

TRIM FORT WILLIAM SEXTET IN SECOND TUSSLE 4 TO 2

Defending Champions Play Careful Hockey for Two Periods, Then Take Advantage of Penalties

By ELMER DULMAGE
Canadian Press Staff Writer
TORONTO, April 3.—The
Allan Cup drive for Fort William's
Thundering Herd was by way of
being sidetracked today. Moncton
Hawks, defending senior hockey
champions of Canada, opened the
three-game classic series here last
night by scoring a 4-2 victory that
made them favorites to retain the
battered symbol of amateur supremacy.

Not at all staggered by the surprising setback administered by the Forts in the opening game Saturday night, the Hawks pounded out a decisive victory to send the series to a deciding third game to be played Wednesday night. They completely erased the 3-2 defeat of Saturday.

JAMES STARS

Dud James, fleet Hawk centre star, led the comeback campaign that may oust the Herd for the third straight year. Two years ago Toronto Nationals downed the Forts in the finals and last season Saskatoon Quakers put them out in the western playdowns. Virtually the same team gave the Hawks a merry battle for two periods last night.

The polished James engineered the play for the first Moncton goal in the second period and was on the scoring end of two brilliant attacks in the somewhat hectic third stanza when the aroused western champions made a game of it. Bill Miller banged in the rebound of James' hard shot to get the Hawks started.

Up to that time it had been a cautious duel with the champions pounding steadily but carefully on the Lakehead defensive barrier. They left few loopholes for Fort William thrusts but at the same time found few in the western armor. Goalie Gordon Hacquoil kicked out two or three hard shots.

Chunky Duke McDonald slithered a shot under a tangle of skates at the start of the third period and the puck went under the falling Hacquoil before the netman was sure where it was coming from. Then James took a pass from Sammy McManus and he sped through the defense and delivered the third eastern blow.

Led by Hughie O'Leary, Ossie Hacquoil and Ross Knowles, the Forts bounced right back with a smashing offensive that all but flattened the Hawks. For five minutes the Lakehead team beat a hearty, vociferous tattoo on the Maritime defense that flustered the champs.

It netted two goals—one batted in during a melee by a Moncton defenseman—and ended only when Bill Hogarth cross-checked Moncton's Bert Connolly across the face and broke his nose. Hogarth was awarded a five-minute penalty and the Forts had no finishing wallop left. Instead, the dashing James added to the Hawk lead.

Bill Gill, giant Moncton defense player, batted in the first Fort William goal as O'Leary and Ossie Hacquoil struggled in a scramble a few feet from the Moncton cage. Gill was hard-pressed by the western attackers and was off-range in an attempt to clear O'Leary who was officially credited with the tally.

Immediately afterward, Moncton lost two players through penalties and the Forts started a desperate rally for goals. James and Aubrey Webster were chased for tripping offenses. They watched O'Leary and Gordie Houston combine for the second Fort goal before James got back. But the Forts could get no more with the assistance of an extra man.

Goslie Hacquoil, whose brilliant work in goal stopped the Hawks in the first game, came back with an equally fine display. Nucker Irvine, James, Miller and Webster all laced hard shots from close range only to have Hacquoil kick them away.

FIRST PERIOD

The defense held steady in the first couple of minutes. Neither team skated fast and the shots on goal were from well out.

On a pass from Ossie Hacquoil O'Leary skated around the Moncton rearguard and had Foster at his mercy. He fired several feet wide.

More wild shooting cost McManus and James good chances as the Hawks opened up a little. McManus skated through the whole Lakehead team on another excursion but his pass-out was cleared into a corner. Ossie Hacquoil was tripped by Gill during a Fort attack inside the Moncton blueline and the Hawk defense ace was banished.

Forts attacked four and five abreast and Goalie Jimmy Foster had a difficult time. Hacquoil struck the goalie's pads from a few feet out and McCranor went in close for a try. But the Hawks held until Gill returned. Then Connolly stick-handled through the Forts and missed a good opening.

The pace slowed down near the end of the session with neither team able to break through the close-checking lines. McManus shot wide from the boards on one Hawk rush and at the other end Knowles led a couple of good drives.

