



MacCABE SAYS:

Rene Aubry shoots perfect snooker game

Minnesota Fats, the storied pool hustler of international acclaim, is nothing but a windbag, and there are dozens of men in Canada who could beat him at snooker.

That is the considered opinion of Rene Aubry, and Aubry is one of the men who could beat him.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Aubry played a perfect game of snooker, a feat much rarer, than say, a no-hit, no-run game in baseball. No records are kept on such things, but as far as we could check, Aubry's was the first perfect game of snooker ever shot in Ottawa.

He believes it might have been done two or three times before in Canada, but he's not sure. To shoot a perfect game of snooker, the player must make a red ball off the break, then the black, then another red, and the black again, and so on. Until he has potted all the reds, and the black ball after each one, and then he must run through the colors.

So it is much more difficult than cleaning the table, when the player can take a red and then any color, according to the position of the balls. A perfect game requires exquisite positioning, and perhaps a bit of luck.

So it's a long way from the old days of the smokey pool rooms and the \$2 hustlers. Most of us gleaned what small knowledge we have of the game from those days, when, if a young ingrate were to bum school, he might have no place to keep warm, other than the poolroom.

CLEANED TABLE MANY TIMES But Aubry's level of play is a whole new league. He learned from his father as a teenager, and by the time he was 17, he had cleaned the table more than once.

He was invited to play around at the better gentlemen's clubs in the city and he reached a plane where he could have played for a living... but he never did. He was in the automobile business all his life, and pool was a hobby, and now that he's retired, pool and photography are his hobbies.

He's a small man, maybe 5'5" and 125 pounds, with horn-rimmed glasses and an extraordinarily gentle manner, and that's the way he plays.

"Good players never play a hard game," he says. "To be precise... to have control... you must play a soft game."

He's 66 years of age now, still steady of hand and keen of eye, and a couple of weeks ago, at L'Institut Canadien Francais, he was playing with a friend, Bob Cameron. Another friend, Lionel Charbonneau, was watching.

Aubry took the break, playing the cue ball off the side rail to the back rail and into the triangle of red balls from behind, and he made one in the side pocket. And the gentle nut was on... make the red and give the cue ball enough siding to line up the black; make the black and give the cue ball enough draw to line up another red... 15 reds and 15 blacks.

"Snooker is not a callshot game," Aubry says, "but I never fluke when I play. This time, though, I did... three flukes... nothing but pure luck... I must admit that."

THREE STRANGE ONES On the 13th red, he tried a table-length shot into the corner, and the red hit the jaw of the corner, and travelled the rail to the other side of the table and dropped into the opposite corner. Then he made the black. He had drawn back the cue ball to loosen a couple of reds close to the rail, and he did get them off the rail, but not too much, and they were close together.

So he had to hold his hand in a high bridge to go over one ball to get at the cue ball, and again it was a table-length shot, and he didn't strike it purely. The ball was at least three inches off line, but it kissed the green ball and went into the corner. That was fluke No. 2, and he made the black again.

Now the last red. His only chance was a cross-side bank into the side pocket. He hit it just a shade wide, and the red ball hit the jaw of the pocket, and bounced diagonally across the table into the corner pocket... and he was virtually home free.

He made the black again, and then ran the colors for his perfect game.

"I have to think it was tainted," he said, in that courtly manner one finds around the Institut, "because I kept myself in position. But... it was a perfect game as far as the result was concerned."

CLOSE TWICE BEFORE He came close to perfect games on two occasions some years ago but in one, he miscued on the yellow and in the other, he miscued on the blue.

He has cleaned the table more than 13 times. He has scored more than 400 centuries... over 100 points off the break. He once played Georges Chenier eight games, and they split... four and four. He was a Canadian finalist in the championships of 1929 and he has a number of enviable marks in various kinds of billiards, but snooker is his game.

