly</p> <p>MABEL
Red Wing Bros. Garage
Four Square Co-op</p> <p>RUSHFORD
Bratsberg Garage
P & J Motors</p> |
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DICK TRACY

By Chester Gould



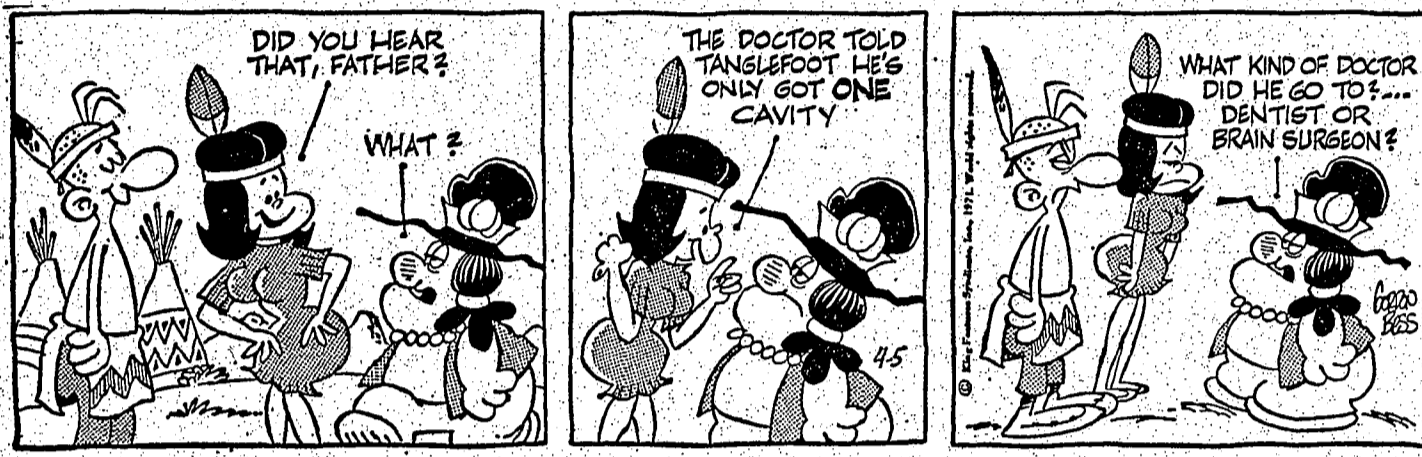
BLONDIE

By Chick Young



REDEYE

By Gordon Bess



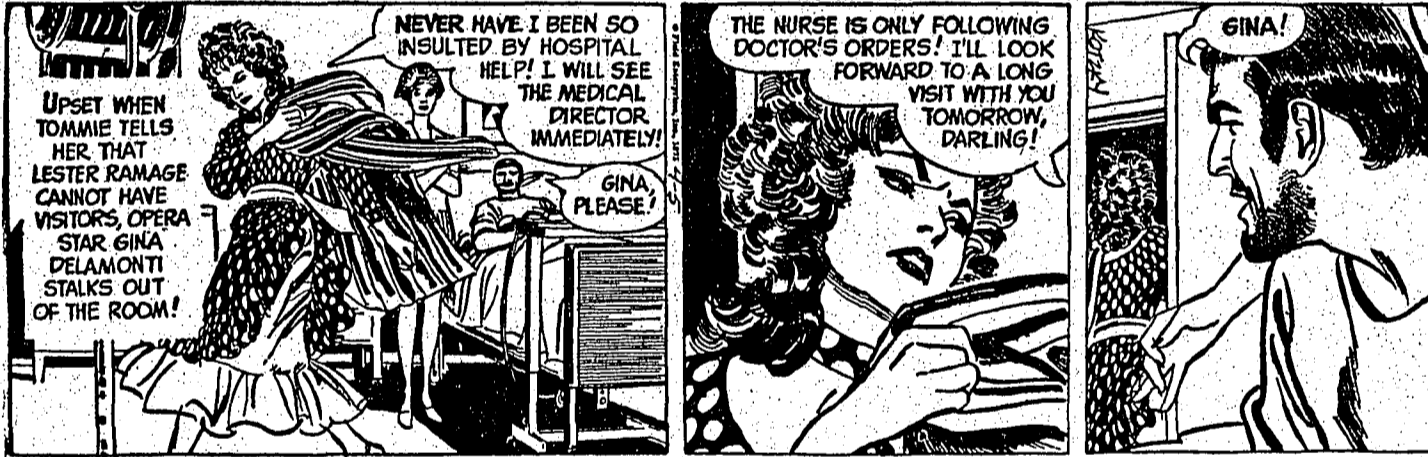
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By Milton Canniff



