

COURIER Sports

IN THIS CORNER

George Banker

This was early Sunday evening, the first Sunday in May, and the Philadelphia Flyers were in the business of beating the New York Rangers. It would be tough, a 4-3 win in the seventh and final game of their Stanley Cup semifinal series. But the Flyers would win and become the first expansion team ever to make the finals.

It was 4-3 with less than two minutes remaining and the Rangers charging desperately down ice when a Blue poked the puck across the blue line into the attack zone and suddenly made the mistake of getting his skate caught on a Flyer hockey stick.

The Broadway Blue went flat on his face and lost the puck and the chance to score. The announcer said it, like this:

"I didn't think he'd (the referee) call tripping there. It's too important. You don't want a game like this decided on a penalty."

Why not?

Will someone in authority in the NHL tell me why its referees observe an unwritten policy of not calling vital penalties in crucial situations? Are the rules only for the regular season and the first 50 minutes of decisive playoff games?

Apparently.

Now let's go deeper into the action, only 51 seconds from the bitter end for the Rangers.

They are pulling their goaltender to put a sixth skater on the ice in a final desperate assault.

For a second or maybe a split second the goaltender still was trying to eject from the playing surface when his replacement did hit the ice.

At this point the referee whistled a penalty against New York. The cheapest kind, and borderline, at best.

The unwritten rule did not apply here.

Because of the 17,000 bloodthirsty animals in the seats disguised as fans?

Oh, in case you weren't watching, this game was played in Philadelphia. Where the Flyers, or Flailers, dirtiest team in the history of Stanley cup playoffs, make their home ice.

Philly broke seasonal records for penalties, and in this series they needed only three games to break playoff records. They lived by the sword. They had enforcers, hatchmen, hit men to spare.

In this same game, their No. 1 mauler, who can't skate and can't stick handle and can't shoot, brutally beat up the Rangers' No. 1 defenseman, Dale Rolfe, in the early minutes.

Philadelphia coach Fred Shero honestly conceded, after the game, that Dave Schultz's mugging of Rolfe was a very large factor in his team's victory in this seventh and decisive game. Something to be proud of. Teach the kids.

Okay, Philadelphia won 4 of 7. Philadelphia won the big one at home. Philadelphia also had to win three others at home. Because Philadelphia couldn't win in three tries on New York ice.

Intimidation long has been a factor in hockey, but this Philadelphia performance is something else.

It is a classic example of how pro hockey has gone "homer." Not only the fans and the players, but the officials as well. It is bad news in a game reaching new heights of fan popularity.

By the time this is printed, the Flyers may have splattered egg all over my face. But if they can take the same edges against a class team like Boston, then hockey has come all the way down to an era which pro basketball has just emerged from — a game that is sick for "homers."

SCHOLASTIC NOTEBOOK

John Doser

Bill Hughes, the articulate task master of the Rochester Lancers who carries his doctoral dissertation and various other educational papers in his brief case, was an instant hit at the recent final Aquinas Sports Boosters Club meeting of the school year.

"He was one of the best speakers we had this year," Father A. Edward Doser, CSB, booster club moderator, said after Hughes' 30 minute effort.

Hughes, perhaps the best PR package to ever walk in the Lancers door, used his varied career as a Golden Gloves boxer, St. Louis Browns' second base prospect, street hockey player and, of course, All-American soccer player at Brockport State, to impress some 50 Aquinas loyalists presently (or formerly) wrapped up in Mission Bouts, football track, and Monte Carlo Night.

Hughes firmly believes that the finest athlete in the world is the American athlete, he told the group. "If you work with the European boy you find out that the real coach is the boy's dad. In Europe the working man's game is soccer, for no better reason than the earth is round and so is the soccer ball."

European youngsters respond to coaching for 15-20 minutes of a game, then all that poppa taught, takes over. A favorite story Hughes tells in support of his belief that Americans are by far the most coachable, as well, involves his own son Scott.

"I tried to correct some footwork of his. He insisted that I was wrong and that he was right. Finally he said his coach told him to do it that way and that was the way he was going to do it. I told him, 'O.K.," Hughes said.

The Lancers have three players from Communist Eastern Europe

Aquinas Relays Set

The 11th annual Aquinas Relays will be held Saturday, May 18, at the University of Rochester's Fauer Stadium. Both track and field events will begin at 11 a.m. With the addition of the eight-mile relay and the four-man discus throw the meet now has 14 separate competitions.

Returning are Saint Francis

AAU Boxing Back at Elks

Rochesterian, Pablo DeJesus took 1974 Golden Glove champ Roy Dowds after two rounds in the feature match of the Amateur Athletic Union boxing competition held Tuesday, May 7 at the Elks Club.

Local lightweight Ken Wyatt also eked out a decision over Elmira's Marvin Blake in a freewheeling bout. Jose Lebron of Elmira substituting for Rochester's Robert Dixon, decisioned Billy Bisignani of Syracuse in the third bout of the triple main bill.

Prep of Brooklyn and Brooklyn Tech, both of whose relay teams won individual championships in the New York City area during the winter and early outdoor seasons. The latter school took third place in the 1973 relays. McQuaid will defend its title, and GBA of Syracuse will be out to get back the same, which they took in 1972 and lost last year finishing with the runner-up trophy.

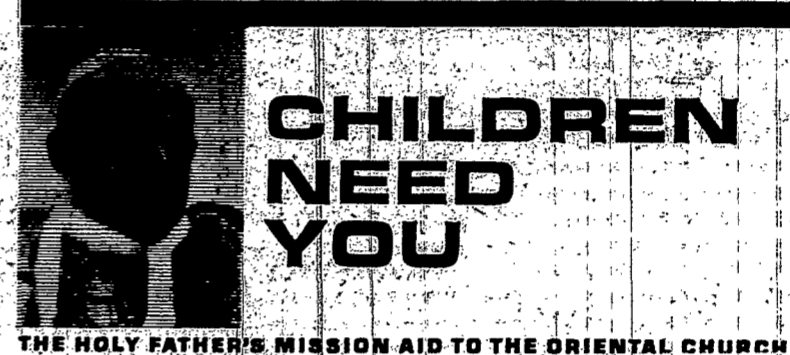
Other schools expected are Franklin, Kearney, Bishop Timon (Buffalo), Brighton, Brockport, Cardinal Dougherty (Buffalo), Mooney, East (Corning), East (Rochester), Eastridge, Gates-Chili, Irondequoit, Madison, Monroe, Notre Dame (Elmira), Palmyra-Macedon, Penfield, R.L. Thomas (Webster).

Also, Rush-Henrietta, Spencerport, Edison, Waterloo, Sutherland (Pittsford), Sacred Heart (Yonkers), Sweet Home (Buffalo), South Seneca, Odessa-Montour, North Tonawanda, Greece Arcadia, Rochester School for the Deaf, Nazareth

(Brooklyn), Hilton, St. Joseph's (Buffalo), Baker-Victory, West Genesee, and Hannibal.

Meet director for his fifth time is Father Michael Wesley, CSB, an Aquinas and Villanova graduate.

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