



Randy Jensen
Sports Editor
Phone 328-4419
8 p.m. to midnight

Chiefs edge 'Canes in opener

By DARRYL KNUTSON
of The Herald
SPOKANE, Wash. — Kerry Toporowski greeted the Lethbridge Hurricanes with his fists rather than a handshake for Game 1 of the Western Hockey League championship series Friday night.

ROUNDUP
Chiefs 3 Hurricanes 2
1. Lethbridge, Marzochi 1:22, Whistling 1:06, Penalties — Puchniak L, Toporowski Sp 1:26, Puffin 1:51, 1:52, Toporowski Sp 10:23, Puchniak L, Derynka Sp 12:51, Puffin L, Soble Sp 12:58, Toporowski Sp 17:58, Sorochan L, Wolf Sp 19:18.

Duane Maruschak, who skated around Chiefs' defenceman Geoff Grandberg and lucked the puck under Trevor Kidd 1:06 into the game.

Ray Whitney's powerplay goal put the Chiefs on even terms at 2:46 of the first, then the 6-2, 212-pound Toporowski turned goal scorer, giving the Chiefs the first lead of the game in the second period.

After a sluggish first period, Kidd was outstanding for the latter two frames. He made several sparkling saves late in the second period, with the 'Canes threatening to tie the game.

'Canes finally solved Kidd six minutes into the third period on a goal by Kevin St. Jacques to tie the game at 2-2. However, Pat Falloon scored the eventual winner with just over five minutes remaining.

'We were a little bit rusty at first and it took us the first period to get back into it,' said Kidd. 'After the first period we got our confidence back and hopefully we can continue it into Game 2.'

Hurricane coach Bob Loucks wasn't surprised by the Chiefs' physical style of play.

'We knew how they (Spokane) were going to play, that's their game, and that's the only way they can play. They don't have enough skill past Falloon and Whitney to do it any other way.'

'(Saturday) night we have to turn up the speed a bit, keep our skill guys on ice, not take so many penalties and if we have our skill guys on ice I think we are a better team than they are.'

Falloon's winner proved to be a bit of a gift goal for the Chiefs. 'It was kind of a bad bounce, it hit the linesman and gave them possession of the puck and Falloon was able to tip the puck,' said Loucks. 'That was the difference in the game. We just have to work a little bit harder and we'll win.'

Loucks added he's not the bit impressed with the play of Toporowski.

'I don't think he intimidates anybody. I think he is a total fool, he wants to run around like that and he is in the penalty box as much as he is on the ice. I hope he keeps that up for the rest of the series.'



RANA WALTER, 8, OF LETHBRIDGE ROUNDS THE BARRELS

Blues and Kings keep hopes alive

By The ASSOCIATED PRESS
The St. Louis Blues took the heat off goaltender Vincent Riendeau and stayed alive in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Riendeau, pulled in Games 3 and 4, gave up only two late goals as the Blues snatched the Minnesota North Stars in a 4-2 victory Friday night.

It cut the North Stars' lead to 3-2 in the best-of-seven series heading into Game 6 Sunday night in Bloomington, Minn., and kept alive the Blues' hopes of becoming the first team in NHL history to twice come back from a 3-1 deficit in the same season.

'I don't think he looked shaky tonight,' said North Stars coach Bob Gainey after Riendeau made 24 saves and held Minnesota scoreless until the last six minutes.

Blues coach Brian Sutter had hinted he might make a change at goaltender after Riendeau gave up nine goals in 27 chances and lasted only 41:01 in Games 3 and 4. He ended up switching only backups, dressing Curtis Joseph, who hasn't played since injuring his knee Feb. 26.

'I've felt strong from the beginning, I just didn't get the breaks in Minnesota,' Riendeau said. 'I know one thing, I've given my best since the start of the playoffs.'

'Tonight we played our style of game, which is to not give them too many chances, and it worked out well.'



ROB BLAKE is dumped by Oilers' Mark Messier, but Kings won game to send Smythe Division final back to Edmonton.

This time it was North Stars goaltender Jon Casey that got pulled, leaving at 10:18 of the third after giving up four goals on 29 shots.

'They forced us into mistakes tonight,' Gainey said. 'They played a much better game.'

