

TORONTO, MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1975

Christie Blatchford



They are going to clean up our hockey game, dammit, until there is nothing left. Bobby Hull sat out Friday's World Hockey Association game, protesting what he calls growing violence in his sport. Two days ago, Tory MP James McGrath told the Royal Commission on Violence in the Communications Industry that Hockey Night in Canada is the prime offender on television. Earlier this year, the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association instituted rule changes that give the aggressor in a fight an automatic game misconduct. And last season it was Toronto lawyer Bill McMurtry, telling us that hockey fostered the bad business of machismo. Enough, guys, enough.

You gotta hate

Hull's sitdown seems a neat top-off to a movement that began a few years ago, about the same time that various small pressure groups started telling us to get back to the land (on weekends) and get off the highways (during the week) and jog every morning.

And some of the recent changes—severe penalties for a player showing intent to injure in the amateur leagues, where there are kids who have not learned to handle the hate and the anger that is part of all competition. The movement, though, goes beyond all that—it attempts to deny that there is such madness in sport, it generalizes, and it does not properly distinguish between violence and toughness.

It is all part of our time, an era that breeds young men like Lanny McDonald of the Leafs, a young man on a \$600,000, five-year contract, a young man who recently suffered a case of nerves because he had been criticized in the press.

Our hockey game has not changed, despite what Hull says about the growing incidence of high-sticking. It is simply that, in the numbers game of expansion, there are now more hockey players using their sticks—and the penalties for that infraction are, as they should be, getting stiffer all the time. But the roughness—the fights, the elbows, the occasional knee—has been with us since day one.

It has also always been a part of football and basketball and rugby, and it's been there because of the truth in a long-ago saying that still hits home. You gotta hate a little to be one of the great competitors.

Spearing practice

For years, non-hockey people have failed to understand the hate, just as they find little beauty in the sound of a body hitting the boards, just as they see no magic in a man on the ice, all alone, playing with the puck. It is unreasonable to suggest that Hull, a magnificent competitor, does not understand. It is not unreasonable to suggest that after 18 years as a pro, at 36, that he may be tiring of it. It happens, even to the Hulls.

There is madness in sport. There was madness in Coach Tallon, who in the early Sixties used to coach a juvenile club in the Northern Ontario Hockey Association. Stan and his team would travel to mean hockey towns like Kirkland Lake, where the fans were as rabid as they could be. And in the pre-game warmups, to the horrified delight of those fans, Stan would send out his boys to practice spearing. They would go into the corners with each other, sticks held at impossible angles, and pretend to use the wood. The fans would shriek and Stan's boys would laugh, and that done, they would play the game.

Big cheques, no checks

That's our game, guys. A tough combination of bravado and bravery, some phony machismo and some real meanness. It's the only game in the world we play as well as anyone else. But if we aren't careful, the people who make the decisions are going to take the guts and hardness out of hockey and they will do it because they think it is what we want. It will make dozens of Swedes—like Inge Hammarstrom, who is nicknamed Inge by some for his reluctance to hit—ecstatic. Big cheques with no checks.

Reduce the high-sticking, yes. Penalize the third man in a fight. But let's not try to pressure our hockey players into becoming nice athletes; good hockey does not mean clean hockey. It means good checks and good passes and good skating and even some good acting. It means trying to trip the other guy and sometimes it even means fighting. It means playing when you're hurt and hurting a little when you play.

Our country has a surplus of nice athletes who play by the rules and play clean and never stoop to try anything for an edge. They don't hate. And they hardly ever win.