APARTMENT 3-G

By Alex Kotzky



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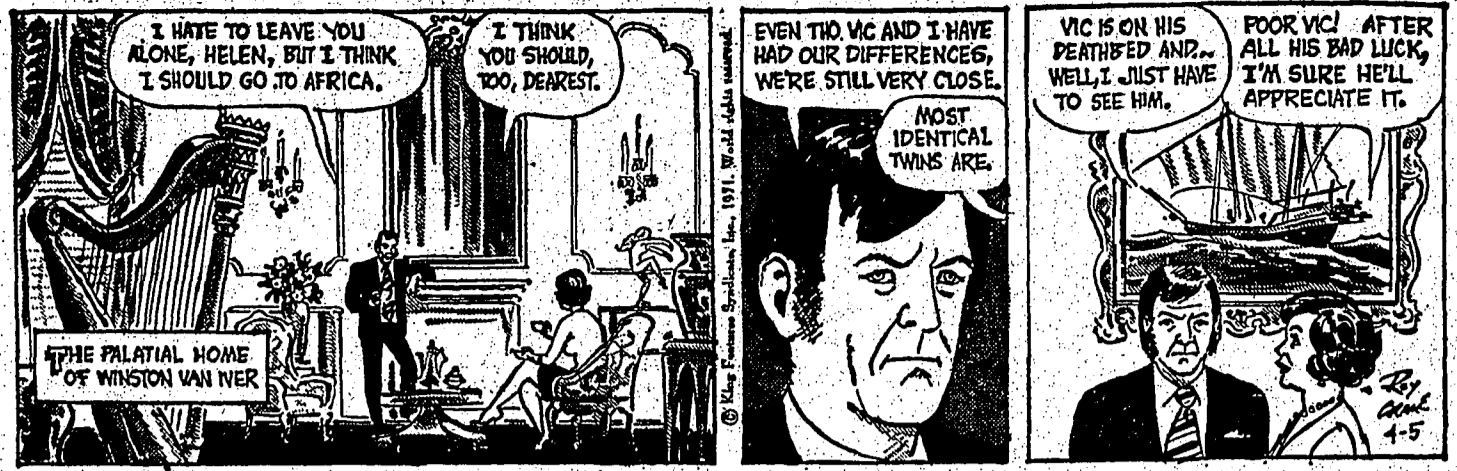
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