Years ago, he used to play in a team game, once a week, with Senator Lionel Choquette as his partner, and they didn't miss a Thursday night in 10 years. That was what they call American billiards, with no pockets. Over the years, he played a lot with Judge John Genest, who was an exceptional player, and with Alex Defayette, who was a Canadian champion.

"It's a great game," he said. "It requires concentration, but no energy really... and there's no tension. You know, in friendly games, or in exhibitions, you play a different way. You play a loose game: in competition, it's very tight, and you have to be just as interested in what you might leave as what you might make. So competitive play can be really dull to watch. "People like to watch shots being made, and that's the way we play friendly games. I have no way of knowing, but I feel right now I could beat any man my age in the world. I don't say that in a bragging way, that's just how I feel."

SOME DAYS IT ISN'T THERE "Some days, though, you're just not 'on.' You know how it is. If you're playing golf, you stand on the first tee, and it just isn't right... and after a couple of holes, you know it isn't there. You don't know why, really, but it isn't there that day. "Another time... maybe the next day... it's right again. Again, you don't know why, but the right things are happening, and you feel it. That's the way it is in any game... baseball... hockey... golf... tennis snooker... any game."

As he approached the last balls of his perfect game, the quiet, reserved atmosphere in the Institut must have been nicely charged, no?

"No. It was early in the evening, and there weren't many of the members here yet, and we were just playing a friendly game, so nobody was paying much attention, other than Lionel Charbonneau."

And tension? "No... because, at my age, it doesn't really matter. I play just for fun, and if I miss a shot... so... "And there was one shot I didn't expect to make... and as a matter of fact, that was one of those last three reds that I fluked."

The next day was the final game of the Canada-Russia series, and everyone at the Institut was watching that and all conversation was about the series, and little heed was paid to Rene Aubry's rare feat.

But, the word got around, and when we spoke to him about it yesterday, he said casually: "Yes, it's true... but I don't know whether we should talk about it."

Why not? "Well, to be honest, I fluked three balls... absolute flukes... just luck."

What about the other 33 shots? And isn't it true that it's never been done in Ottawa before? "Yes, I think that's true. I've never heard of it, and I think would have."

Billingham gives Reds another life

By JOHN G. GRIFFIN UPI Sports Editor

OAKLAND — Suddenly, defying history, the Cincinnati Reds are alive again in the 1972 World Series and have a chance to deadlock the series if they can follow up with another victory over the Oakland A's tonight.

"We're on our way," trumpeted Reds' manager Sparky Anderson in the wake of Wednesday night's 1-0 pitching battle triumph that cut the A's lead in the best-of-seven fall classic to two games to one.

"Watch us now," said Anderson. "I still think the same as I did after we came here to Oakland trailing, 2-0, in games — we are going to win the series in seven games. They've got a real good club but we've got a real good

club, too, and you're starting to see it now."

For tonight's 5.15 p.m. PDT fourth game at Oakland Coliseum, Anderson named fireballing left-hander Don Gullett (9-10) as his get-even pitcher and manager Dick Williams of the A's also picked a left-hander Ken Holtzman (19-11), the winner of the opening game of the series in Cincinnati last Saturday.

BUCKING HISTORY The Reds, who are bucking baseball history which says that no team ever has lost the first two games of the series at home and come back to win the world championship, won their first game with the help of, of all things, the noise of the Oakland crowd.

It happened in the seventh inning when Cincinnati scored the game's only run on a

single by Tony Perez, a sacrifice by Denis Menke, and another single by Cesar Geronimo.

Perez was on second base when Geronimo, who had gone 0-9 in the series up to that point, laced into a pitch from A's starter John "Blue Moon" Odom and rapped it into short centre field for a single. Perez came around third on a wide turn heading for the plate and suddenly he slipped and fell on the soggy turf — a souvenir of the rainstorm that postponed the third game from Tuesday night to Wednesday night.

