



Jack Matheson

It was away back in the second week of February that the Canadian Football League, facing south and bowing deeply, decided to add a U.S. import to each roster, meanwhile putting a Canadian player out of work. Now, when it's too late to do something about it, somebody has decided to raise a little old-fashioned hell.

Actually, I'm advised by Doug Strong, one of the Blue Bomber reps on the Canadian Football League Players Association, that the players noted the change when they met in Calgary a couple of weeks ago, expressed official alarm and then went on to other business. That left things squarely up to Dick Aldridge of the Toronto Argos, who said Tuesday that the CFLPA will ask the CFL to rescind the legislation.

"Aldridge was obviously talking on his own behalf," Strong said. "We disapproved of the change, but I don't remember any plan of action."

I would have thought there would have been drastic action four months ago, especially when you consider that all signing officers of the Players Association are Canadians, born and bred. It's quite likely that the Players Association was more interested in fringe benefits, like training camp pay, more suitable playoff bonuses, etc., than it was in roster changes.

There wasn't a great deal of hue and cry about the poor old Canadians at all, as I recall. It could be explained that the football reporters in this town were up to their armpits in curling stones at the time, but where, I wonder, were the Native Sons of Canada, the British Empire Loyalists and Jack McClelland, the eminent Toronto publisher who guards the Canadian birthright so zealously?

More American domination

It was 14 imports and 18 non-imports before, you recall. At the insistence of coaches, who are Americans and passed the word along to the General Managers, who are 7/9ths American, the CFL changed the quota to 15-17. They probably argued that Americans are easier to find than Canadians and CFL delegates, putting their patriotism behind them, went along.

If we left roster legislation up to the coaches, we'd have 32 imports and no Canadians, although I suspect they'd go along with a Canadian equipment manager if he knew how to screw in cleats the American way. American coaches don't believe that Canadians can play this game, and they can argue that one with me far into the night, which they probably will in the next five or six months.

They bend a little and make concessions for people like Jimmy Young, Larry Robinson, Terry Evanshen, Mike Blum and Doug Strong, but that's just public relations. Winnipeg coaches pay some lip service to Bobby Kraemer, well aware that they'd be searched out by a lynching party if they didn't, but they'd rather play Paul Williams at wing-back if the roster ratio allowed it, and don't bet they don't give it a shot at training camp.

There's another way of looking at it, of course. Canadian football is entertainment, and fans deserve the best product the clubs can put on the field. If they keep a Canadian around merely for the sake of national unity, or whatever it is you call it, then they're short-changing the customers. That's the party line, which you're allowed to accept or reject.

Carlos, there's the rub

I think, though, that Dick Aldridge, who blew the whistle four months behind schedule, has other things on his mind. The Argonauts plan on having a long look at John Carlos, who wasn't good enough in Montreal, and Bill Hernandez, who had a brief tryout with Cincinnati of the NFL. Carlos and Hernandez never played organized football in the Excited States, hence they're classed as Canadians, don't ask me why.

Carlos and Hernandez may put two more Argonaut natives out of work, and I don't blame Aldridge for getting his nose out of joint. They're about as Canadian as Tennessee Ernie Ford and Flip Wilson.

Rexford McLeod of the Globe and Mail brought up a good point Wednesday. He said that Canadian players are told they're at a disadvantage because their football education was neglected when they were in knee pants, and now the CFL is willing to welcome American citizens who may not be able to (a) catch a ball, (b) block Lew Hayman or (c) tackle Juliette.

"Now," Rex says, "a Canadian player, with four or five years' experience, is being asked to believe that a coach can manufacture a superior player, whose previous experience was negligible, in one training camp. Almost a Piskin-mallion achievement."

On the other hand, Leo Cahill may think he's Henry Higgins. He thought he was a far superior being a couple of years ago.

The CFL isn't going to change the roster setup now, just three weeks away from training. Coaches have recruited extra Americans and the blueprints show a 15-17 ratio. But they could change their view on people like Carlos and Hernandez. They'd be doing civilization a favor, and they'd also be showing logic. About time.

