



Edmonton Oilers Kevin Lowe puts a restraining glove in the face of Montreal Canadiens Ryan Walter during first period National Hockey League action in Montreal Thursday night. The Habs edged the Oilers 3-2 on Bob Gainey's goal with 19 seconds remaining in the game.

— CP laserphoto

## Habs nip Oilers

**By The Canadian Press**  
Bob Gainey would like to be optimistic about Montreal's 3-2 victory Thursday night over Edmonton Oilers. But, in 11 seasons, the Canadiens' veteran left winger has learned not to grasp at straws.

"It's good for everybody to understand that by playing together you can beat a team with more talent," Gainey said after scoring the winning goal with 19 seconds remaining in the National Hockey League game.

"We've been looking for signs all year, so I don't know if this is a sign or isn't a sign. I think it's just a game we played well."

Montreal will finish fourth in the Adams Division. If the standings remain static, they'll meet Buffalo Sabres in the first round of playoffs. They did that last year and were eliminated in the minimum three games, which explains Gainey's caution.

Bobby Smith and Mike McPhee, with his first NHL goal, also scored for the hometown Canadiens. Jari Kurri, with his 50th of the season, and Mark Messier had Edmonton's goals.

Elsewhere, it was Hartford Whalers 5 Toronto Maple Leafs 3, Philadelphia Flyers 6 Boston Bruins 3, and St. Louis Blues 5 Detroit Red Wings 3.

### Whalers 5 Leafs 3

Rookie Toronto goaltender Allan Bester handled 65 shots, including 32 in the second period when Hartford failed to score.

It was 1-1 after 20 minutes on goals by Tony Currie of the Whalers and Stewart Gavin of the Leafs. Toronto's Bill Derlago scored the only goal of the second period but the home team jumped to a 3-2 lead on goals by Randy Pierce and Bobby Crawford early in the third.

Derlago got his second of the game and 35th of the season on a power play at 8:27 to tie it 3-3 but Ray Neufeld, on a power play at 10:06, and Sylvain Turgeon, with his 37th at 17:20, won it for Hartford.

Toronto remains three points behind fourth-

place Chicago with seven games left in which to further its anemic challenge for a playoff berth.

### Flyers 6 Bruins 3

In Philadelphia, Dave Poulin scored two goals and assisted on Tim Kerr's 48th of the season to lead the Flyers over Boston.

Bobby Clarke, playing for the first time since coach Bob McCammon ordered him to take a week off, assisted on the Flyers' first goal, by Thomas Eriksson, for his 1,200th NHL point — a milestone only 10 other players have achieved.

Rich Sutter and Glen Cochrane also scored for the Flyers. Barry Pederson scored his 30th and 31st goals of the season to give Boston a 2-0 lead before the Flyers struck for four in a row before the end of the first period. Ray Bourque added one for Boston.

## Slick Oilers upset Wings

**By The Canadian Press**

Brian Bertuzzi scored two goals to pace Kamloops Oilers to an 8-2 victory over Kelowna Wings in Western Hockey League action Thursday night.

In other games, Portland Winter Hawks edged Victoria Cougars 7-6 and Calgary Wranglers stopped Winnipeg Warriors 7-2.

In Kelowna, the Oilers, first in the Western Division, improved their record to 48-21, while the last-place Wings dropped to 15-55-1.

In Winnipeg, the Warriors tied a league record, and moved closer to another record with their lacklustre performance.

The Warriors now have lost 16 consecutive games at home, tying the record of winless home-ice game set by Vancouver Nats in the 1972-73 season.

## Medicine Hat Spring Indoor Rodeo

### Snyder comes home

**ED WILLES  
Of The News**

Cody Snyder of Redcliff, the world bull riding champion, makes a triumphant return home this weekend doing what he does best.

Snyder's name in the the bull riding event highlights an 11-event card at the Medicine Hat Spring Indoor Rodeo, Friday through Sunday at the Arena Convention Centre.

