

One win away from berth in final

Aeros finally take 3-2 lead

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Aeros' coach Bill Dineen figures his team completed the job Thursday night that they only half-finished Tuesday against New England Whalers in their World Hockey Association United States final playoff.

The Aeros, trailing in a playoff series for the first

time since 1974, defeated the Whalers 4-3 Tuesday night in Hartford, Conn., and rallied for a hard-fought 4-2 victory Thursday night to take a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven series.

"We got halfway through the game with a big lead and then we went to defence," Dineen said of Tuesday's game.

"So I told them to play the way they did for half the game Tuesday night, only do it for 60 minutes."

After the rugged Whalers, who played the most physical game of the series, took a 1-0 lead in the first period on Tom Webster's goal at 19:32, the defending WHA champion

Aeros started following Dineen's advice.

Rookie John Tonelli, unhappy with his performance during the regular season, tied it at 7:08 of the second period on a breakaway and Frank Hughes put the Aeros ahead to stay at 17:01 with a backhanded shot past rookie goalie Cap Raeder.

"I was forcing myself during the regular season," said Tonelli, who has seven playoff goals. "I was getting down on myself. But I've tried to make up for it in the playoffs."

Tonelli said Thursday's game was the most important of the series. "This puts the pressure on them," he said. "If we had gone up there with a loss, we'd be behind the eight ball."

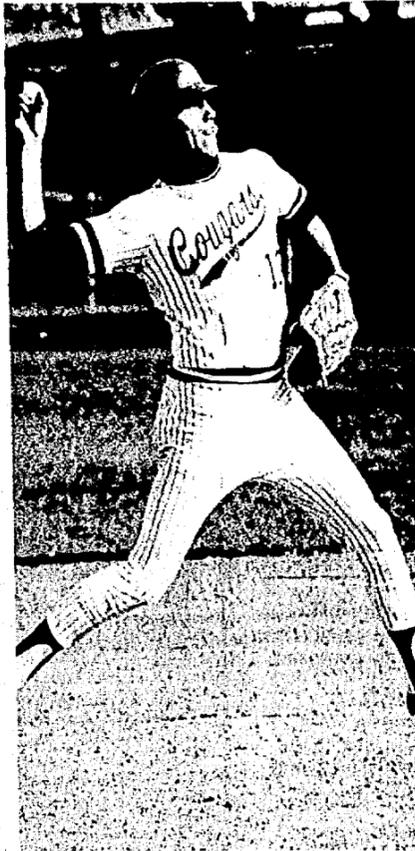
Terry Ruskowski cushioned Houston's lead only 53 seconds into the third period and Andre Hines got his second playoff goal at 13:39 to give the Aeros a 4-2 lead.

With time running out for a comeback, New England's Rick Ley scored the Whaler's final goal at 16:08.

The game was by far the most physical of the series, with at least three players leaving the ice with injuries. Houston's Jan Popiel left briefly in the first period with a cut over his eye.

In the second period, Mike Rogers was shaken up when he crashed into the boards and Tom Earl required 12 stitches on his forehead after he was hit by a puck.

A victory by the Aeros in Saturday's sixth game at Hartford would eliminate the Whalers and put the Aeros in the final series against Winnipeg Jets. If New England wins Saturday, the decisive game would be here Sunday.



All in the way you hold your tongue!

Marty Maxwell, a Lethbridge product playing third base for Washington State University Cougars, gets set to hurl the ball to first base. It seems that the key to a good throw is all in the way you hold your tongue. Maxwell is currently hitting at a fine .375 clip for the Cougars. The Cougars are aiming for their seventh straight Northern Division title.

Minor ball

Don Jackson, besides recording the mound win, cracked out two doubles and two singles to lead the Optimist Cubs past the Giants 10-9 in Norcrest action.

Randy Pohl came up with two singles for the winners. Brett Szucs and Kent Brown both stroked a double and a single for the losers. Chris Paterson took the pitching loss.

The Cubs won another contest earlier in the week when they stopped the Expos 22-10 with Troy Moch getting the pitching win.

Don Jackson had a triple, two doubles and a single for the winners and Blake Tamayose added two doubles and a single.

Losing pitcher Kevin Crawford, who struck out 11, blasted a home run and two doubles while Todd Galts also came up with a homer.

The Dodgers breezed past the Astros 20-4 in another Norcrest contest. Kevin Starnar was the winning hurler while Mike Menzak took the loss.

Rick Blair had a double and two singles for the winners and Rick Gal added three singles.

Losing hurler Mike Menzak stroked two singles but the hitting star for the Astros was Barton Olesky who belted a home run and added a single.

Astros dropped another contest, this time 10-9 to the Cardinals who were led by Jim Hinatsu's 12-strikeout pitching performance.

Brian Colwill and Doug Christianson both came up with a double and two singles for the winners and Hinatsu added three singles.

Don Ohno had two doubles in a losing cause while losing hurler Kelly Megella stroked two singles.

In Lakeside action the Royals ran wild, beating the Indians 32-6.

Kevin Higa, the winning pitcher, cracked out three singles and Cal Sonntag added two doubles. Darren Harker chipped in with another double and single for the winners.

Frank Popson was the losing pitcher and Brad Kimura collected a double for the Indians.

