

Flyers beat Quebec to gain quarterfinals

By RALPH BERNSTEIN
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — "They scared the heck out of us," said coach Pat Quinn after his Philadelphia Flyers skated into the NHL's Stanley Cup playoff quarterfinal round last night.

At Hill's second-period goal snapped a tie as the Flyers went on to a 5-2 victory over the Quebec Nordiques to win the series, three games to two, before a sellout crowd.

The Flyers won the first two games at home before losing twice in Quebec.

Quinn said the key to the Flyers' clinching victory was the goal by Kenny Linseman after only 18 seconds of the third period.

"It gave us a cushion," said Quinn of the goal that sent the Flyers ahead 3-1. Quinn actually breathed a sigh of relief.

"I just lost the butterflies a few minutes ago," he said after the game. "For four games it looked frustrating, like Montreal being beaten by Edmonton."

Quebec coach Michel Bergeron said he was extremely proud of his team's performance.

"We never quit. We'll be better next year," he said. "The Flyers are a tough team, and I think we prepared them for their next series."

Philadelphia took a 1-0 lead over the tenacious Nordiques at 17:16 of the first period on Rick MacLean's 49th Stanley Cup playoff goal, a 25-footer that caught goalie Dan Bouchard out of the net.

Quebec, however, tied it 48 seconds later on an eight-footer by Michel Goulet between the legs of goalie Pete Peeters.

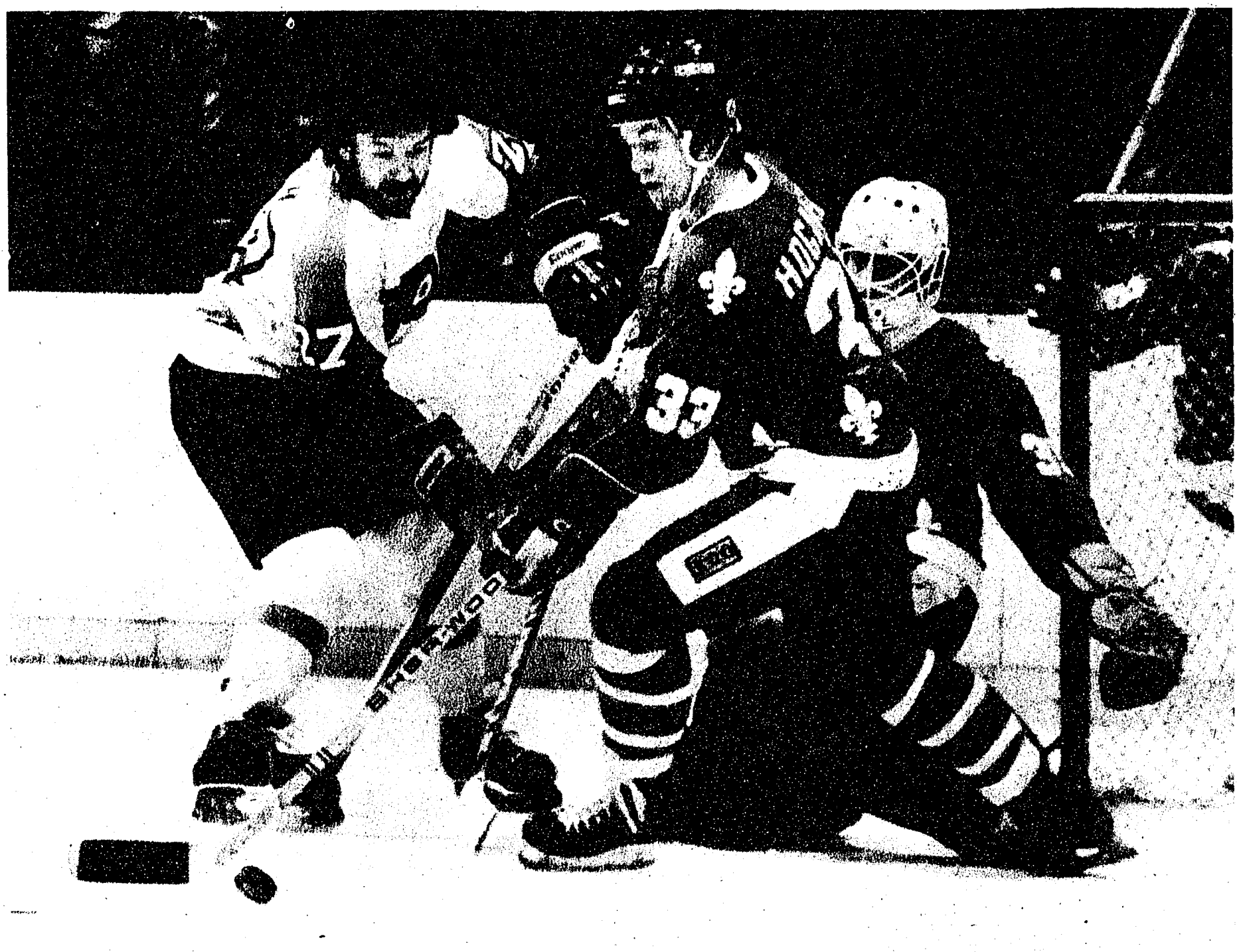
The Flyers went ahead 2-1 at 10:05 of the second period when Hill's sixth Stanley Cup career playoff goal beat Bouchard from about five feet on the goalie's glove side.