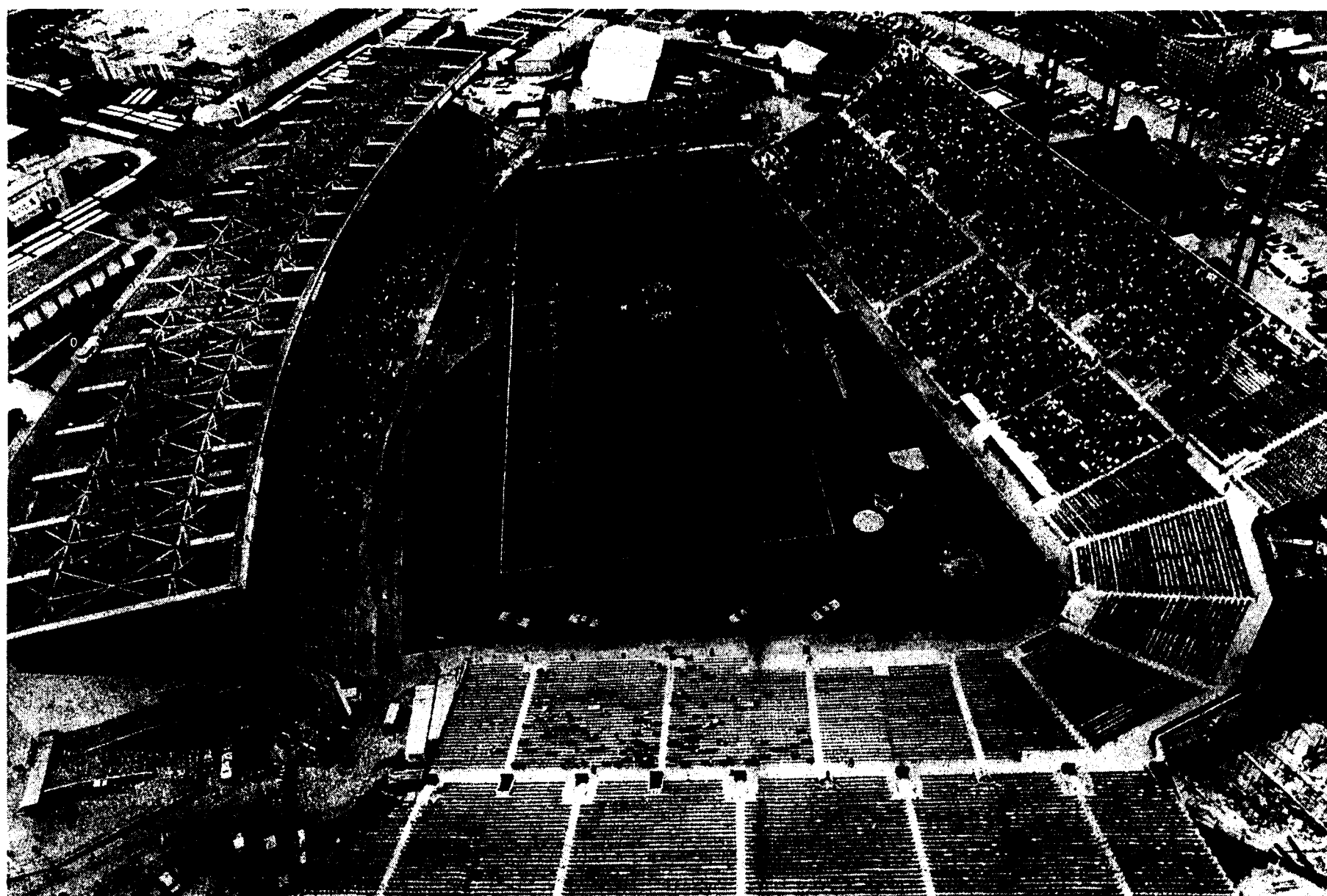
Unemployed steelworker takes international race

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. (CP) — A 23-year-old unemployed steelworker from Duquesne, Pa., won the second annual Buffalo-to-Niagara Falls international marathon Saturday with an unofficial time of two hours, 23 minutes, 23 seconds.

Martin Sudzina, who tends a blast furnace in Pittsburgh when employed, took over the

lead from Wayne Yetman, 29, of the Toronto Olympic Club, at the 23-mile mark in the 26.2 mile race.

Yetman had set a blistering pace right from the start at Delaware Park in Buffalo. Many runners complained they were hindered by high winds and rain which began as the leaders reached the 17-mile mark.