Kenny Wood received the pitching win as the Yankees edged the Canucks 15-14 in Lakeside play. Wood also shone at the plate with a double and two singles while Allan Schneider added two more doubles and two more singles to the winners' attack.

Joe Szalavary blasted a pair of homers for the losers and Randy Bardock added one more. Losing hurler Shannon Peham stroked two singles.

Senior league play saw the Pirates best the Expos 13-1 behind the 11-strikeout pitching of Barry Coghlin.

Stan Sawicki had two triples and a single for the winners while Blair Nyrose added two singles.

Coghlin allowed only two singles in his win.

Taber rodeo dates set

for May 23, 24

It's rodeo time at Taber once again.

Reg Kesler, one of the best in the rodeo stock contracting business, will be bringing in his top bucking stock May 23 and 24 for the annual show.

Preceded by an AQHA approved horse show May 22, the Taber professional rodeo has always offered Southern Albertans an entertaining way to spend their holiday weekend.

Rodeo time Sunday is 2 p.m. while Monday's show kicks off at 2 p.m. following the completion of the 11 a.m. parade through downtown Taber.

Monday night a rodeo cabaret and dance are also on tap, featuring Miss Rodeo Canada, Sis Thacker.

Along with the rodeo fun there is also a midway.

Rodeo announcer will be hometown boy Gary Jensen while the bull fighter for the rodeo will be highly regarded Kelly LaCosta.

The Kesler stock will give the top-flight Canadian cowboys a real test as they battle it out for top spot in the bull riding, saddle bronc riding, bareback bronc riding, calf roping and steer wrestling laurels.

Judge for the horse show will be Milo Whitcomb of Colorado.

Team USA will train in Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Team USA, which will compete in the Canada Cup hockey series in September, will do some of its training in Philadelphia, a National Hockey League spokesman said Thursday.

Brian O'Neill, executive director of the NHL, said training camp would open in the second week of August.

The U.S. team will compete with Canada, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Finland in a round-robin tournament beginning Sept. 2 and concluding with a best-of-three final. Montreal and Toronto are expected to stage most of the games.

At least three games are scheduled for Philadelphia, with one other site in the U.S. still to be selected for another game.

"Philadelphia was picked because it made the best bid for the games," O'Neill said.

The U.S. team will be managed by Tommy Ivan, general manager of Chicago Black Hawks, and Bill MacFarland, general manager of Phoenix Roadrunners of the World Hockey Association.

No coach has been named for the U.S. or the Canadian teams, although Sam Pollock, general manager of the NHL Montreal Canadiens, is the Canadian manager.

U.S. players must be citizens of that country, such as Atlanta's Curt Bennett or Montreal defenceman Bill Nyrop. Jean Ratelle, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Canada, could choose to play for either team.

ROBOTS WIN

Robots out-distanced Kelley's Stereo 20-12 in the Businessmen's Fastball League.

The winners were paced by the two-home run attack of Ted Tokariuk.



JODZIO, LEFT, LEAVES QUEBEC CITY COURTHOUSE

Appears in court Thursday

Jodzio says not guilty

QUEBEC (CP) — Left-winger Rick Jodzio of Calgary Cowboys pleaded not guilty before a sessions court judge Thursday to a charge of assault with intent to injure Quebec Nordiques forward Marc Tardif during a World Hockey Association playoff game April 11.

Jodzio was ordered to appear for preliminary hearing June 21.

The 22-year-old hockey player appeared briefly before Judge Yvon Siros. His lawyer, Harvey Yarosky of Montreal, asked for a trial by jury.

The charge followed an incident during the second game of the WHA quarter-final series between the Nordiques and the Cowboys in which Tardif suffered a concussion and was admitted to hospital, allegedly after being struck by Jodzio.

As a result of the incident, both teams cleared their benches and several fights broke out on the ice. Order was finally restored by police.

After a police investigation, Quebec Solicitor-General Fernand Lalonde ordered the charge to be laid in accordance with Article 223 of the Criminal Code. Jodzio faces a maximum 14 years imprisonment if convicted.

Mr. Yarosky told the court he doubted his client could obtain a fair trial here.

"We're worried because of the rowdy and inflammatory publicity surrounding this affair," he said, adding that it isn't true his client attacked the Quebec player with his stick or intended to injure him as has been alleged by local media.

As the pair left the court, Mr. Yarosky said he was con-

sidering asking for a change in venue for the trial.

The lawyer said Jodzio had "a lot of respect" for Tardif, the leading scorer in the WHA, and said the Calgary player sincerely regretted the Quebec star had been injured.

However, Yarosky hastened to add that his client's actions did not constitute a violation of criminal statutes.

Tardif was sent home from hospital three days after the incident, but has been told to remain off his skates for the summer.

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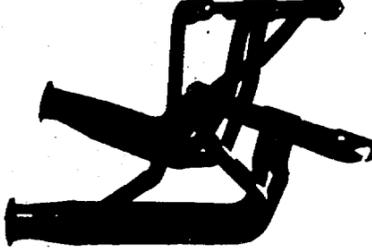


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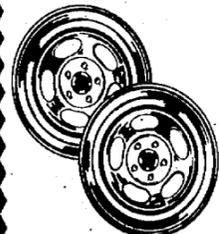
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