The Blues prevailed without a point from Brett Hull and Adam Oates. Dan Quinn had a goal and three assists, Rod Brind'Amour had a goal and an assist and Steve Tuttle had three assists.

Kings 5 Oilers 2
Luc Robitaille scored three goals as Los Angeles, heat-up and on the verge of elimination from the playoffs, downed Edmonton to stay alive in the Smythe Division Finals.

The defending Stanley Cup champion Oilers lead the best-of-seven series 3-2, with the sixth game Sunday in Edmonton. A seventh, if necessary, would be back at the Forum on Tuesday night.

Robitaille, who got the game-tying and game-winning goals in the series opener, scored twice in the first period Friday night to give Los Angeles a 3-1 lead.

He added another in the second period as the Kings opened a three-goal advantage.

Todd Elik and Steve Kasper also scored for Los Angeles. Anatoli Semenov and Glenn Anderson scored for Edmonton.

Skriko making best of chances with Bruins

MONTREAL (CP) — Petri Skriko got what he wanted when the Vancouver Canucks traded him to the Boston Bruins last January.

Not only is he with a team that wants him, but he is deep in the thick of a race for the Stanley Cup.

'Around the league there are teams where everyone wants to go and Boston is one of them,' Skriko said Friday as his team prepared for Game 6 of the Adams Division final against the Montreal Canadiens.

'They have a winning team and a winning attitude. It was one of my first choices.'

Skriko, 29, a fine skater and shooter whose goal production dropped from 30 to 15 last season, had fallen out of favor with Vancouver management, particularly with coach Bob McCammon.

He asked for a trade and was initially turned down. Finally, with Skriko seeing little ice time, he was sent to Boston for a second round draft choice.

Now, he is a key forward for the Bruins, who lead the series 3-2 thanks to a solid 4-1 win in Boston on Thursday. They can eliminate the Canadiens tonight.

The stocky Fin has four goals and five assists in the playoffs, fourth on the team behind stars Cam Neely, Raymond Bourque and Craig Janney.

'I asked for a trade last season and they said no, don't worry, things will get better,' Skriko said of his parting after more than six seasons in Vancouver.

'But I had to tell them I wanted a trade. Hockey wasn't fun any more. So I said: 'If you don't trade me, let me go home (to Finland).'

'It wasn't Vancouver. My problem was Bob McCammon. I wouldn't play for him and he wouldn't play me.'

He plays for Bruins coach Mike Milbury. Late in Game 4 last Tuesday at the Forum, Skriko took a shot on the ankle and left the building hobbled by a swollen foot.

But he was back in the lineup the next game.

Skriko is going into the option year of his contract and soon must decide whether to continue in the National Hockey League or return to Europe.

'This summer, I'll decide,' he said. 'But I couldn't be happier than I am now in Boston.'

The entire team is happy after their crushing win. Montreal seemed to have taken control of the series with a 6-2 win in Game 4, but the Bruins responded with their best effort of the playoffs.

Boston can now oust Montreal from the Adams final for the third time in the last four years.

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ROUNDUP
STANLEY CUP ON TV
Saturday
Adams Division Final. Boston Bruins at Montreal with Boston leading best-of-seven series 3-2. (6 p.m. CBC Ch. 8)
Sunday
Smythe Division Final. Los Angeles Kings at Edmonton, with Edmonton leading best-of-seven series 3-2. (6 p.m. CBC Ch. 9)

Lindros prepared for abuse

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ont. (CP) — Fear that fans will abuse budding superstar Eric Lindros of the Oshawa Generals has prompted the team he snubbed to boost security for home games in their Ontario Hockey League championship series.

The 18-year-old Oshawa centre refused to report to the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds in 1989 after the club picked him first in the OHL draft. The Greyhounds traded him to Oshawa, near his hometown of Toronto.

He has yet to play a game in the Northern Ontario city. Officials are concerned about the reception Lindros will receive Thursday and Friday when the Generals play Games 3 and 4 of the best-of-seven series at Memorial Gardens in the Sault.

'For him to think he's not going to take some kind of abuse is crazy,' said Greyhounds general manager Sherry Bassin.

'Because of the emotion and because the place will be jam-packed we're going to have to make sure things don't get out of hand.'

Arena manager Bob Thomlinson said he plans to have 12 security guards and six police officers at each game.

The first two games of the series are Monday and Tuesday in Oshawa.