Philadelphia broke the game open early in the third period as Kenny Linseman, who also had two assists, scored at 18 seconds off a two-on-one break.

Less than three minutes later, Paul Holmgren boosted the Flyers' lead to 4-1 on a 15-foot backhand. Brian Propp made it 5-1 just 69 seconds later from about the same distance.

Anton Stastny scored for Quebec to make it 5-2.

The Flyers outshot the Nordiques 37-18, to make goalie Pete Peeters' second victory of the series.



The Flyers' Reggie Leach (27) and Quebec's Dale Hoganson (33) fight for the puck during Philadelphia's 5-2 win over the Nordiques last night at the Spectrum. The Flyers won the first round Stanley Cup playoff series between the two teams three games to two.

Astros top Atlanta

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston's Joe Niekro scattered seven hits and drove in two runs with a fifth-inning single last night, as the Astros defeated the Atlanta Braves 8-2.

Terry Puhl slugged a homer in the first inning and left fielder Jose Cruz singled home another run to give the Astros a 2-0 lead. Atlanta starter Bob Walk, 6-1, walked Niekro and Puhl with two outs in the fourth inning. Consecutive singles by Craig Reynolds and Cesar Cedeno boosted Houston's lead to 4-0.

Houston added three more runs in the fifth off reliever Rick Mahler, who walked Danny Heep and yielded a single to Art Howe. Alan Ashby's double drove in a run, and Niekro's liner scored Howe and Ashby.

Niekro, 1-1, shut out the Braves in the fifth, when Rafael Ramirez singled and pinch hitter Mike Lum walked. Claudell Washington's double scored Ramirez and Lum came home on a grounder by Glenn Hubbard. Ashby drove in his second run for the Astros in the sixth inning after Howe doubled.

Indians 7, Rangers 1
Toby Harrah's wind-blown pop fly triple in the first inning keyed a two-out, four-run rally and the Cleveland Indians defeated the Texas Rangers last night 7-1.

Rick Waits scattered 10 hits in his first start for the victory. Jon Matlack suffered his second loss in as many outings.

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Philadelphia's Dawkins key to playoff chances

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia 76ers are still waiting on Darryl Dawkins.

The flamboyant, inconsistent young center has had one good game and three bad ones in the National Basketball Association playoffs against the Milwaukee Bucks. The teams are 2-2 in the best-of-seven Eastern Conference semifinal, which resumes here tonight.

The 6-11, 280-pound Dawkins, who turned pro out of high school and is completing his sixth NBA season at age 24, scored 23 points in the third game of this hard-fought series, and Philadelphia won 109-103. But he got into early foul trouble in the other three games, and his series totals are a very ordinary 12.3 points and 4.5 rebounds in just 24 minutes per game. In addition, he has not had a single assist.