When is an import really an import?

TORONTO (CP) — Dick Aldridge, linebacker-defensive halfback with Toronto Argonauts, said Tuesday the Canadian Football League Players' Association will ask the CFL to rescind legislation that has changed the distribution of imports and non-imports.

The players will put their request to the CFL before the CFLPA all-star game at Calgary late in June.

At its annual meeting in February, the CFL voted to allow each of the nine teams to dress 17 non-imports (Canadian-born and trained) and 15 imports. The previous allotment was 18 non-imports and 14 imports for each game.

Argos, of the Eastern Football Conference, would be in a

position to dress two players in their lineup that formerly were reserved for bona fide Canadian players.

Halfbacks John Carlos and Bill Hernandez are United States citizens, but for football purposes in Canada are classified as non-imports because they never played football in the United States.

Legislation to this effect was passed by the CFL last year when Carlos joined Montreal Alouettes.

"The CFL will have to rewrite the definition of imports and non-imports," said Aldridge. The veteran Argonaut said there is nothing personal against Carlos or Hernandez, merely that the CFL has been a victim of its own legal manufacturing.

Bucyk is taking one year at a time

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Bruins have signed veteran Johnny Bucyk to a one year National Hockey League contract.

Bucyk, 37, who has spent 15 years with the Bruins, ranked eighth among NHL scorers last season with 32 goals and 51 assists for 83 points.

Hull saga continuing

By VIC GRANT
Tribune Sports Writer

Benny Haskin isn't quoting odds these days. He's relying on crossing his fingers and his toes and dangling \$2 million on a string.

The way Bobby Hull's conversation goes of late the odds may be tipping as far as 60-40 in favor of Winnipeg Jets over Chicago Black Hawks.

The incidentals are being flogged to death but to refresh memories it's a fact that Haskin and other members of the World Hockey Association are bidding \$2 million for Hull's super star hockey skills.

Hull's been filleting fish on the West Coast over the last

Woolf presents re-draft aimed at pro sports

BOSTON (AP) — A Boston attorney who makes his living negotiating contracts for athletes proposed today that professional sports end arguments over reserve clauses by agreeing to bind athletes to the service of one team for only five years.

Bob Woolf, who negotiates for 200 athletes, said athletes should be allowed to be re-drafted if they are unhappy after working for one team for five years.

"The proposal is aimed primarily at pro football, but it should work for every sport, because they all have that common problem," Woolf said.

With federal court suits pending against reserve clauses, Woolf said professional football and others could solve the dilemma this way:

- An athlete would be bound for five years to the team which drafted him, but if after that time he is unhappy he could place his name in a veterans' pool.
- Teams would draft from the pool, the team with the worst record getting the first

pick, and so on.

- If unable to come to terms with his new team in a 30-day period, the player could place his name back in the pool and be drafted again. If unable to reach agreement then, he could be drafted once more but would be bound to the third team for one year. An athlete could repeat the drafting cycle yearly after playing his fifth year.

Pro football players now may elect to play out their option by not signing a contract in any given year, for which they take a 10-per-cent salary cut. They are then free to negotiate with any team. But if they're signed, the team signing them must give up a player or players designated by National Football League commissioner Pete Rozelle.

"The players can't negotiate effectively now because many teams are afraid of who they may have to give up," Woolf said in remarks prepared for a morning news conference. "At the same time, only the richest clubs can openly negotiate for the highest-priced talent."

WHA pin for Philly

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A World Hockey Association franchise has been awarded to Philadelphia, a league spokesman announced here Wednesday.

The award of the franchise, headed by James L. Cooper of Atlantic City, N.J., and Bernard Brown of Vineland, N.J., gives the fledgling league 11 teams.

In announcing the Philadelphia franchise, the spokesman said the WHA hoped to make a "major signing announcement" here Saturday. Details were not disclosed.

The club hopes to play its games in the Spectrum, the spokesman said, but at the moment has an option on 90 dates to be played at Convention Hall, which has a 9,000 seat capacity. The Spectrum seats about 16,000.



