

# Chicago, Vancouver face-off tonight in NHL semi-finals

**United Press International**  
The Chicago Black Hawks or the Vancouver Canucks will be in the Stanley Cup finals this year.

That would have been a foolhardy statement at the beginning of the NHL playoffs, but it has become a reality as the semifinals begin tonight in Chicago.

The Edmonton Oilers had been the top-rated team in the

Campbell Conference, but they were eliminated by Los Angeles, who in turn got knocked out by Vancouver. The Canucks thus earned the right to meet the Black Hawks. The Hawks, meanwhile, plowed their way through Minnesota and St. Louis to the semifinals behind two outstanding goaltenders — 39-year-old playoff veteran Tony Esposito and surprising Murray Bannerman.

Chicago hosts the first two games of the best-of-seven series tonight and Thursday by virtue of a coin flip held before the start of the season to determine which division, the Norris or Smythe, would have the home-ice advantage.

Chicago hasn't been to the semifinals since 1974. Vancouver has never been this far. The Canucks won two of three games during the regular season from the Black Hawks.

"I'll be ready either way. I understand you've got to go with the hot goalie," said Esposito, who turned in a 2-0 shutout in the clincher last Friday against the Blues. The 14-year veteran

has appeared in 88 career playoff games for Chicago with a 3.09 goals-against average.

Vancouver will guard its net with Richard Brodeur, who has given up 19 goals in the last eight games for a sparkling 2.28 average.

"Chicago has big, fast wingers and good stick-handlers down the middle," Brodeur said. "We have to face those guys and hold them up and control them at the blue line."

In tonight's other semifinal opener, the New York Islanders, looking for their third straight Stanley Cup, host the Quebec Nordiques.

## Waiting

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championship on the line, will go ahead and try to win them all against Tech."

Aggie coach Tom Chandler said he'll take his team's two victories over Baylor, even though a sweep would have left the Red Raiders no alternative but to win three games from Texas.

"In a sense, we're pleased to get the two out of three, but if we'd gotten all three we would have been in better shape," Chandler said. "Now we've got to rely on Texas to win two of three from Texas Tech."

Chandler said that senior Bobby Taylor, who threw a three-hitter in leading the Aggies to a 4-0 victory in the first game Monday, continued to pitch consistently. Baylor won the second game 5-3, as the Texas A&M offense had no spark and the defense had no cohesion. Three of Baylor's five runs were unearned.

"I was very proud of Bobby Taylor," Chandler said. "He gave us his second shutout in a row after having beaten Texas Tech 1-0 last weekend."

"In the second game, we booted the ball too much. When you make five errors, you can't expect to win. We just gave them too many runs. I was really disappointed with our hitting in the second game."

In the opening game, Texas A&M started the scoring with a run in the top of the first inning. Lead-off hitter Ronnie Risinger doubled, was sacrificed to second by shortstop Dave Kennard and scored on a single by Clint Heard.

Kevin Smith walked and stole second base to open the second inning, and came home on a two-out single by Kennard. Texas A&M scored its final two runs in the seventh, when Grant Priess singled, and pinch runner Brad Hisle went to second on a passed ball.



staff photo by David Fisher

Aggie left fielder Ronnie Risinger dives for a fly ball during the second game of Monday's double-header with the Baylor Bears at Ferrell Field in Waco.

Although Risinger didn't make this catch in the fifth inning, the Bears didn't score. However, Baylor hung on to its lead to win the game 5-3.

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