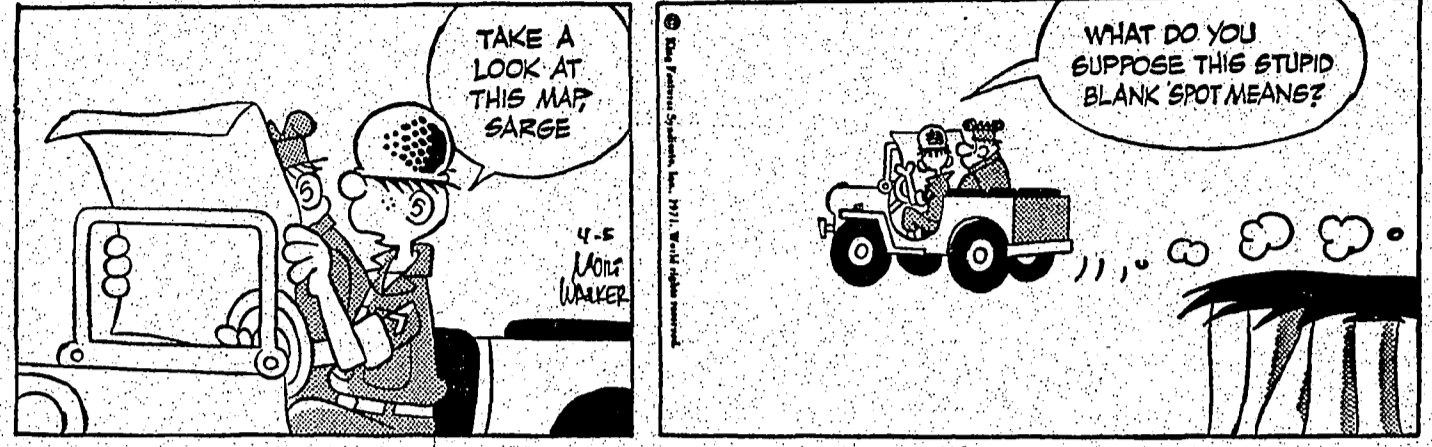
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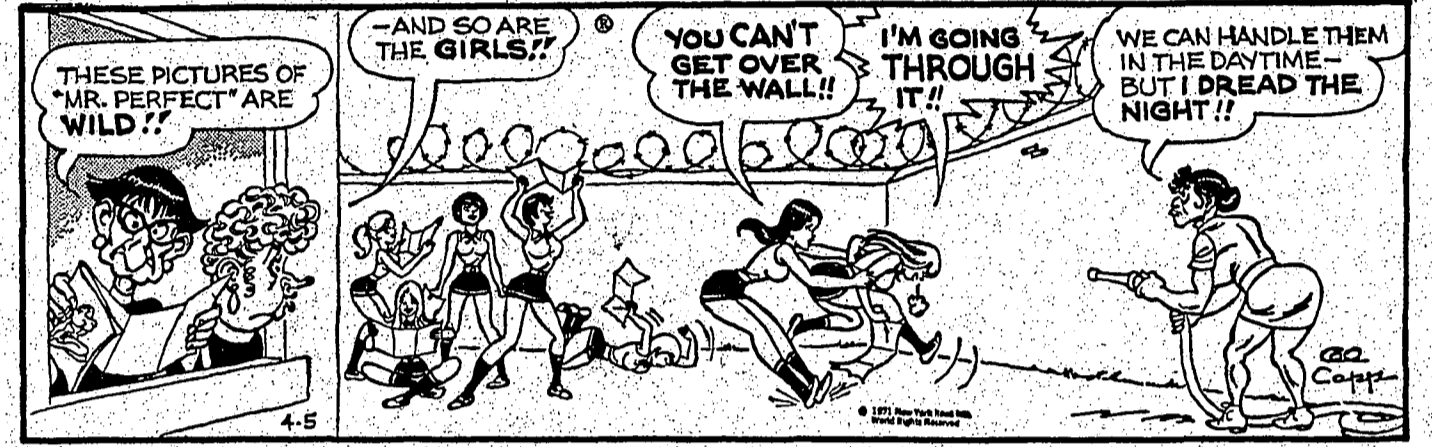
BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort Walker