In centre field, George Hendrick had run in, scooped up the ball, and threw it to shortstop Bert Campaneris. Instinctively, Campaneris looked to first base to keep Geronimo from advancing — he

hadn't noticed that Perez had fallen and he never thought he had a play at home.

Catcher Gene Tenace was screaming for the ball. From the dugout, Williams was holering, too. Campaneris never heard 'em — crowd noise.

"I hear nothing," said Campaneris. "I was looking at the ball and at Geronimo." "I was yelling for the ball, but nobody heard me," said Tenace. "If there had been a quick relay, I think we could have gotten Perez."

But the moment was lost, and with it the game. Because meanwhile Jack Billingham was mowing down the A's.

GIVES UP THREE Billingham gave up only three hits, none of which left the infield, which prompted Anderson to claim with a laugh that he pitched "a no-

hitter." Only three balls were hit to the Reds' outfield, all of them caught by centre fielder Bobby Tolan.

Billingham needed ninth-inning relief from Clay Carroll — or, anyway, Anderson thought he needed it — after he had thrown three balls to leadoff batter Mike Epstein. Carroll threw a strike, then got Epstein to ground out, and got the next two batters, too, to end the game.

"I knew I had to keep the ball low against Oakland, and that's what I did," said Billingham.

"Jack was just great," said Anderson. "He'll get another start in the series; probably in the sixth game."

Plummer (second-string catcher Bill Plummer) said after he warmed up Billingham in the bullpen before the game that his sinker ball really was exploding," said Reds' catcher Johnny Bench. "It sure was."

The Reds' triumph spoiled a brilliant pitching effort by Odom, who fanned 11 batters in the seven innings he worked and gave up three of the Reds' four hits. Cincinnati got one more hit in the eighth inning off Vida Blue, who was ineffective in brief relief, but then were closed out the rest of the way by Rollie Fingers, who pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in that eighth.

And the victory got Bench, the Reds' super-star off the hook because he was in the running to be the "goat" of the game.

He made an error on a throw to first on a bunt and on the same play neglected to call time before complaining to the umpire, which led to the runner at second base advancing to third on a throwing error by Joe Morgan. It was the big jam of the game for the Reds, who got out of that sixth-inning when Billingham got Sal Bando to rap into a double play.

SUCK IN BENCH

It happened with two on and one out in the eighth just after Fingers relieved Blue. The count went to 3-and-2 and here came Williams out of the A's dugout. Very plainly by the gestures, he was telling Fin-

gers not to risk a dangerous pitch to Bench but to walk him intentionally.

Catcher Tenace held out his arm in the usual gesture for an intentional ball — then jumped behind the plate as Fingers caught the edge of the plate with a slider for called strike three.

On third base, runner Morgan had spotted the ruse and was yelling, "look out, Johnny — they're pitching to you." Later he admitted, "I should have called time."

"I was half-fooled," Bench admitted.

The record book will say the Reds scored that win on Oct. 18, 1972. But baseball men will tell you they won it in December, 1971, in Phoenix, Ariz. It was then at the winter baseball meeting that the Reds, as part of a big trade with Houston, acquired:

Billingham, who pitched this win; Menke, who sacrificed Perez along, and Geronimo, who singled him in.

"Geronimo didn't hit the ball very good," claimed Williams, adding with a sad smile, "just well enough to win the game."

Box score

Table with columns for Cincinnati and Oakland players and their statistics (AB, R, H, E). Includes totals for both teams.

'Flu' bug big concern for Sooners' coach

Ottawa Sooners won't be sitting on a 16-point lead, as far as head coach Jim Chiarelli is concerned, when his club completes the second game of their two game total point series for the Quebec Junior Football Conference championship Sunday evening in Verdun against the pennant-winning Invictus.

"I've been trying to drill that into their heads all week," Chiarelli said after Wednesday's workout under the lights at Lansdowne Park. "I want them going in to win a football game."