Bill Harris

A flip turns up Harris

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP) — General Manager Bill Torrey of New York Islanders has won a coin toss for the first pick in the National Hockey League's amateur draft and indicated he will choose Bill Harris, Newsday reported Wednesday.

Torrey won a "secret" coin toss over Cliff Fletcher, general manager of the Atlanta club. Both are expansion clubs which begin play in the NHL next season and one of them will get the No. 1 choice in next week's amateur draft at Montreal.

Harris, a right winger who is regarded as one of the top amateur prospects, scored 57 goals and 72 assists for 129 points for Toronto Marlboros in the Ontario Hockey Association Junior A series last season.

Today in Sport

FASTBALL

Senior Men's — K-Tel Motor Inns vs Paramont Panes, 7:30 p.m.; K-Tel Motor Inns vs K and A Knights, 8:30 p.m.; Charlie Krupp Memorial Stadium.

Men's Industrial — Winnipeg Tigers vs Canada Packers; Tyndall vs Co-op Tigers; Winnipeg Police vs Globe Promotions, all games at Sargent Park, 7 p.m.; Kildonan Garden Supplies vs Dawson Trail Esso, Old Ex Grounds, 7 p.m.

SOCCER

Manitoba Central — Italliner vs Fort Rouge, Alexander Park, first division; CFB vs St. James United, Westwin; Kinsmen United vs IPAC, Westwin; Winnipeg Kickers vs Selkirk, Chalmers CC, third division, all kickoffs at 7:30 p.m.

LACROSSE

Manitoba Senior — North Stars vs Elmwood, Kelvin Community Club, 8 p.m.

Orr handcuffs Raiders' batters

Gerry Orr fanned 16 batters and gave up six hits as Transcona Mallards clipped River East Raiders 6-3 in Manitoba Junior Baseball League play Wednesday.

In another game, Carman Goldeyes got solid relief pitching from Brian Coates to defeat South End Sioux 8-5, in Carman.

Clark Single provided two of the six hits Mallards managed off losing pitcher Bob Vandal. Both Singles' hits were singles.

At Carman, Coates came on in the third inning and allowed only two hits the rest of the way. He got hitting support from Bill Whitehead and Brian Hodgson who both had two hits.

few days but he can't get out on the water far enough to escape the questions.

"I know there'll be a decision made, one way or the other in the next week or two," said Hull Wednesday. "A meeting between myself and the Winnipeg Jets comes up very shortly."

"The Black Hawks have gotten off their high horse and have started talking to me but it's Winnipeg that has taken the initiative all along. There have been no figures mentioned by Chicago while the WHA has presented their offering."

"If my going to Winnipeg means that the WHA goes or doesn't go then I think I'd kind of like that challenge."

"If they do come up with that kind of money then I'd come."

It's your move, Gentle Ben.

Psst, Brad, I'll make statements — Harrison

TORONTO (CP) — Centre Jim Harrison of Toronto Maple Leafs said Wednesday he has not signed with Edmonton of the World Hockey Association.

Harrison was commenting on a report made by former teammate Brad Selwood.

"I definitely haven't signed a contract anywhere. The Edmonton offer is in the hands of my lawyer."

Harrison is represented by Philadelphia lawyer Howard Casper.

"I've had an excellent meeting with the Leafs." Harrison admitted he'd prefer staying with the National Hockey League club but "I want to be sure I fit into their plans."

Egers signs

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Wednesday the signing of left Louis Blues of the National winger Jack Egers for the Hockey League announced 1972-73 season.



Happy birthday, Alton!

A report which came out earlier this week was confirmed Wednesday when Alton White signed on the dotted line and became a member of New York Raiders of the World Hockey Association. White, who also celebrated his 27th birthday yesterday, has spent the last three years with Providence of the American League. Winnipeg hockey fans may remember White from his days in the Manitoba Junior League when he was with Winnipeg Rangers. White is one of only two black players in professional hockey — the other being Willie O'Ree. Raiders also announced the signing of Ron Ward, a centre-defenceman who saw limited action with Vancouver Canucks last season.

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