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Swedes zapped in Cup final

Canada reigns supreme

United Press International

EDMONTON, Alberta — Canada unleashed a five-goal blitz in the first period Tuesday night then weathered a fiery counter-attack to defeat Sweden 6-5 and win the Canada Cup hockey championship.

The Canadians won the best-of-three final 2-0 to claim its first Canada Cup title since 1976 and return to the summit of international hockey.

But the climb back was precarious. Canada led 5-0 with 3:16 left in the first period and had outshot the Swedes 9-2.

New York Islander John Tonelli, a trench soldier on a team of swash-bucklers, was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament for Canada. Kent Nilsson, instrumental in the Swedish rally, was named MVP of the series for his club.

The Swedish comeback began almost exactly from the moment Coach Leif Boork replaced goalie Goete Waelitalo near the end of the first period with Peter Lindmark, the club's regular starter and most consistent netminder since the start of the tournament.

The Swedes trimmed the Canadian lead to 6-4 at the end of the second period and cut it to 6-5 at 1:40 of the final period when Nils-

The Canadian team came into the finals of the Canada Cup confident and cautious. After beating the Russians in the semi-finals, Canada didn't want to suffer any loss of concentration. But the Canadian squad knew it could beat the Swedes with a tough brand of NHL hockey which suits the Canucks best. Ultimately Canada returned the most important international trophy to the world hockey power.

son scored his second goal of the game on a power play.

Canadian goalie Pete Peeters was injured on the goal and replaced by Rejean Lemelin. Lemelin had to make three brilliant saves against a Swedish power play with 10 minutes remaining and Canada's attempt to widen the margin failed with 77 seconds left when Tonelli's second goal of the game into an empty net was disallowed when he was ruled off-side.

A crowd of only 10,449 attended the game, which was televised live in Canada with no blackout.

Whirling, unrelenting speed overwhelmed Sweden early as Edmonton Oilers Mark Messier and Wayne Gretzky, Montreal Canadian Larry Robinson and Tonelli connected

against a shell-shocked Swedish defense before the game was eight minutes old.

Tonelli set up the fifth Canadian goal of the period, feeding Brent Sutter from in close to give Canada a 5-0 lead with 3:16 left in the period.

Sweden, which finished the round-robin at 3-2 and routed the United States 9-2 in the semifinal, regained its composure late in the period with a goal by Nilsson, then pulled within two goals in the second period, sparked by two goals from Thomas Steen and one by Haakan Loob.

Gretzky, the leading point-getter of the tournament with 12, set the pattern in the opening seconds with a shot from 3 feet and a slapshot from the point.

The Canadians needed only two minutes to break through against Waelitalo, who had only one previous start. Mike Gartner slammed a shot which rebounded off the post and Messier flicked it in for a 1-0 lead. At 4:39, Gretzky took a pass from Boston Bruin Rick Middleton and swatted in his fifth goal of the tournament as three Canadians crashed in on Waelitalo.

Larry Robinson, the Montreal defenseman playing in his third Canada Cup, then scored his first goal of the tournament on a shot from the point 81 seconds later at 6:00.

Tonelli scored his third of tournament 73 seconds later. Sutter broke in at the top of the slot and was turned back twice by Waelitalo. But the Swedish goaltender vacated his net, making the second save and Tonelli tapped in his third tournament goal.

Sutter upped the count to 5-0 with a goal against Lindmark but Nilsson beat Peeters to close the score to 5-1. Edmonton Oiler defenseman Paul Coffey hiked it to 6-1 at 4:39 during a second-period power play. A centering pass intended for Middleton was deflected in by a Swedish defender. Sweden closed to 6-3 at 8:31 when Steen scored during a scramble in front of the net.

Cowboy tickets no hot item

United Press International

DALLAS — Local football fans were denied something last Sunday that they have grown accustomed to — seeing the Dallas Cowboys on television even when they are playing at home.

And that will likely be the case again next Sunday since there are more than 5,000 tickets left to sell for the Dallas-Green Bay game and they must be gone by Thursday afternoon for the local blackout to be lifted.

The Cowboys, for one reason or another, have had trouble this year selling tickets, something that bothers but does not necessarily distress the club's president and general manager.

"Sure, it concerns me," Tex Schramm said. "But I think that all of sports is in sort of a leveling off process. Television ratings have

been down in most sports, but I think that will change eventually because I still think sports is one of the best attractions on television."

The Cowboys uniformly sold out their home games well in advance during the late 1970s and into the 1980s, but, beginning with the pro football strike in 1982, some of the devoted following appeared to fall away.

About 400 tickets were left unsold to Dallas' home opener last Sunday with the Philadelphia Eagles, even though almost 3,000 fans bought tickets at the gate.

More than 7,000 tickets remain for a meeting with New Orleans next month and almost 12,000 seats — close to 20 percent of the stadium — are left for the Indianapolis Colts in late October. The only game that is already sold out is Dallas' meeting with Washington on Dec. 9.

"I think there are a lot of things

that have caused the bloom to fade," Schramm said. "I think the involvement with drugs by some players has had an affect. There are the labor disputes and I think the emphasis on money and contracts rather than an emphasis on what has taken place on the field has been part of it."

"I'm old fashioned enough to think that fans still think of the players as heroes."

Part of the problem would also appear to be the Cowboys are currently a questionable entity. Dallas lost its last three games in 1983, something that had never happened in the history of the franchise.

"We have been in the playoffs 18 years," Schramm said. "And our seasons have been measured over the years on whether we made it to the Super Bowl. We haven't been to the

Super Bowl in five years and that is perceived by some as not being successful.

"It is just something we have to live with. The fans are still there."

The Cowboys currently charge \$18 for a ticket, but Schramm said he did not believe price had anything to do with sales in any sport.

"I've never seen anybody attract larger crowds by lowering their ticket prices," he said. "Let's face it. Going to a game is a chore. You have to drive to the game and park and all that."

"If you don't want to go to the game in person you aren't going to do it. But if you do want to go to the game in person, you are going to go to the problems of doing it and an extra two dollars or whatever it will not make any difference."

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