L'I' ABNER

By Al Capp

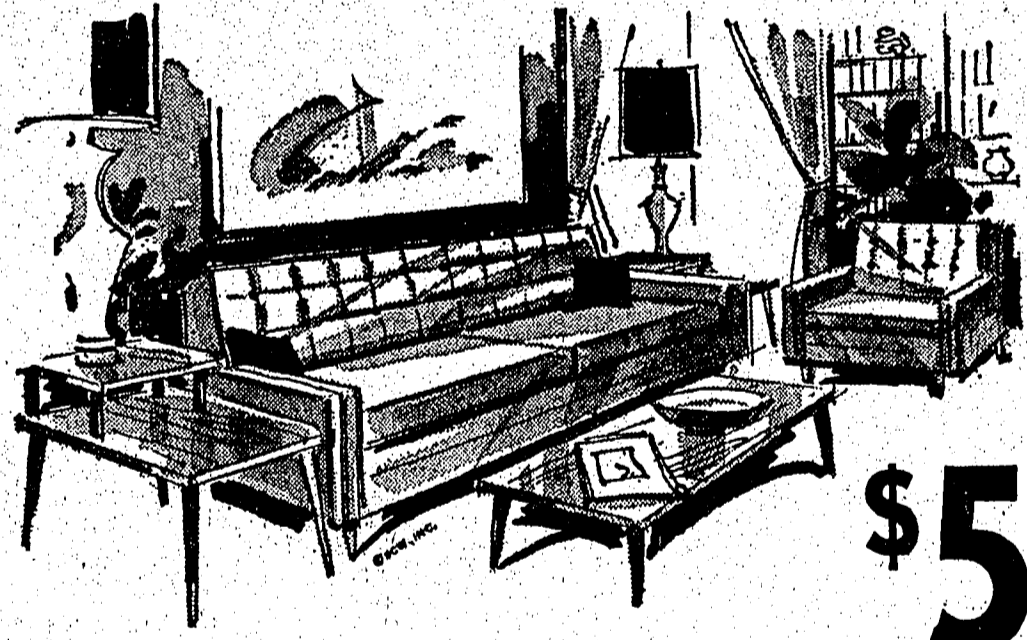


BARNEY GOOGLE and SNUFFY SMITH

By Fred Laswell

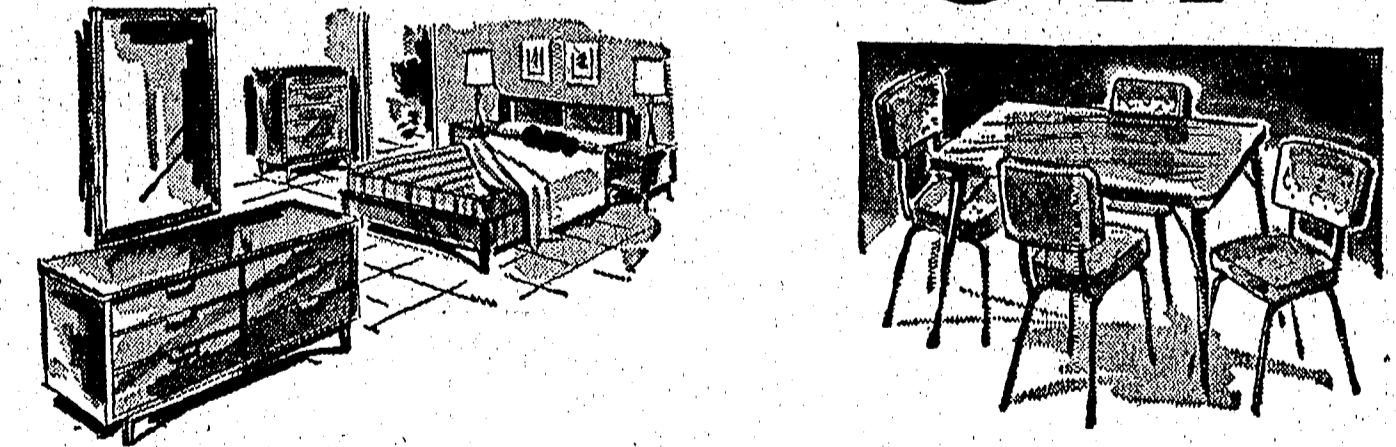


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