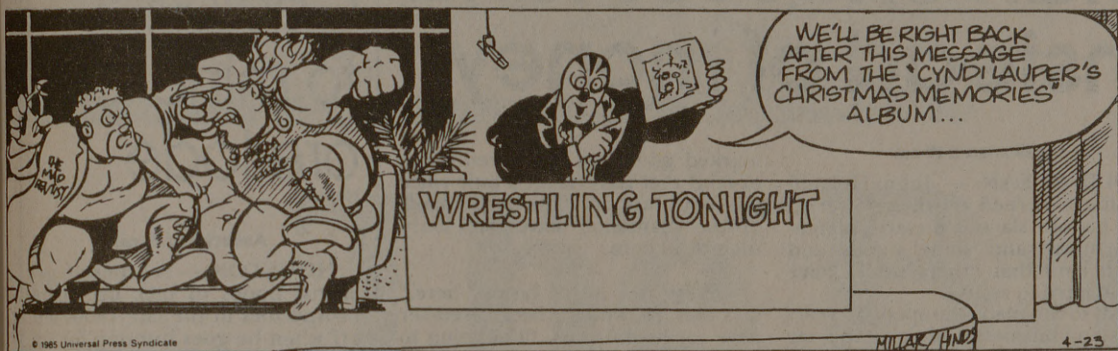


**TANK McNAMARA®**

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# Edmonton's 'Great One' even greater in playoffs

Associated Press

The way Edmonton's Wayne Gretzky is talking, the rest of the National Hockey League has to be worrying. The Oilers' star center and the sport's most prolific scorer was assessing his team's performances thus far in the Stanley Cup playoffs. The defending champions have won all five games they've played and carry a 2-0 lead over the Winnipeg Jets into Game 3 of the best-of-seven Smythe Division final series Tuesday night at Winnipeg.

"We're getting better every game," said Gretzky.

The Oilers' play has been strong.

Defenseman Paul Coffey almost singlehandedly won Game 2 with two goals and three assists in Edmonton's 5-2 victory over the Jets. Coffey's five points tied a one-game playoff scoring record for defenseman.

"It was kind of nice to watch him," Winnipeg Coach Barry Long said facetiously. "He can tell you where he's going and then do it; and there's nothing you can do to stop him. The only guy like him was (Bobby) Orr."

Winnipeg hopes that its star and captain, center Dale Hawerchuk, will return from back from a broken rib suffered in the opening round against Calgary. If he plays, Hawer-

chuk will wear a flak jacket.

In other NHL playoff games Tuesday night, Chicago is at Minnesota and Montreal at Quebec, with each series tied 1-1. Philadelphia carries a 2-0 lead over the New York Islanders into the Nassau Coliseum.

North Stars Coach Glen Sonmor promised more hitting by his team in Game 3 after his team suffered its first postseason defeat this season Sunday night at Chicago.

The Battle of Quebec continues with the Nordiques at home, where they have not beaten the Canadiens in seven games.

# Rangers win 4th straight; Hough handcuffs Orioles

Associated Press

ARLINGTON — All that Charlie Hough wanted Monday night was a couple of runs from the Texas Rangers and his teammates responded with six to help the knuckleballer notch his first career victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Hough, 1-0, pitched the first complete game of the year for the Rangers in retiring the last 19 batters he faced to lead Texas past Baltimore 6-1.

"I have had a pretty tough time in the past with this ballclub," said Hough, who struck out eight and walked two. "I had pretty good control and the six runs didn't hurt."

"I felt good. I overthrew a little in the first inning but I felt if we got a couple of runs, we could win. I was happy with the way I pitched."

Hough faced Baltimore on Opening Day this season. In that game, he pitched a no-hitter for six innings but was taken out trailing 2-1 be-

cause of control problems.

Texas third baseman Toby Harrah, hitting 16-for-38 this season, aided Hough by going 3-for-3 and scoring two runs. Harrah said he wouldn't have liked to have faced Hough.

"Charlie was tough," Harrah said. "He had really good control. I wouldn't have wanted to face him tonight."

Hough has only allowed five hits and one run in the last 17 1/3 innings. He said he is pitching better in the first month of the season than he had in the previous year.

"I am a kind of steady pitcher and I feel I'm pitching better in the early part of the season than I ever have."

Scott McGregor, 1-1, lasted only 32 pitches in 1 1/3 innings, taking his first career loss against Texas.

Harrah, with a .421 average, is batting .500 in his last eight games.

The Rangers, in winning their fourth straight game, jumped on

McGregor for three runs in the first inning as Texas batters hit for the cycle.

Harrah opened the inning with a single and scored when Gary Ward tripled off the center field wall. Buddy Bell's sacrifice fly drove in Ward. Larry Parrish made it 3-0 with a home run and Cliff Johnson later doubled.

The Rangers chased McGregor in the second with two more runs. Don Slaught led off with a single and moved to second on a sacrifice. Harrah doubled home Slaught and Ward followed with an RBI single to knock out McGregor.

Pete O'Brien belted his second home run of the season in the eighth off Orioles reliever Sammy Stewart.

Baltimore scored its only run in the first when Jim Dwyer opened the game with a double and later scored on a wild pitch by Hough.

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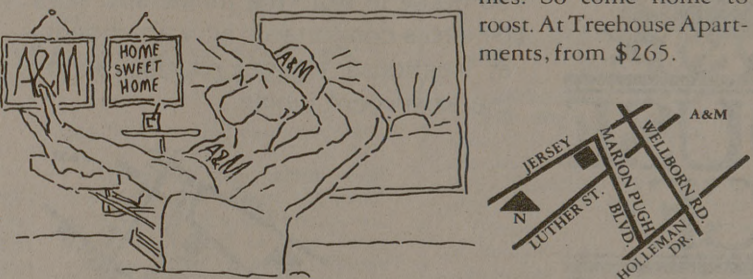
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