SECOND PERIOD

Bert Connolly was nearly through the Fort defense on the first rush. Ossie Hacquoil skated back, passed to Hogarth and the winger shot wide. He was tripped by Bill Gill who drew his second penalty.

Burrage barged through the Lakehead defense and again Hacquoil saved. The puck came out to Irvine who had an open net. He shot into a tangle of bodies. Knowles was injured in the scramble.

Irvine skated around the Fort defense on a great solo rush. As he was about to shoot, McLeod pulled his feet from under him and was penalized.

The Hawks ran wild with the advantage of the extra man. Goalie Hacquoil made a couple of brilliant stops before James laid a set-up pass on Miller's stick in the goalmouth. Miller pulled the netman out neatly

but Hacquoil reached out and deflected the shot. The Forts shot the puck up the ice until McLeod returned.

Hacquoil made an amazing save with his skate when Connolly ripped through and banged a shot from the corner. At the other end Ossie Hacquoil jumped in and made Foster move fast to save.

Miller scored for the Hawks at 14:04, batting in the rebound of James' shot. The puck came off Goalie Hacquoil's pads to Miller and Webster. Both slashed at it and Miller's stick sent it into the vacant side of the cage.

McArthur nearly tied the score a minute later on a fast lone rush. He skated through Moncton's defense but Foster came out and blocked his backhand shot.

THIRD PERIOD

It took the Hawks just 45 seconds to get a goal at the start of the third period. A Moncton rush was stopped at the Fort blueline. McDonald rushed in to pick up the loose puck and fire through a group of players. The Fort goalie did not see the puck till it was too late. It slipped under him as he sank to his knees.

Hawks kept up the pressure instead of waiting back and defending their lead. Then Manahan tripped Irvine in the centre zone and was banished.

Just as Manahan jumped back into the game, James and McManus broke away. James took a perfect pass straight in front of the goal and smashed a high shot past Hacquoil.

Forts made a dashing comeback. Led by Little Ossie Hacquoil, they barged in time after time, only to bump into Gill and Burrage.

O'Leary was credited with the first western goal at the 10:28 mark. He and Ossie had crashed through and in a scramble in front of the goalmouth, Bill Gill, Moncton defenseman, knocked the puck into his own net.

The whole complexion of the battle changed suddenly when James and Webster drew successive penalties for tripping. The Forts stormed inside the eastern defense with the first organized attack they had been able to muster.

Houston made the count 3-2 when he scored on a pass from O'Leary. The Hawks were short two men. But the Forts were unable to get another before the penalty servers were back.

Connolly was bumped heavily by Hogarth and had to be assisted from the ice. It was a high check. Hogarth received a five minute penalty.

James scored the best goal of the night with two minutes of play left. He checked the puck away from Ossie Hacquoil at mid ice, circled around another player and sailed right in close to fire past the Fort netman. Ossie almost got it back a minute later. He beat the Hawk defense but Foster blocked his shot.

SUMMARY

First Period
No scoring.

Second Period
Penalty: Gill.
1—Moncton, Miller (James) 14:04
Penalties: Gill (2), McLeod, O'Leary.

Third Period
2—Moncton, McDonald 45
3—Moncton, James (McManus) 1:14
4—Fort William, O'Leary 10:28
5—Fort William, Houston 12:27
6—Moncton, James 17:58
Penalties: Manahan, James, Webster, Hogarth (major).

LINEUPS

Fort William Position Moncton
G. Hacquoil Goal Foster
Knowles Defense Gill
McCranor Centre Burrage
O. Hacquoil Wing McDonald
Hogarth Wing Connolly
O'Leary Irvine

Fort William subs: Manahan, McLeod, Houston, McArthur.
Moncton subs: James, McManus, Miller, Webster.

Officials: Clarence Campbell, Edmonton, and George Foster, Ottawa.



A third game will be necessary to decide just where the Allan Cup will rest for the next twelve months. Now held by Moncton Hawks, the battered old mug will be at stake when the Martimers meet Fort William in the third game of the finals Wednesday.