"We've got to get more out of Darryl, or we aren't going to win this series," 76ers coach Billy Cunningham said flatly. "He just doesn't seem to do well against the Bucks, and I can't figure it out."

"If he keeps going like this, I've got to play Caldwell Jones and Bobby Jones too much," Cunningham added. "We won't be able to last against a team that runs like the Bucks do."

Bucks center Bob Lanier had 23 points and nine rebounds in Sunday's 109-98 Milwaukee victory which evened the series. He has outplayed Dawkins in every category, averaging 17.5 points, 7.0 rebounds, 4.0 assists

and 1.5 blocks in 31.5 minutes per game.

"Friday we were able to stay out of foul trouble the entire game," said Cunningham, referring to Philadelphia's last victory and Dawkins' lone good game. "Sunday, all of our key people had three fouls by the third quarter."

Dawkins fouled out with 4:48 to play, and without him the 76ers did not have anyone to muscle Lanier away from the boards. As a result, Milwaukee was able to run when it wanted to and also score off offensive rebounds.

So keeping Dawkins out of foul trouble and in the game becomes vital to the 76ers' success, especially if they want to use defensive ace Caldwell Jones, and starting forward who doubles as backup center, to try to contain Milwaukee's high-scoring forward, Marques Johnson.

NBA referees have seen Lanier for 11 seasons, know his moves and tend to give him the benefit of the doubt. And the wily 33-year-old pivotman knows exactly how much he can get away with while staying out of foul trouble.

But Dawkins is still regarded as the new kid on the block, and his tendency toward wild leaps and flashy moves only gets him in trouble.

"I don't want to get into a thing with the referees," said Dawkins when the subject was raised. "I don't want to sound like I'm crying, so I'll just say I'm looking forward to playing them again next time. The series

isn't over yet."

And what a series it has been. The surprising Kansas City Kings, successfully playing overtime to the Phoenix Suns' hane, attempt to wrap up their NBA playoff series tonight at Phoenix, and King forward Reggie King is predicting victory.

"The momentum is going our way. We've got their number," claimed King, whose team holds a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal.

Phoenix guard Dennis Johnson can't understand why his team trails the Kings, who have dominated their series despite being without regular guards Phil Ford and Otis Birdsong, both of whom are injured.

"I only have seven or eight guys," Johnson said. "It's hard to figure out how they're beating us." Actually, it isn't all that difficult. Because of the injuries, the Kings have been forced to play at a slow-down pace. And so far that has frustrated the Suns, who are more comfortable in a running game.

"So far our tempo is winning," said Ernie Grunfeld, a reserve who has teamed with small forward Scott Wedman in Kansas City's makeshift backcourt.

"The Kings are just playing their regular game and we're not," said Walter Davis, the Suns' star guard. "We've never missed open shots and free throws like this. Their tempo rules us. We have to change."

But Phoenix coach John MacLeod said he doesn't plan any major shakeup.

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Penn State captain Ron Shayka (up) and Dave McMillan (8) were two of the reserves who played a part in the Lions' 15-8, 16-14, 15-8 win over Pitt last night in San Diego.

Lion spikers defeat Pitt despite lack of intensity

By STEVE GRAHAM
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Men's volleyball coach Tom Tait may never have taken his team to Hershey park, but he'll readily admit the Lions have been riding a reckless rollercoaster all season long.

In front of a sparse crowd last night at Rec Hall, Penn State (26-3) hit one of the dreaded dips of its up-and-down campaign but still went on to trounce rival Pittsburgh in three games, 15-8, 16-14 and 15-8.

The Lions, who have consistently had problems this year getting up for lackluster opponents like the Panthers, survived a ferocious Pitt attack in the first two

Little Pittsburgh looks up to goliath Lion front line

By RICH SCARCELLA
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Even at first glance, it was apparent Penn State would dwarf Pitt in its volleyball match last night at Rec Hall.

Because the Nittany Lions towered over the Panthers like Gulliver over the Lilliputians, it looked as though the match would be no contest. But it was, at least for a while.

The giant was both bothered and annoyed by the little people until it finally broke free and leaped over the diminutive ones, 15-8, 16-14 and 15-8. Gulliver may have had less trouble during his travels.