Fact is though Sooners will have a 16-point cushion for this windup by virtue of their 30-14 victory in the series opener last Sunday at Mooney's Bay.

"Not taking anything away from that win," Chiarelli says, "the fact is we were lucky in some ways. We got a lot of the breaks and as far as I'm concerned we've met now four times and each team has won twice. I hope all the players feel, as I do, that this is a rubber match and the score is 0-0 at the first kick-off."

Sunday's game in Verdun starts at 7 p.m. and the Sooners management have a couple of charter buses lined up to transport supporters to and from the Montreal park. Anyone wishing details can obtain them by phoning general manager Jim Maxwell at 235-4005.

Winners of this series will meet either Scarborough or Hamilton Hurricanes in the eastern junior sudden-death final. Scarborough holds a six-point lead going into the final game of that total point series tomorrow in Hamilton.

Sooners have three players



MARK McCLOSKEY

who have been bitten by the "flu bug" which is Chiarelli's only concern at the moment since his club will be in the best physical shape they've been in for a long while if this trio can shake off the effects. Ron Menchini, John Faubert and Greg Nazar are all under the weather but only Nazar missed last night's practice. The Ottawa coaching staff naturally hopes that the fine play of quarter back Mark McCloskey continues this Sunday. Chiarelli is just getting rid of the "flu" himself.

"Verdun scares me," Chiarelli said. "They haven't been all that explosive against us but I know they can score from any part of the field at any time. They proved that on a 109-yard touchdown play last Sunday. I think that first touchdown could be the key."

Cougars, Nationals meet here tonight

HOUSTON (AP) — New England Whalers, behind the three goals of Tom Webster, defeated Houston Aeros 4-1 in a World Hockey Association game Wednesday night in Houston.

It was the only league game scheduled, but tonight the leagues moves into high gear with five games on tap including a clash between Ottawa Nationals and Chicago Cougars slated for the Ottawa Civic Centre at 8 p.m.

Cougars have some familiar names in their lineup including an Ottawa hockey product, Rod Zaine. And there are other familiar faces like Larry Cahan, Reggie Fleming to name a couple.

Daredevil cyclist in Syracuse

Enthusiasts in the cylinder set have an "extra" coming up for them October 20, 21 and 22 at the New York State Fair Grounds at Syracuse.

The motor show includes custom rods, drags and cycle competitions, but the main attraction is motorcycle daredevil Evel Knievel. The 32-year-old motorcycle daredevil has jumped 19 vehicles in an outdoor show, and 13 indoors, and both jumps are world records.

In his Syracuse performances, he'll jump over 10 cars in each show in the 300' by 60' jumping arena in the centre of the Centre of Progress Building, and there will be shows each evening. He'll jump Friday night, twice on Saturday and twice on Sunday.

North seeks entry in all CCA events

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — The council of provincial sports and recreation directors proposed Wednesday that the Canadian Curling Association open its five major national curling championships to teams representing the Canadian North.

Delegates to a council conference, representing the sports and recreation departments of the 10 provinces, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, approved unanimously a resolution recommending that a northern entry be included in each CCA-sponsored national competition.

In past years, curling foursomes from the Yukon and NWT have been forced by CCA regulations to compete as part of the British Columbia and Alberta playoffs respectively.

Under terms of Wednesday's resolution, the Yukon and NWT would play off among themselves for the right to represent the Canadian North in the men's, women's, senior men's, mixed and schoolboy championships each year.

Journal Want Ads bring quick results.

Advertisement for Kinsmen Oyster Stag event on October 20th at Civic Centre - Lansdowne Park. Features oysters, beans, cheese, cold cuts, oyster stew, and free drawing of fabulous prizes. Tickets available from any Kinsman or phone 233-9305.

Advertisement for E.R. Fisher Stores featuring a man in a suit and the slogan 'the cambridge man means business'. Includes address: Sparks St., Carlingwood, Billings Br., St. Laurent. 1972 - Our 67th Year.