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Battle of champions goes to the horse

By GARRY ALLISON
of The Herald

There's something about a champion that sets him apart from the crowd — he looks and carries himself like a champion.

Rod Hay, the 22-year-old Canadian champion saddle bronc rider and two-time National and Canadian Finals qualifier, has the ways of a champion.

But even champions have bad days and sometimes championship stock overshadows them.

Friday night at the opening performance of the Lethbridge Bud Tour Professional Rodeo at the Exhibition Pavilion, Hay bucked off Greg Kesler's fine little bronc Three Frosts about five seconds into the ride, after getting out of time on the first jump out.

But Hay will climb on 125 to 150 saddle broncs this year — only 125 count towards the world standings — in rodeo arenas from Texas to Edmonton. He just arrived in Lethbridge from Red Bluff, Cal.

He's already won more than \$19,000 this year.

'It's my best start so far in rodeo,' the personable Mayerthorpe, Alta. cowboy said. 'I've been drawing really well at the big winter rodeos down south.'

Hay said he doesn't pattern himself after any particular bronc rider but has studied the best of them and picked the traits he likes.

The 5-8, 160-pounder — the ideal size for a bronc rider — said he follows many-time world champion Clint Johnson's style of spurring every single horse, no matter how tame or how rank, the first two jumps out of the chute.

'I've taken that style too,' said Hay. 'That makes a bronc rider get into the ride and not drop his feet on a double-rank horse. Sometimes though you get bucked off.'

'Mostly I stick with the basics and then let the aggression look after itself. The guy who is most aggressive is going to win. If he does the basics right.'

Friday, Three Frosts, out of the great mare Three Bars, had the best of Hay. It was his first time on the grey bronc, but he knew he had a pretty tough draw. It was.

His brother Denny, 23, also rides broncs, and also bucked off Kesler's Snip Friday night.

'We are on the same trail, but we don't travel together extensively,' said Hay. 'We are more individual than the Elbauer brothers.'

'I would like to win a world championship some day, but mostly I just want to be as good as I can be. I want to ride every horse as well as possible.'

'I know I am a long ways from being there, but it's coming, I'm

RODEO
Rodeo results on B9

slowly getting there. I don't worry about championships, I just let things fall into their own place, the rest will take care of itself.'

Rod Warren of Valley View, on Kesler's Copen Gold, marked a 75 to take the lead in the bronc riding.

In the bareback event Friday Craig Mill of Hanna and veteran Jim Dunn of Airdrie both spurred out 72-point rides to share the lead. Mill had Kesler's Viewer's Choice and Dunn rode Going My Way.

Calf roping leader is 1987 Canadian champion Mark Nugent of Water Valley with a run of 9.3 seconds.

Isabelle Miller rounded the clover leaf barrel racing course in 13.67 second to take the early lead in that event.

Only three of 10 steer wrestlers did the job Friday, led by Marvin Dodging Horse of Calgary with a time of 4.8 seconds.

Dustin Young of Blackfoot, Id., marked a 74 to take the early lead in the bull riding. Only three of 11 bull riders stayed on.

BEHIND THE CHUTES: There were more than 1,100 people on hand for Friday's opening performance. Kids who saw Miss Rodeo Canada, Trish Kostelansky, in schools this week promoting the rodeo were hollering greetings to her as she chased calves from the arena. Mary Lynn, Raylee, 13, Rana, 8 and Oscar Walter all competed Friday night. Slack was held right after Friday's performance in the three timed events.

Greg Rumohr, world champion bullfighter, gave the fans a few thrills during the opening performance of bull riding. Two cowboys, Scott Kelsey and Wade Joyal were buffeted around by their bulls but both were reported fine after the rodeo. There's no boys steer riding at the Lethbridge Bud Pro Tour Rodeo this year. Announcer Bill Kehler is one of the main voices of the Calgary Stampede. There are 48 saddle bronc riders, 44 bull riders, 79 steer wrestlers, 32 bareback riders, 61 barrel racers and 50 calf ropers. The tiny tot's muddin' bustin' is always a crowd pleasing event and six-year-old Sabrina Evans of Cardston, one of many riders, was busy displaying her sheep riding ribbon. Rodeo action continues this morning with slack and tonight with a performance at 7 p.m. Sunday at 3 p.m. is the final performance.

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