

Hot goalie, Whalers whip Canadiens

MONTREAL (AP) — Mike Liut continued his hot goaltending for Hartford and Stewart Gavin had two goals and an assist to lead the Hartford Whalers to a 4-1 triumph over the Montreal Canadiens in the opening game of their NHL playoff series Thursday night.

Liut, who faced 27 shots, was working on a shutout until Chris Nilan slid Mats Naslund's rebound into the net on a power play.

NHL Playoffs

through the third period for the Canadiens' only goal. Up to that point, the closest Montreal came to scoring was on Mike McPhee's shot that ringed off the goal post in the eighth minute of the final period.

After a scoreless first period, the Whalers struck for three goals on Canadiens' goaltender Patrick Roy, who faced 23 shots. Two of them came in a span of 2:20 early in the period.

The second game of the best-of-seven Adams Division final will be played at the Montreal Forum Saturday.

Rangers 4, Capitals 3

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Brian MacLellan scored his second goal of the night, on a breakaway at 1:16 of overtime, to give the New York Rangers a 4-3 victory Thursday night over the Washington Capitals in the opening game of their best-of-seven Patrick Division finals in the NHL playoffs.

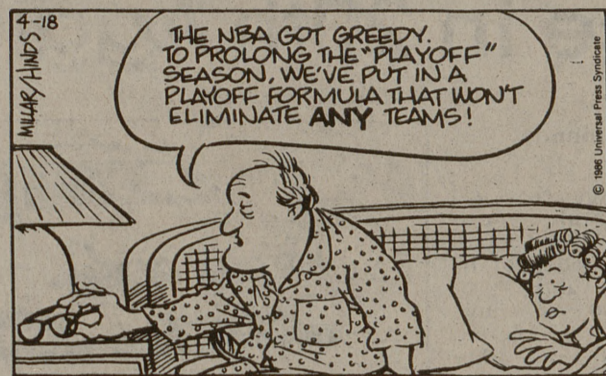
The Rangers, who overcame a 3-1, were winless in their last 21 overtime games — playoff and regular season — while the Capitals had played 25 extra-period games without a loss since last losing in the playoffs on April 13, 1984.

The Rangers, who upset division champion Philadelphia in the first round, sent the game into overtime on goals by Mark Osborne and Mike Ridley.

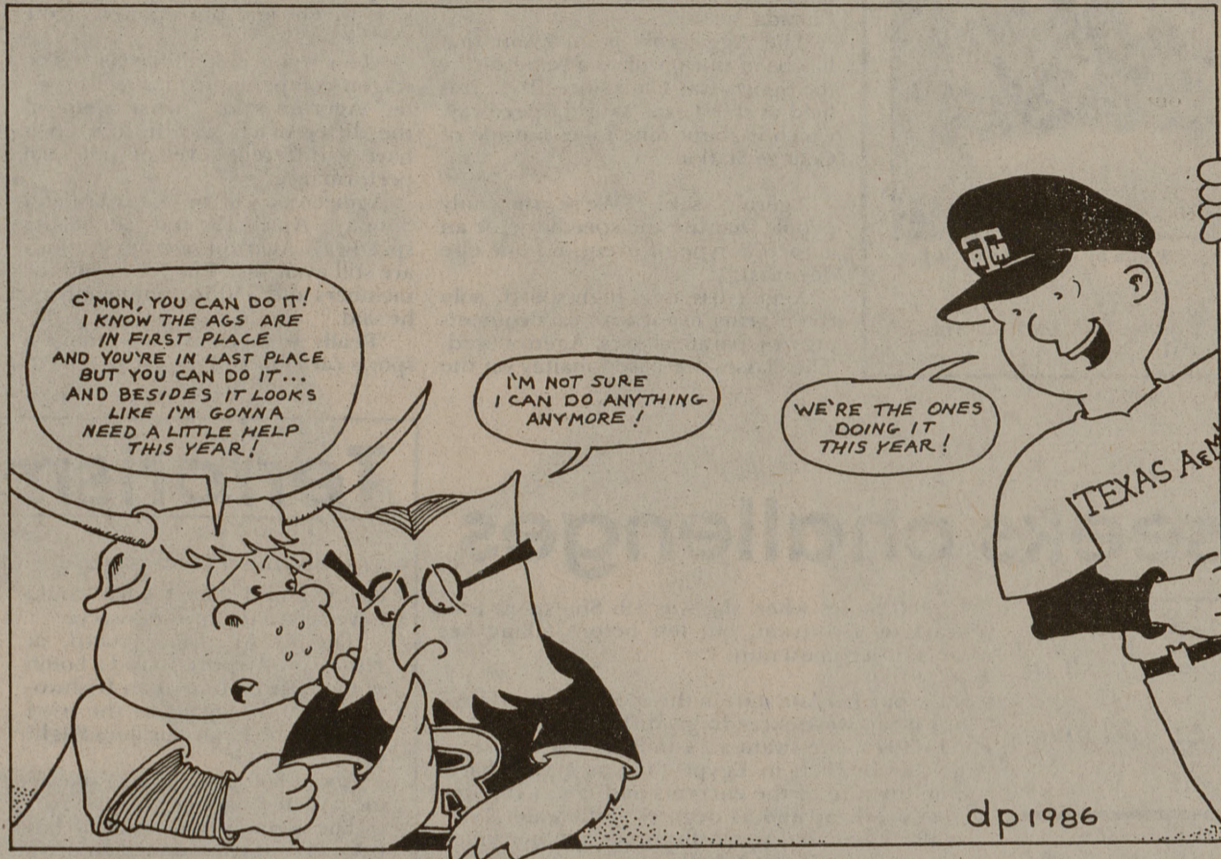
Osborne ignited the comeback with a shorthanded goal at 17:33 of the second period. Ridley, a rookie, scored on a backhanded shot during a scramble in front of goaltender Pete Peeters at 9:37 of the third period. It was Ridley's fourth goal of the playoffs.