Lots of room at Stadium

CNE Stadium can now hold 51,200 with the newly-completed west endzone seats. Attendance for Saturday's Argonaut game was 40,284. The 8,900 new seats were added in anticipation of Toronto being awarded a major-league baseball franchise. When the cry of "play ball" rings out, home-plate will be the circle to the bottom right with the curve to the left being the outfield wall.

Snow Knight captures International

By LARRY MILLSON
Snow Knight's distaste for starting gates is well known by now, as is the way he has learned to live with them.

But for a few tantalizing moments before yesterday's \$188,700 Canadian International Championship at Woodbine, there was a slight twinge of doubt.

With the outside No. 11 post position (Princess Grey had been scratched), Snow Knight was the last to be loaded into the gate. After the French filly Comtesse de Loir acted up as she was being out into the No. 10 position in the gate, Snow Knight decided it was time to go when his turn came up. As he was coaxed into the gate for the first time, he balked after being halfway in, then gave a short, sneaky kick with one of his hind legs, as powerful as a Joe Frazier left hook. Luckily no one was on the receiving end.

Finally, the second time he went in. From then on he was everything an outstanding race horse is supposed to be. After being ratted off the early pace by jockey Jorge Velasquez, the 4-year-old running for E. P. Taylor's Windfields Farm, surged around the final turn to take the lead early in the stretch, then held off Comtesse de Loir by a half length in a beautiful drive. Gardner's Point's dependable Carney's Point was another 1 1/2 lengths behind in third place, a head in front of

Dahlia, which won the race last year in record time.

The time for the 1 1/4 miles on the turf was 2:43 1-5, three and one-fifth seconds off Dahlia's record of last year. Although the turf was rated firm yesterday, it had been listed as yielding for most of the week and was softer than the course was for last year's Canadian International when it was more hard than firm.

Snow Knight's victory made for an excellent weekend for Velasquez. He had ridden Group Plan to an upset victory over Wajima in Saturday's two-mile Jockey Club Gold Cup at New York's Belmont.

Although Snow Knight's victory was certainly no upset, considering he had won four stakes in a row coming into the race, he was second choice with the crowd of 26,475 at the good price of 7 to 2, indicative of the excellent field. Dahlia, ridden by Sandy Hawley, was the favorite at 9 to 5.

Velasquez would not say which weekend victory gave him the greater satisfaction. "I was just as happy each time. I just love to win that's all."

Trainer Mack Miller, who took over Snow Knight last fall after he had finished eighth in the Canadian International, said the race pleased him more than any in his career, mainly because of the challenge Snow Knight had presented. Getting him

over his fear took considerable patience from the people who worked with the colt, the trainer said, including assistant trainer Jack Delzell and exercise rider Jill Gordon.

Although Snow Knight is English-bred and Canadian-owned, the colt will represent the United States in the \$150,000 Washington, D.C. Interna-

More racing, \$9

tional at Laurel Nov. 8. He is representing the United States because until yesterday most of his significant victories had been there.

Windfields had purchased the controlling interest in the son of Firestreak—Snow Blossom last summer from Mrs. Neil Phillips of Montreal after the colt had won the Epsom Derby. He then was shipped from England to Canada for the Woodbine fall meet, where he was a disappointment, his best race being a second by a nose to Carney's Point in an allowance race in his first Canadian start. He was then sixth in the Jockey Club Cup and eighth in the Canadian Championship before being retired for the year.

He was sent to Miller's winter training headquarters in Aiken, S.C. where he was taught to relax. He was walked around the gate, shown that it wouldn't hurt him and finally, after about 30 days, he was led into it one

day and discovered it was not such a bad place to be.

"This is the biggest thrill of my life," Miller said, "because this horse was such a challenge."

Just to make sure the colt would not be too reluctant in the gate yesterday, Miller said the assistant starter, who would lead him, was brought around to the colt's stall each morning so they would become acquainted. "We had him feeding him carrots so he'd be accustomed to him," Miller said.

In his attempt first start this year at Aqueduct, Velasquez was wondering if the colt had indeed been cured of his qualms about the gate. "He went wild there," Velasquez said. "As soon as he saw the gate, he went right up in the air."