The rodeo begins Friday at 7 p.m., resumes Saturday at 7 p.m. and the final day of competition begins Sunday at 2 p.m.

Total prize money for the rodeo is \$10,000 and Reg Kessler will provide most of the stock.

Snyder, for this rodeo, is sharing top billing with Medicine Hat's Susan Hargrave, Miss Rodeo Canada for 1984.

"Susan will be getting the trailer she won as Miss Rodeo Canada, Saturday night," said Medicine Hat's Exhibition and Stampede's Jim McArthur. "But we don't know if we can plan anything special for Cody. He's on a tight schedule so we'll just have to see."

Snyder competed at a rodeo in Phoenix, Thursday night and is scheduled to travel to Pocatello, Idaho, Friday night and Mor-

ley, Alta. Saturday. He'll then drive to the Hat where he'll compete in the bull riding, Sunday.

Snyder will be aboard Black Bart in the 15th hole, Sunday. He will be competing against a crack field that includes 1983 Canadian champ Dale Johansen of Strathmore, 1982 champ Brian Aebly of Jenner and Canadian finalists Dan Lowry of Millerville, Alta. and Jim Finkbeiner of Duchess.

Bull riding isn't the only event that's studded with Canadian finalists. In fact, the five main events at the rodeo, bareback, saddle bronc, steer wrestling, bull riding and calf roping have all drawn tough competition.

Canadian and National Finals Rodeo cowboy Mel Coleman of Lloydminster, Sask. is entered in the saddle bronc along with Canadian finalists Duane Daines of Innisfail and Tom Eirikson of Longview, Alta.

The bareback event features Brad Pieron of Wardlaw, Alta., who finished second in Canada in 1983 and third-place Jim Dunn of Balzac. Former Canadian champ Steve Dunham is also entered.

Canadian champ Joe Lucas of Sundre, Alta. heads the calf ropers. Runner-up Larry Robinson of Innisfail is also entered.

Eirikson, 1983 all-around cowboy, leads the steer wrestlers. Eirikson finished second in steer wrestling last year.

In addition to the five major events there will also be boys steer riding, ladies barrel racing, team roping and a kids' wild pony race.



**CODY SNYDER**

## Tigers shoot for first

**ED WILLES  
Of The News**

Medicine Hat Tigers head into Saskatchewan this weekend in an awkward predicament.

The Tigers, who play the Pats in Regina tonight and the Raiders in Prince Albert, Saturday, have a shot at first place in the Western Hockey League's Eastern Division.

But the Tigers also have to look over the shoulders at three teams who are lurking behind them. They are only three points ahead of Lethbridge Broncos and Brandon Wheat Kings and five points ahead of the fifth-place Raiders in the East as the WHL's regular season winds down.

"It's so close this year," said Tigers' general manager Russ Farwell. "Right now we're thinking about hanging on to second. If we win both games then we'll look at first but we definitely want at least a split this weekend."

The Tigers trail the first-place Pats by four games and hold a game in hand. But the Pats end the season with two games against the pathetic Winnipeg Warriors while the Tigers end their season with a home-and-home series

with Lethbridge.

"We've had good games with the Pats this year," said Farwell. "The games have been very close. They're the only team who can play at our pace."

The Pats hold a 3-2 edge on the season's series with the Tigers. The two biggest wins came in a home-and-home series with the Tigers in mid-February when the Pats won both those games by one goal. The four points Regina picked up in those two games is the difference between the two teams.

The game Saturday night in Prince Albert takes on added significance for the Tigers because the Raiders are their most likely first-round playoff opponent.

"It's important we play well in P.A.," said Farwell. "Anyone within the league has a great deal of respect for them. They've been murder at home this year but they haven't put it together on the road. That's what's kept them back."

Dan Hodgson, who is battling Brandon's Ray Ferraro for the WHL's scoring lead, keys the Raiders' attack. He has been centering the Raiders' most potent line.

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