Game 2 will be played in the Capital Centre Saturday night.

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Rangers 'walk' by Brewers, 7-5

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Milwaukee pitchers walked five Texas batters in a three-run ninth inning, and reliever Ray Searage's wild pitch allowed Pete O'Brien to score the winning run Thursday as the Rangers defeated the Brewers 7-5.

The three-hour, 27-minute game saw a total of 21 walks, 21 strikeouts and six wild pitches.

"That was bad," said Milwaukee Manager George Bamberger, whose Brewers lost their fifth straight. "That's a nightmare. Base on balls will kill you."

Rookie starter Bobby Witt pitched a no-hitter through five innings, but his eight walks and four wild pitches allowed the Brewers to score twice.

Texas Manager Bobby Valentine replaced Witt with Ricky Wright at the beginning of the sixth with the score 2-2.

"I wish I could have left him in there," Valentine said. "But I know he's not going to get a complete game."

Searage, 0-1, was the loser. Greg Harris, the final Texas pitcher raised his record to 2-1.

The Rangers, who entered the ninth inning trailing by a run, 5-4, scored three times — on three walks, an infield out, a wild pitch by Searage, and a single by Don Slaught that drove home the insurance run.

The Rangers had led 4-2 entering the bottom of the eighth, when the Brewers scored three runs on Jim Gantner's RBI double, Charlie Moore's RBI single and a sacrifice fly by Mike Felder.

Tigers 10, White Sox 6

CHICAGO (AP) — A two-run single by Mike Laga and Alan Trammell's run-scoring double keyed a five-run eighth inning Thursday night, rallying the Detroit Tigers to a 10-6 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

The Tigers, trailing 6-4 after seven, got a single by Kirk Gibson and walk to Lance Parrish to finish reliever Dave Schmidt. Darrell Evans walked against loser Juan Agosto, 0-1, to load the bases.

Reliever Bob James came in and struck out Chet Lemon. But Laga, who drove in three runs, singled

home two to tie the score. Trammell broke the tie with his double and Larry Herndon added a two-run triple.

Red Sox 6, Royals 2

BOSTON (AP) — Don Baylor's grand slam with two out in the eighth inning Thursday broke a 2-2 tie and gave the Boston Red Sox a 6-2 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

Baylor, acquired from the New York Yankees in spring training, drilled his third homer of the season and 11th grand slam of his career off Kansas City reliever Steve Farr, who hadn't allowed a run in 8 2/3 innings this year.

Blue Jays 3-7, Orioles 5-4

TORONTO (AP) — Cliff Johnson broke a 4-4 tie with a run-scoring single in the eighth inning, and Willie Upshaw followed with a two-run triple, to lead the Toronto Blue Jays to a 7-4 victory over the Baltimore Orioles and a split of their Thursday double-header.

In the opener, starter Mike Flanagan and three relievers combined on a five-hitter and Cal Ripken Jr. hit a two-run homer, his first of the year, to power the Orioles to a 5-3 victory.

Indians 6, Yankees 4

CLEVELAND (AP) — Phil Niekro, released by New York during spring training, pitched three-hit ball over seven innings Thursday night for his 301st career victory as the Cleveland Indians defeated the Yankees 6-4.

The 47-year-old Niekro, 1-1, used his knuckleball and an astoundingly slow changeup to snap New York's five-game winning streak. He retired 14 straight batters in one stretch.

Twins 4, Angels 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Left-hander Frank Viola survived a streak of wildness in the sixth inning to pitch a five-hitter, and Greg Gagne drove in two runs as the Minnesota Twins beat the California Angels 4-1 Thursday night.

Viola, 2-1, had a two-hit shutout until he walked George Hendrick with the bases loaded in the sixth. In pitching his first complete game, Viola struck out eight and walked three.

Cubs nip Expos on homer in 13th

MONTREAL (AP) — Chicago's Shawon Dunston and Montreal's Jeff Reardon both were surprised when Dunston cracked a home run in the top of the 13th inning to notch a 7-6 Cub victory over the Expos Thursday afternoon.

"I just tried to make good contact, but I was surprised when it went out," the Cubs' shortstop said of his home run off Reardon.

Dunston's homer was Chicago's third of the game and made a winner of Lee Smith, 1-2, who worked three innings, allowing just one hit.

NL Roundup

Giants 4, Padres 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Jeffrey Leonard had a two-out, three-run double in the third inning and Mike Krukow pitched a five-hitter for the San Francisco Giants, who beat San Diego 4-1 Thursday to end the Padres' season-opening streak of one-run games at 10.

Mets-Cardinals (ppd)

NEW YORK (AP) — Thursday's St. Louis Cardinals-Mets game was rained out and rescheduled as part of a double-header on Sunday, Aug. 17.

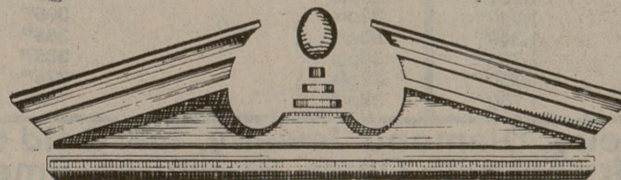
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