The jockey was thrown and Snow Knight ran around the track, his saddle empty. That race was in May, Miller said

Inside

Hockey	\$2, \$3
Football	\$4, \$5
Golf	\$6, \$6
Martin O'Malley	\$7
Soccer	\$7
Pan-Am Games	\$8
Figure Skating	\$9
Horse racing	\$9

he had to start all over again with him but there wasn't as far to go this time. When he was ready to start again, June 18 at Belmont, he won by a length in an allowance race, then finished second in an allowance race before finishing ninth on the soft turf in the Atlantic Nations Handicap at Atlantic City, July 26.

He has won five consecutive races since yesterday's winner's share of \$113,220 gives him \$281,435 from six wins in eight starts this year.

In fact, rain is about the only thing that would prevent Snow Knight from running in the Laurel International. He defeats soft turf almost as much as the starting gate. "We're signing up the same weatherman we had this week," said Joe Thomas, vice-president of Windfields.

Snow Knight was a much calmer horse in the walking ring yesterday than he was before last year's Canadian International when he washead out and presented a worried picture. Last year he led for 1 1/2 miles in the Championship before stopping as quickly as he started.

While Snow Knight was calm this time, the filly Comtesse de Loir, which would turn out to be his main opposition, was skittish. She is a bad shipper and had flipped in her stall while being transported by van from the airport to Woodbine after arriv-

ing from France. Comtesse de Loir was nervous in the walking ring but ran an excellent race and may have been unlucky not to win.

Both had been rated nicely off the pace but it was Comtesse de Loir—beaten only a head by Allez France in last year's Arc de Triomphe and third in this year's running—made a strong move along the backstretch and had gone by Snow Knight on the inside going into the turn. But while Velasquez had Snow Knight on the outside free from trouble, Comtesse de Loir, ridden by French jockey Jean Desaint, was trapped on the rail behind tiring horses. While her drive was stalled for a moment, Snow Knight was moving confidently on the outside and had the lead by the time Comtesse de Loir was free and ready to charge again.

And what a charge. With Desaint's right arm going high in the air as he beat upon his filly, it looked like something from an old-fashioned oil painting of racing in England. "The filly ran a big race," said Desaint, his right arm back at sea level, and "apparently still in its socket. "She had no real excuses, except that the horse in front tired (One on the Aisle) and I had to take her up a little bit."

Velasquez said: "I'm not saying she wouldn't have passed me. But I do know my

horse was strong at the finish."

Meanwhile, Hawley who had Dahlia in 10th and 8th positions for the early going and then made a futile late move, said: "They were going fast the first part of it. I couldn't believe it. She was running very good the first part of it. I felt that the pace was going to come back to us fast."

"We lost a lot of ground on the (final) turn," said Dahlia's trainer Maurice Zilber. "Anyway, it was a great race."

Trainer Lou Cavalaris, who had covered sending Carney's Point to the Knickerbocker Stakes in New York Nov. 2 and ducking the Championship, was delighted with the 6-year-old gelding's race. "The local horse came through, eh?"

He said it was a bigger thrill finishing third in the Championship than winning the Knickerbocker, considering that he had beaten several of the best turf horses in the world, including Dahlia. Third money was worth \$22,644.

Two local jockeys were given a chance to ride in the race when New York jockeys could not make it. Lloyd Duffy rode Sali Grand, which led past the grandstand the first time before finishing 10th, in place of Eddie Maple, whose wife was listed in critical condition from complications after childbirth.

Argonauts prove to the fans they can indeed play football

By ALAN HALBERSTADT
Who says these guys can't play football?

If there had been a show of hands in response to that question at about 2 p.m. at CNE Stadium Saturday, the unfortunate man designated to count them all would have missed a stimulating game of football.

By 4:30 p.m., many of the 40,284 instead used their hands to applaud Toronto Argonauts' 27-23 victory over Hamilton Tiger-Cats as rousing entertainment.

They might also have applauded a postgame reminder by Argonaut quarterback Chuck Ealey, who on this day was one of the prominent contributors.

