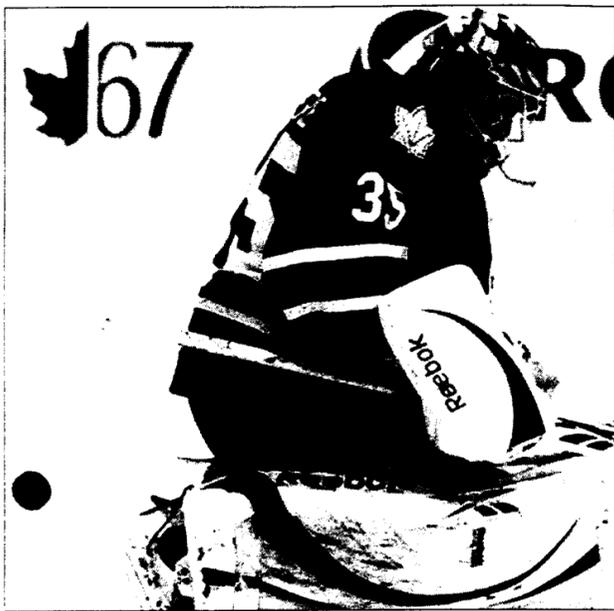


Briere scores twice as Flyers defeat Leafs



Toronto Maple Leafs goaltender Jean Sebastien-Giguere lets the puck trickle in for a goal during the first period of the Flyers' win Thursday night.

By the Associated Press

TORONTO — Danny Briere scored twice and the Philadelphia cruised to a 4-1 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs after building a three-goal lead on Thursday night.

Briere scored Philadelphia's final two goals to give him a team-leading 16 this season.

Ville Leino and Chris Pronger also scored for Philadelphia (18-7-5). Ville Leino and Chris Pronger put the Flyers (18-7-5) ahead 2-0 in the first period.

Brian Boucher made 31 saves in the victory.

Mikhail Grabovski scored his third goal in three games, but the Maple Leafs (10-14-4) fell behind by three goals for the third consecutive game and second straight night. Toronto has trailed 1-0 in five straight games.

The Maple Leafs failed to respond to frustrated coach Ron Wilson, who blasted his players for

their effort following a 5-2 loss in Pittsburgh to the Penguins on Wednesday.

The return of Toronto captain Dion Phaneuf didn't have much impact, but the defense forced a turnover and earned an assist on Grabovski's goal. Even though Toronto fell behind again, the Maple Leaf had plenty of quality scoring chances.

Colby Armstrong was denied on a point-blank opportunity, Francois Beauchemin failed to lift the puck into the empty net from the edge of the crease, and Kris Versteeg rang a shot off the post on a 2-on-1 break early in the second period.

By then, the Flyers led 2-0.

Leino opened the scoring just seconds into a power play at 11:13 of the first period, beating Jean-Sebastien Giguere through the legs.

Pronger's scored with a point shot through traffic only a little over a minute later.

More boos from the home crowd - a familiar refrain in recent weeks - started when Briere got his first of the night, taking a shot off the end boards and sliding the puck it into an empty net at 12:18 of the second.

Grabovski briefly restored some hope by finishing a nice tic-tac-toe passing sequence at 16:14, but Briere's goal 1:03 later restored Philadelphia's three-goal advantage.

A broken pane of glass forced a delay with less than 5 minutes left, and many fans headed to the exits early.

Those fans who remained in the stands booed the Maple Leafs off the ice.

Notes: Wayne Gretzky was in attendance with his father. ...

Mike Komisarek and Jay Rosehill sat out for the Maple Leafs because of undisclosed upper body injuries. ...

Giguere made his second start in 11 games.

4
Flyers

1
Maple Leafs

Cubs great Ron Santo remembered by fans

By Don Babwin
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — They came to pay their respects to Ron Santo, with stories of watching him gobble up grounders at third base or listening to him suffer on the radio as the Cubs dropped another game.

More than 400 people braved the snowy, windy weather Thursday afternoon in a line that snaked around Holy Name Cathedral to see the casket holding the former baseball great and broadcaster, who died Friday of bladder cancer at age 70.

One man said that when he visits baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., he will always ask where the Santo exhibit is - knowing, as any angry Cubs fan does, that Santo was never enshrined there.

Brad McGlone, 30, said he drove eight hours from Kentucky to pay his respects to Santo.

McGlone said Santo, who lost both his legs to diabetes, once spotted him in a wheelchair during a game at Wrigley Field and

started a conversation with him.

"He was my all-time favorite player," McGlone said. "He was like family and (his death) was like losing a member of the family."

Many who attended the wake said they viewed Santo as not just a player or announcer but a fellow suffering fan, who never gave up hope no matter how many times - or how many years - the Cubs dashed their hopes.

"As an announcer it all came through in his voice," said John Anast, of Chicago, who said he got in line at 6 a.m. - 10 hours before the doors opened to the public. "He was a fan."

Anast recalled Santo's eternal optimism.

"I remember him saying all we need is a couple of doubles, a three-run homer and we'd be right back in this thing," said Anast, as other fans nodded in agreement.

Jody Kruep, wearing a hat with Santo's No. 10 on the front, said she was such a fan of Santo and his announcing partner, Pat Hughes, that she routinely kept the television turned off to listen to

the two of them broadcast.

"He was like me. He expressed the emotions I was feeling," said Kruep, a 39-year-old suburban Chicago resident.

Michael Veitch, a school principal, said he was in his 20s when Santo was the "heart and soul" of the 1969 Cubs, which allowed the New York Mets to overtake them for the pennant despite what seemed an insurmountable lead.

Veitch, sporting a 1908 Cubs hat in honor of the last Cubs team to win the World Series, said he enjoyed the fact that Santo never hid his hatred for the Mets for the rest of his life. Veitch said he shares those sentiments.

Had Santo been given a choice between being enshrined in the Hall of Fame or seeing the Cubs just once win a title, he would have taken the championship without hesitation, Veitch said.

Santo's funeral will be held Friday, followed by a funeral procession to Wrigley Field, where fans will get the chance to give the Cubs great one last standing ovation.

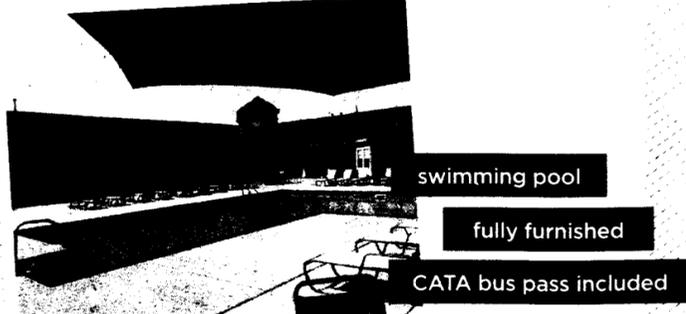


Fans line up during the visitation for Chicago Cubs great Ron Santo at Holy Name Cathedral Thursday in Chicago.

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