"They were able to get away with things they should never get away with," Penn State coach Tom Tait said. "They attacked a lot from the middle and with shot-serves. Because of their personnel, they have to play a scrappy type of ball to win."

Scrappy wasn't the adjective to describe Pitt. It was more like masochistic. Compared to Lion skyscrapers like 6-6 Steve Hunkins, 6-5 Chuck Kegerreis and 6-5 Mark Kraynik, the Panthers looked like mere insects waiting to be stepped on. Especially with a front line that measured 6-3, 6-2 and 6-0.

But they managed to avoid the stomp of Penn State's foot by controlling the tempo of the first two games with quick sets and other off-speed hits.

"Game one and game two were the best we've played against Penn State," Pitt coach Ray Reilly said. "We controlled the tempo in those two games. We

games and chalked up their eighth Eastern Collegiate Volleyball League win against only one defeat.

Still, Tait and Lion assistant coach Dave Mull frowned upon Penn State's lack of intensity, something that has haunted the team since it opened the season in mid-December.

"It's one of the things that we've been talking about all season," Mull said. "No matter who you play, you gotta get psyched. The biggest part of the match was that the intensity level was low."

"There's no doubt about it... if we play our ball, we're gonna kill them."

If it hadn't been for Pitt knocking every other serve into the net or out of bounds, the Lions may have taken much longer to dispose of their cross-state foe. But in the end, the marathon match — which took 1½ drawn-out hours to complete — was an agonizing experience for Tait.

"We didn't make stupid mistakes, we made intensity-type errors."

Tait doesn't have to dig deep into his bag of matches to find other games in which his team also played uninspired ball. He can easily skim the surface and scoop up such encounters as those with Army, East Stroudsburg, and George Mason to serve as examples.

But when inspiration is absent against the big guys, like it was against Rutgers-Newark on Saturday and Ohio State earlier in the year, Tait cannot pinpoint an explanation for his squad's nonchalance.

"It's a matter of not looking at things as objectively as possible," Tait said. "The important thing is, we have to do on our side of the net what we need to do for the Eastern championships."

Steve Hunkins, one of Penn State's starting outside attackers, can't put a finger on why the Lions have suffered a rough and rocky season either.

"It's hard to get up for an inferior team," Hunkins said. "If you don't have the intensity, you're not really involved in the game."

The only team other than Pitt that was really involved in last night's match was the Lions' second string, consisting of Ozzam and Mike Gordon allowed Penn State to escape with a 16-14 second-game win.

"They don't make the experienced play from the outside like they did last year," Gordon said. "They work a lot of shots this year. When you're against a strong team, you have to run a high-risk offense."

had to do that to beat them. A quick team will do that. We don't have the power from the outside. Their weak sport is the middle."

The termite-like Panther offense ate away at the middle of the Lions' defense with numerous quick sets for middle blocker Bill Knuth.

"They attacked the middle more this year than last year," Kraynik said. "A lot of teams are attacking there and we're having trouble stopping it. A good middle hitter will usually beat a good middle blocker. If you control the middle, you can control the whole game."

But Penn State didn't do that in the first two games. Pitt's ability to force numerous net violations in the middle had the Lions searching for a can of off/ to get rid of their pests.

Only two kills from the outside by Ozzam and Mike Gordon allowed Penn State to escape with a 16-14 second-game win.

"They don't make the experienced play from the outside like they did last year," Gordon said. "They work a lot of shots this year. When you're against a strong team, you have to run a high-risk offense."

After the second game, however, the Panthers didn't bite; they didn't even light.

"I think our second team did a whole of a good job in the third game," Tait said. "The second team shut down their middle attack. When you shut down that on them, they're in trouble."

And that's the tall and short of it.

Another sophomore middle blocker Bill Knuth, who repeatedly rattled the Penn State defense with a barrage of kill shots, said the Lions simply outclassed Pitt in nearly every aspect of the game last night.

"In games one and three, we beat ourselves," Knuth said. "We couldn't block them. They're too much bigger than we are."

"We just couldn't keep up with their offense for a while. Our passing broke down a little bit."

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