"I'm not satisfied," Ealey said. "We've only played the first half, the second half is next week in Hamilton."

It suddenly seems a pity that one of these two teams

will not be in the playoffs after that.

"They still have to come to Hamilton," Ticat wide receiver Speedy Thomas said hopefully. "We'll keep trying our best, but if Toronto beats us, I think they are going to win the Grey Cup."

Thomas thus became the first person in many moons to award Argos a Grey Cup in late October. Normally, such handicapping is reserved for daydreamers in the capricious month of July.

Thomas might also be dreaming, but Argos, at least, have the final playoff spot in the Canadian Football League Eastern Conference, that is if they are wise enough not to take the vastly improved Ticats for granted.

Argos' victory means that Hamilton will have to beat them by 16 points or more at Ivor Wynne Stadium to any

off elimination. A 15-point Argos victory would tie the four aggregate points in the two, but Argos would get the nod because of a superior win-loss record against the other two teams in the Eastern Conference.

Except for a couple of dropped passes, one by Thomas and the other by sure-handed Garney Henley, it would be Ticats in the driver's seat come Saturday.

Both men were sloppy in the worst possible location—the Argonaut end zone. Henley dropped his end, after a tantalizing juggling act, late in Ticats' 23-point second quarter. Ian Suter kicked one of three field goals two plays later; but Henley's bobble sent Cats to the dressing room leading 23-10, when it could have been 27-10.

Thomas, who caught five

Jerry Keeling passes for 136 yards and one touchdown, misplayed the one that counted most, with a little encouragement from Argo rover Barry Finlay.

Keeling, rolling out on an option on third down and

More football, \$4, \$5

goal from the Toronto end, flipped to Thomas five yards deep in the end zone.

"I had it in my hands but then somebody came up over my back and raked it out," Thomas said.

Thomas' fumble occurred with 4:41 remaining and marked the final occasion a Hamilton offensive player touched the football.

Ealey devoured the rest of the time by marching Argos 82 yards in 12 plays. Zenon Andrusyshyn then kicked a 34-yard field goal on the final play of the game.

Explaining why he reversed his initial decision to send Suter in to punch a go-ahead field goal with Ticats on the one, trailing 24-23, coach Jerry Williams said: "A field goal wouldn't have held up. It would have come out to the 35 and with the wind all they would have needed was two or three first downs to kick a field goal themselves. As it turned out, I was right, it wouldn't have held up."

Giving away a 10-0 lead in the second quarter, Argos led 13 Hamilton points and were lucky not to gift-wrap more.

Rick Griffiths blocked a pass and picked off an Ealey punt to set up a touchdown and a field goal and Mike Samples dumped Andrusyshyn before he could get off a punt to trigger another field goal.

"We made stupid mistakes. As far as I know two people

released early and didn't block," said Argo head coach Fugs Jackson of the two punt breakdowns. "I said a few things at half time, but the big thing is we came back."

Ealey made liberal use of the shotgun offence (which Argos devised last week in practice) in their overpowering second half.

"It's a variation of the shotgun, in that the quarterback is not the only one in the backfield," Jackson said. "We thought about it earlier in the year but we didn't have the quarterback to exploit it until we acquired Chuck. It saved us in the second half; it bought Ealey some time."

Ealey and defensive end Jim Corrigan preferred to think that some half-time soul searching was just as responsible for Argos' comeback. "We were just flat in the first half," Ealey said. "Sometimes emotionally and

mentally that happens. We knew it and when you know it you just have to suck it up and get back in it."

"I think today we matured as a football team," Corrigan said. "Russ didn't say much, just that we were big boys and it was up to us. We knew deep down to we were going to come back."

Argos' offence netted 448 yards including 137 rushing yards and two touchdowns by fullback Doyle Orange. He carried seven times for 45 yards in the final 82-yard drive to push his season total to 983 yards. Only one Argo, Bill Symons (1,107 in 1968), has rushed for 1,000 yards in a season. Offensive guard Myke Horton was taken by ambulance to hospital, in the fourth quarter after taking a helmet in the chest. He suffered a bruised sternum but the injury was not serious.